

PCCYFS/2024 Conference

**for Child Welfare, Childrens Behavioral Health,
Juvenile Justice & Education Professionals**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services, our Conference Planning Committee, and our staff, it is my honor to welcome you to our 2024 Annual Conference.

We have spent the greater part of this past year planning an event that reflects the diverse successes, priorities, and needs of children's services providers in Pennsylvania and I am proud of what we are offering our attendees. Over the course of these two days, you can interact with our 28 sponsors and advance your professional development through 18 distinct session topics. We have a compelling Keynote and we hope you'll stay for our Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Deputy Secretaries discussion on Wednesday, which will offer attendees an opportunity to engage with our state leaders.

We hope our excitement about this event will shine through our shared agenda. Thank you for being here with us and working with us to advance children's services in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Clark, MPA
President and CEO



PCCYFS

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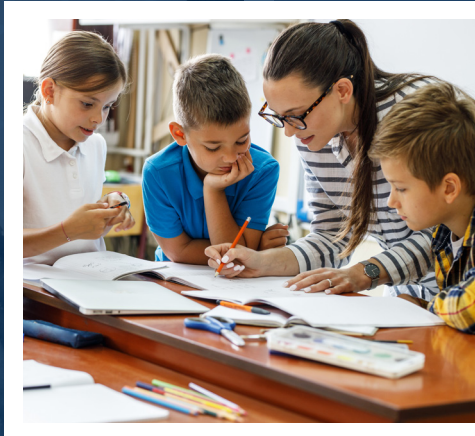
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PCCYFS/2024 Conference

Wednesday, April 10

7:30 to 9 am	Breakfast, Sponsored by Brown & Brown
8:30 to 9 am	Opening Remarks, PCCYFS Board Chair Rebecca Van der Groef
9 to 10 am	KEYNOTE - Gerardo Lopez, Sponsored by enkompas
10 to 10:30 am	Break, Please visit our exhibitors

Session 1

10:30 to noon

Harmony in Healing: Integrating DEI Principles into Trauma-Informed Practices

Speakers: Shawn Mack, Lisa Weingartner (1.5 CEUs), Central Room D

Leadership and Navigating Change

Speaker: John Amato, Heritage Room

Vision Boards in Therapy: A Creative Approach to Empowerment and Goal Setting

Speaker: Jennifer Mongi (1.5 CEUs), Central Room E

Noon to 1 pm Lunch

Session 2

1 to 2:30 pm

Charting Your Course: Unleashing Data Driven Strategies Through Your EHR Initiative

Speaker: Chris Parry, Central Room D

Human Trafficking: From Prostitute to President - An Educational Study of Healing and Survival

Speaker: Joseph Birli (1.5 CEUs), Heritage Room

Put Me in Coach! Strengthening the Frontline Through the Caseworker Field Coach Program

Speakers: Amanda Wagner, Sean Lazarus, Central Room E

2 to 3:30 pm Ice Cream Social, **Sponsored by Children's Home of Reading, Bethany Children's Home & Cove Prep**

2:30 to 3 pm Break, please visit our exhibitors

Session 3

3 to 4:30 pm

Restoring and Repairing Relationships: From the Child to the CEO

Speaker: Stacy Mae Taylor, Central Room E

Creative Strategies to Addressing Former Foster Youth Housing Insecurity

Speakers: Laura Morris, Alyssa Weinfurter, Central Room D

Debriefing Critical Incidents

Speakers: Christopher Rahn, Michele Stagmer (1.5 CEUs), Heritage Room

4:45 to 6 pm Juvenile Justice Information Session, Central Room D

5 to 6 pm Board Meeting

6 pm Dinner on Your Own

6:30 to 9:30 pm Wine Tasting, Heritage Room, **Sponsored by enkompas**

6:30 to 10 pm Networking Mixer, Sunken Lounge, **Sponsored by enkompas & Binti**

KEYNOTE Gerardo Lopez

FORMER GANG MEMBER

Gerardo Lopez grew up in gang territory in Los Angeles, California and was just 14 years old when he joined MS-13, the notorious Salvadoran gang. Why did he join and why did he leave? Gerardo "Clever" Lopez has worked in gang intervention for over two decades. Gerardo escaped gang life and now ensures that at-risk youth from making the same mistakes. He is Executive Director of the Denver chapter of Homies Unidos, a nonprofit dedicated to ending violence and promoting peace through gang intervention and prevention.

Gerardo presently serves as a Mayoral appointee, Commissioner for the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships.



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Bethany Children's Home



MISSION OF BETHANY

The mission of Bethany Children's Home is to provide a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid our residents in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter, healthier future.

SERVICES

In our unique and specialized programs, youth have access to a variety of therapeutic, spiritual, and cultural services in addition to recreational activities. Youth reside on campus in one of our historic cottages with a team comprised of supervisors, direct support professionals, and resident advisors.

OPPORTUNITY

At Bethany Children's Home, we hold the belief that each Team Member plays a vital role in fostering a safe and nurturing atmosphere to accompany our youth on their journey to healing. Make the jump, and commit to be part of our team and gain the knowledge to develop into an exemplary Team Player, equipped with the resources to effectively serve within a trauma-informed setting.

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- ✓ 1st, 2nd and 3rd shifts available



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www.Bethanyhome.org
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PCCYFS/2024 Conference

Thursday, April 11

7:30 to 9 am	Breakfast, Sponsored by Brown & Brown
8:30 to 9 am	Opening Remarks, Laura A. Maines, Esq., PCCYFS Board Vice Chair
9 to 10 am	KEYNOTE - A Conversation with Deputy Secretaries Laval Miller-Wilson, OCYF & Jennifer Smith, OMHSAS, Sponsored by Binti
10 to 10:30 am	Break, Please visit our exhibitors

Session 1

10:30 to noon

Educational Stability: Helping Youth Remain on the Path of Academic Success

Speakers: Scott Weller, Angela Work (1.5 CEUs), Central Room D

Anxiety: How Much is Too Much?

Speaker: Elizabeth Coyle (1.5 CEUs), Heritage Room

Leveraging Data to Compete, Sustain Your Business, and Grow

Speaker: Tricia Zerger, Central Room E

Noon to 1 pm

Lunch, Raffle prizes

Session 2

1 to 2:30 pm

Family Digital Wellness: Keeping Kids Safe Online

Speaker: Justin Donofrio (1.5 CEUs), Central Room D

Using Clinical Modalities in Case Management

Speakers: Ellie Ettman, Kayla Jasper (1.5 CEUs), Central Room E

Wellness in the Workplace: Protecting and Promoting Staff Well-Being

Speakers: Lauren Hansen-Flaschen, Leslie Slingsby, Heritage Room

2:30 to 2:45 pm

Break, please visit our exhibitors

Session 3

2:45 to 4:15 pm

Current Adolescent Drug Trends and Culture

Speaker: Matthew Null (1.5 CEUs), Heritage Room

Close

KEYNOTE Jennifer Smith & Laval Miller-Wilson



JENNIFER SMITH

PA DHS Deputy Secretary for the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS)

Jennifer (Jen) Smith currently serves as the Deputy Secretary for Pennsylvania's Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. She took this role in January 2023 immediately following her tenure as Secretary for Pennsylvania's Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. Her experience in the behavioral health field will prove invaluable as she works with partners to continue improving access to and quality of all behavioral health services across the state.

LAVAL MILLER-WILSON

PA DHS Deputy Secretary for the Office of Children, Youth and Families

Laval Miller-Wilson joined the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) on March 13, 2023, as the Deputy Secretary for the Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF), which supervises the county-operated child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Mr. Miller-Wilson, an attorney, is deeply committed and passionate about ensuring that vulnerable populations get the care they need and deserve.



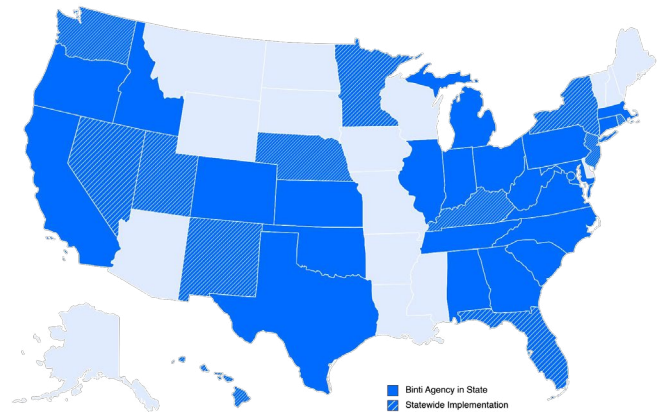
Software Built for Child Welfare

Binti is the gold standard for Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) in child welfare.

Since 2017, Binti has been on a mission to make child welfare more effective, efficient, and equitable. Binti's modules are specifically designed to drive improved outcomes, informed by extensive research and thousands of hours shadowing and learning from agency workers, families, and children experiencing foster care.

Binti's partner agencies save 20-40% of time spent on administrative work each week, enabling social workers to spend more time building relationships with children and families.

Widespread, Proven Results



Our tools are used by more than 12,000 social workers across 34 states, including 12 statewide implementations. **Binti's partner agencies serve 42% of children experiencing foster care nationwide.**

Modern, mobile-friendly modules that can function independently, integrate seamlessly with other systems, or operate together as a full CCWIS solution.



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Empower families and social workers to complete applications and re-licensing online



Family Engagement

Improve child outcomes by locating their kin and keeping them connected to their support system



Placements

Ensure the first placement is the best placement, and keep children near their communities



Intake

Screen, track, and assign allegations, with smart tech to help you screen for duplicates and spot trends



Case Management

Make and track referrals, collaborate on paperwork toward case goals, and easily make claims for funding



Investigations

Build a case, assess safety, and refer for services.



Eligibility

Streamline Title IV-E eligibility and accurately calculate payments



Prevention

Refer prevention services to a network of private providers. Track hours and effectiveness to maximize FFPSA funding.



Heather Sweet
Partnership Manager
(508) 838 - 6326
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WEDNESDAY PRESENTERS

10:30 - noon

Harmony in Healing: Integrating DEI Principles into Trauma-Informed Practices

Speakers: Shawn Mack, Lisa Weingartner, (1.5 CEUs)

This workshop is designed to deliver a meaningful and actionable experience, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to integrate healing-centered, trauma-informed care principles into their work with a specific focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion with specific examples as to how Valley Youth House has integrated the interconnectedness of both of these concepts.

Leadership & Navigating Change

Speaker: John Amato

Learn how to lead an organization or team effectively amid significant change. The typical response to this transformation is resistance on the part of employees and leaders can inadvertently add to this resistance. This session will provide leaders with the skills to promote organizational and team change by focusing on the 'people side' of change. The ADKAR model for managing the process of change will also be presented and discussed.

Vision Boards in Therapy: A Creative Approach to Empowerment and Goal Setting

Speaker: Jennifer Mongi, (1.5 CEUs)

This workshop aims to introduce social work professionals to the effective use of vision boards as a therapeutic tool to empower clients, facilitate goal setting, and enhance the therapeutic process.

1 - 2:30

Charting Your Course: Unleashing Data-Driven Strategies through Your EHR Initiative

Speaker: Chris Parry, Jessica Fenchel, Theresa Yera & Christi Beck

Electronic Health Records Systems (EHRs) are the essential systems/tools for Health and Human Services Agencies seeking to ensure Regulatory Compliance, improve Operational Efficiencies, and transform into fully data-driven organizations.

To realize the benefits of data-driven care, agencies must approach EHR implementation and adoption as strategic initiatives that embrace a guided process of organizational change management.

This interactive session will provide a roadmap for successful EHR initiatives. Our presenters will help you discover how to structure your EHR program for superior workflow integration, staff buy-in, data quality, and analytics readiness.

In this 90-minute session, we'll discuss:

Successful models for agencies at various levels of EHR implementation/optimization readiness that can be scaled to agencies of all sizes. Even those who do not have an EHR will gain insight and value.

The key milestone phases along the journey to becoming a data-driven organization:

Vision – Clarifying what we want to accomplish.

Team – Identifying your key players, including super-users.

Planning – Creating a roadmap that clearly details and measures success at every step in the process

Support – Ongoing project management and project communication.

How Organizational Change Management (OCM) begins at the top, is owned at the top, and is communicated throughout the project from the top
Case Studies and Measured Transformational Outcomes directly from an agency executive.

Architecting technology environments that support emerging analytics needs

Join our session for insights into launching EHR initiatives that fuel improved care delivery and outcomes, workflow efficiencies, increased revenues and cash flow, and data-driven decision making.

1 - 2:30

Human Trafficking: From Prostitute to President – An Educational Study of Healing and Survival

Speaker: Joseph Birli, (1.5 CEU's)

The presenter will offer a global and Pennsylvania state perspective of familial Human Trafficking that includes definitions, types, perspectives of criminality, how young people are targeted and groomed over generations, concepts of sextortion, therapeutic interventions and shared experiences of victims trafficked that have survived to live successful lives.

Sharing of current state statistics and the PA grading scale, legislative and counseling advocacy for human trafficking, and assessment tools used by the Department of Human Services for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and A Guide to Screening LGBTQ Clients for Trafficking will be reviewed.

Through the delivery of an educational presentation of a clinical case study, a review of the personal and professional journey of a familial human sex trafficking individual will be shared and discussed for a greater understanding of awareness, use of therapeutic interventions for counselors, sensitivity to special populations, and how grooming has changed through the decades (with use of technology) introducing sextortion.

Further exploration into the need for advocacy in the state for funding organizational services, legislation of safe harbor laws and the need for prevention programs, and training opportunities for counselors in assessment and treatment will be discussed. After attending this session, participants will have encountered the lived experience of an individual that has survived the life of a youth trafficking victim through a familial trafficker.

Participants will hear the journey of horror and healing, and how counselors can use impactful therapeutic interventions for trafficking trauma, allowing for individuals to not remain captive their trafficking experiences.

Session Disclaimer: The stories and case study for this session include some graphic and disturbing material, therefore, participants should be aware prior to attending for potential trauma triggers and take precautions for self-care.

Put Me in Coach! Strengthening the Frontline Through the Caseworker Field Coach Program

Speaker: Amanda Wagner, Sean Lazarus

This presentation provides information about JusticeWorks YouthCare, Inc.'s field coach program, its inception, and its benefits. Based on the philosophy that skilled, experienced, and knowledgeable child welfare caseworkers foster an environment that is ripe for retention, the field coach program helps to enrich caseworkers' critical thinking, reflective practice, engagement, understanding of vulnerable populations, and other soft skills via the creation of SMART goals. This presentation will explore how the field coach program benefits caseworkers individually and agencies as a whole via individual sessions in the field with the field coach, self-assessment exercises,

coaching questions, group work, and more. Presenters will provide information about solution-focused and reflective practices that are encouraged in the program and how these practices can support caseworkers' professional development in addition to traditional supervision methods.



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- Kris B., Lancaster County

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Our Admissions Team:

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Residential Admissions Coordinator
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E-mail: tborgia@hys-erie.org

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*Harborcreek Youth Services is a
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WEDNESDAY PRESENTERS

3 - 4:30

Restoring and Repairing Relationships: From the Child to the CEO

Speake: Stacy Mae Taylor

The presentation will review research-based theories and practices for organizational transformation that is person-centered, data-driven, and strengths-focused. Participants will review common knowledge, new insights, and practical application. They will experience collaborative conversation, information/strategy sharing, and time to strategize action plans.

Debriefing Critical Incidents

Speakers: Christopher Rahn, Michele Stagmer, (1.5 CEUs)

Debriefing is an important part of crisis management; however, reports from the field indicate it may be the most neglected part of the crisis management process. It is important to improve the consistency in implementing the debriefing process – especially considering the traumatic impact critical events can have on individuals and staff. Debriefing gives individuals and staff a chance to share their feelings, thoughts, reactions, and perspectives about the crisis incident in which they were involved. This dialogue is the foundation of the debriefing process – and gives the person doing the debriefing interview an opportunity to assess the status of the individual or staff, address immediate issues that those involved may be experiencing, assess the need for follow-up, gather information about the incident, develop or modify a support plan, and help the person achieve a sense of psychological resolution regarding the incident, which will reduce repeated behaviors of concern.

Specific to this session, participants will engage in an on-going tabletop exercise to provide them relative experience and resources to conduct effective debriefing within their respective organization. In addition to responding to guiding questions focused on logistics and policy, participants will role play a debriefing scenario designed to guide participants through the entire debriefing process.

Creative Strategies to Addressing Former Foster Youth Housing Insecurity

Speakers: Laura Morris, Alyssa Weinfurter

Youth exiting formal child welfare services are more likely to experience homelessness – up to 46% according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Parenting youth face even more barriers to sustaining safe and affordable housing given the complexities of maintaining time sensitive childcare resources and the demands of employment as a new parent.

Philadelphia County, in partnership with PA DHS, local philanthropy, county leadership, and community based partners have four unique programs for youth and parenting youth with lived child welfare experience that have launched with braided funding over the last four years, three of them during the pandemic which could not have been more timely.

During this presentation, we will introduce the basic data around former foster/youth homelessness and share the a case example from the co-presenter as a direct connection to the story behind the national and local homeless data.

We will share how community led social safety nets provide the most creative and responsive housing approach, particularly during this period of inflated housing costs in our local community. Finally, we will outline some of the systematic discrimination that occurs with youth aging out of formal child welfare system and the pitfalls that system, of which leaders and direct workers should be aware.

JUVENILE JUSTICE INFORMATION SESSION FOR PROVIDERS

Facilitators

Dr. Craig Adamson and Dipesh Chauhan, co-chairs of the PCCYFS Delinquency and Diversion Services Workgroup

Wednesday, April 10

4:45 to 6 pm

Central Room D

2024 PCCYFS Annual Conference

Best Western Premier, Harrisburg

Join us for a lively discussion focused on Provider challenges and successes.

Participants will have an opportunity to hear an overview of current events within the Juvenile Justice System in PA as well as offer their insight into their scope of practice.

We encourage Provider feedback and look forward to hearing how we can be more engaging with JPO.

PCCYFS Board of Directors

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Special Thanks to the PCCYFS Conference Planning Committee!

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Ransomware attacks hit businesses EVERY 11 SECONDS in 2021.¹

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¹ Source: Cybersecurity Ventures



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Compliance Management

NETWORKING EVENTS

Tuesday night - April 9, PCCYFS will welcome early arrivals with an evening of trivia at the hotel bar/restaurant, O'Reilly's Tap Room & Kitchen. Enjoy a tasty dinner and a casual game of general trivia with your conference colleagues. Prizes will be awarded. Trivia starts at 7pm.

Wednesday, April 10 from 2 to 3:30 pm, there will be an Ice Cream Social for all attendees to enjoy a sweet treat while talking to colleagues and exhibitors. The event, sponsored by Cove Prep and Children's Home of Reading, will be held in the area by registration.

That evening, starting at 6:30 pm, there will be a wine tasting in the Heritage room, sponsored by enkompas and a networking mixer in the sunken bar, sponsored by enkompas Technology Solutions and Binti. These events offer a relaxed atmosphere to talk and visit with exhibitors. There will be light refreshments and live music.

On Thursday, April 11, a networking luncheon will take place from noon to 1 pm.



WINE EVENT

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 pm
Heritage Room

Mix and mingle with fellow conference attendees, speakers, sponsors and staff during an evening mixer. Enjoy a variety of wines and delicious food pairings.



Wine & Music Sponsor



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THURSDAY PRESENTERS

10:30 - noon

Educational Stability: Helping Youth Remain on the Path of Academic Success

Speakers: Scott Weller & Angela Work, (1.5 CEUs)

This session will be tailored towards service providers who appear before the juvenile court. The panel will introduce foundational information regarding the importance of educational stability and its role in successful outcomes for youth. Additionally, best practices in educational stability commonly used by juvenile courts throughout Pennsylvania will be presented. The panelists will include a juvenile court judge, a juvenile probation officer, a representative from a service provider, and a justice-involved youth.

The panelists will offer their perspectives on specific experiences, knowledge, skills, strategies, and tools that service providers may use to best support youth's educational stability throughout the youth's involvement with the service providers.

Leveraging Data to Compete, Sustain Your Business, and Grow

Speakers: Tricia Zerger, Jessica Halpin and Jen Gray

We live in the era of data, and healthcare is no exception. Whether you're providing value-based care, trying to grow your organization, or simply striving to compete in today's market, data is key to your success. It drives productivity, leads to new evidence-based standards, transforms clinical outcomes and helps you benchmark your services. In this webinar, Tricia Zerger, Senior Director of Human Services Strategy at Netsmart, will sit down with an industry expert to discuss how data-driven technology and culture can provide you with business intelligence, employee satisfaction, improved operations and growth.

Anxiety: How Much is Too Much?

Speaker: Elizabeth Coyle (1.5 CEUs)

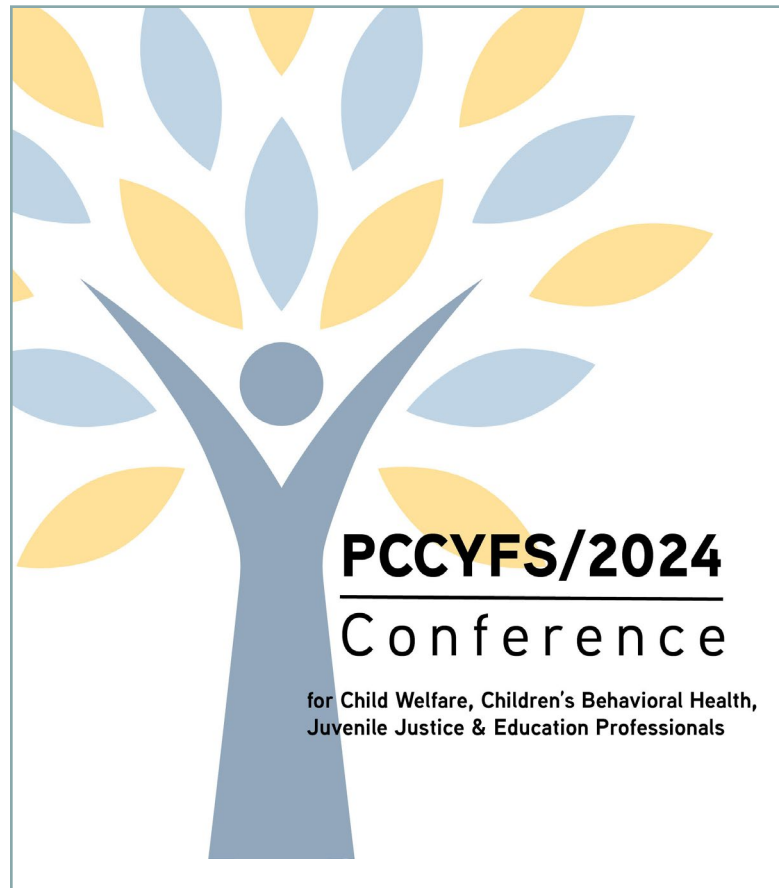
When does the level of anxiety become counterproductive? When does fear, worry, and anxiety "cross the border" into a diagnosable disorder that requires specific interventions? This workshop builds awareness and provides guidelines for recognizing the types of anxiety disorders diagnosed in children and adolescents. Participants will identify specific do's and don'ts for intervention, and learn how to utilize a four-step approach to support children who experience high levels of anxiety at home and school. Special emphasis will be placed on Separation Anxiety Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Social Anxiety Disorder.

Within child-serving systems, it is typical for a youth to cycle in an out of treatment programs multiple times. When excluding detention and shelter facilities, youth average two placements at residential facilities, with roughly one-in-four kids sent to three or more residential placements.

1. Youth who are removed from their homes spend an average of over three years under court supervision; one-in-four spend four years or longer.
2. When youth cycle through multiple placements it has a significant impact on their social, emotional, and physical well-being. Unnecessary and repetitive placements result in a youth spending more time away from their families and communities, the disruption to those family and societal bonds can result in a youth developing an "institutionalized" mentality; which would make their transition back into their community likely to be unsuccessful. Youth inevitably experience more trauma when cycling through placements; hindering the efforts of true trauma informed practices. Their physical and mental health may be affected; their education is interrupted, special education needs may not be immediately recognized and credit transfer issues are not uncommon for youth moving from placement to placement. Multiple placements is also costly to the system.

The use of predictive analytics has the potential to catalyze monumental change in the juvenile justice, child welfare, and behavioral health fields. This presentation

describes how agencies can develop and implement a tool to help them identify the most appropriate program for a child the first time. Through artificial intelligence and machine learning, the predictive factors of each youth is compared to the historical outcomes of a program that achieved success with youth that presented with the same or similar predictive factors. A report is provided to identify each youth's likelihood of program completion and remain-out-of-care, along with other desired outcomes. Data-driven approaches create a more scientific admissions process that can work in tandem with existing structured decision-making tools.



1 - 2:30

Family Digital Wellness: Keeping Kids Safe Online

Speaker: Justin Donofrio, (1.5 CEUs)

Parents and caregivers today are among the first generation to raise children in a physical and digital world simultaneously. In many instances, we have parents and caregivers who were raised with little-to-no exposure to digital technologies as youth, and are now raising children with the most exposure and access to digital technologies and environments than any generation before them. While we tend to focus on the many benefits of digital technologies, there is no doubt that we are beginning to see the negative impacts that can accompany a child or family's unhealthy use of digital technologies.

Early data and trends are beginning to show us the negative impacts technology can have on today's youth, producing higher levels of mental health concerns, stress, and anxiety. These negative impacts, along with the growing challenges that parents and caregivers are facing related to balancing the use of digital technology, can become risk factors for child abuse and neglect. Band-aid methods such as limited screen time and parental

controls are no longer sustainable approaches to healthy digital use and interactions. A more comprehensive, strengthening, and preventative approach is needed going forward.

Family Digital Wellness is a framework which addresses online safety for children through a family-strengthening and prevention scope. Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) aims to educate, support, and strengthen families and professionals who interact daily with digital technologies.

In this session we will review the impacts and trends of digital technologies related to child safety and we will also dive into the precursors and risk factors of child abuse and neglect, and how these can be accelerated in the digital environments. Finally, we will explore the importance of 'Family Digital Wellness' and how this framework can have a positive role in strengthening families in the digital era and how professionals and providers working directly with families can leverage these tools to help keep kids safe online.

1 - 2:30

Using Clinical Modalities in Case Management

Speaker: Ellie Ettman, Kayla Jasper, (1.5 CEUs)

This presentation will discuss the effectiveness of using evidence based clinical modalities in the provision of case management services. Participants will learn about several clinical modalities and how they can be appropriately used in case management. Attendees will have an opportunity to present cases and receive feedback about which modalities may be appropriate.

Wellness in the Workplace: Protecting and Promoting Staff Well-Being

Speakers: Lauren Hansen-Flaschen, Leslie Slingsby

Although there are general personnel shortages and concerns across various sectors, given the emotionally exhausting nature of victim services work, hiring and retention are particularly difficult. Turnover is notoriously high as individuals burn out or move on to other organizations, further taxing the remaining staff.

The COVID-19 pandemic upended daily life and escalated disparity. Three years later, the impact of the pandemic is still being felt. Individuals working in the social services sector, who encounter trauma each day, are especially at risk of experiencing burnout and heightened secondary trauma. Within this context, the importance of staff wellness has become an even higher priority for many organizations, evidenced by it becoming a top strategic pillar of their multi-year strategic plans. Organizations recognize that prioritizing the wellness of their team members is crucial to protecting them, supporting quality services and a healthy work environment, and reducing turnover.

In 2023, Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center partnered with Schultz & Williams, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit consulting firm, to conduct a three-year strategic plan. During the planning process, Board, staff, multi-disciplinary partners and other stakeholders were engaged, and elevating staff wellness was identified as a core strategic pillar for the organization.

Three years later, Mission Kids has fully leaned into this goal and made extraordinary steps in supporting staff wellness. This includes the creation of a wellness committee, self-care days, free therapy sessions (paid through Mission Kids), appreciation days, yoga classes, financial wellness seminars, meditation sessions, and recognition strategies.

The presenters will share how Staff Wellness as a key pillar grew out of the strategic planning process, what Mission Kids has implemented thus far, and why and how these have been incorporated into the organization to foster a more robust staff wellness plan. In addition, during a facilitated discussion, attendees will have the opportunity to share their struggles with enhancing or maintaining staff wellness. They will also create personalized mini wellness plans to take back to their organizations for further development.

2:45 - 4:15

Current Adolescent Drug Trends and Culture

Speaker: Matthew Null, (1.5 CEUs)

Today's students are not just drinking beer and smoking a little weed. Are you aware of what waxing, boofing, and robotripping are? If you see writing on the bathroom stall from a student looking for Molly, they are not looking for a girl named Molly. If you were a student looking for drugs, where would you try to get them? In this session participants will learn to identify current trends in illicit drug use in the adolescent populations. They will also learn to recognize the difference with experimental use and escape use.

All schools are seeing a large percentage of their students engaged with vaping. This training will educate participants on the current vaping devices and how easy it is to hide them and use them in school. Second, this training will address, "what are they vaping." It is not only nicotine.

THC is rapidly increasing in use. This is not the pot from years ago. It is critical we learn about the changes in THC and how it is being used. Many schools are experiencing THC overdoses and THC psychosis in their buildings.

Many students are wearing clothing that is designed to hide substances or promote substance use. This training will provide examples and indicators of these items.



“

We have seen a 4% decrease in the number of children who are in shelters or other care facilities. We attribute a lot of that to our ability to spend more time with families.

”

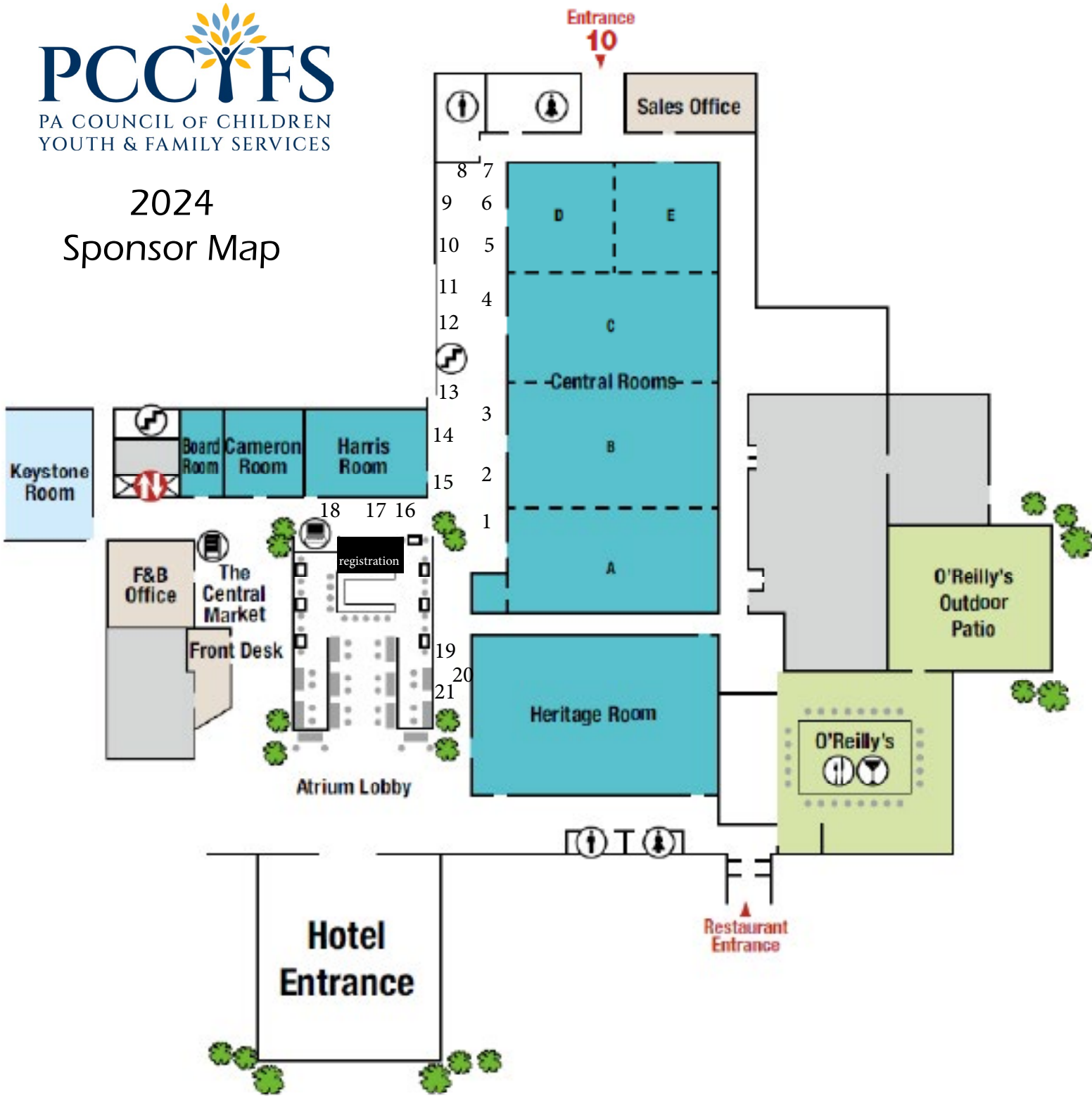
— **Michael Whitney**, Administrator of Intake and Placement Services,
Erie County Office of Children and Youth

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PCCYFS/2024 Conference

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Pennsylvania Council of Children Youth & Family Services (PCCYFS) #SWPR004114 is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors to offer continuing education for social workers, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors. PCCYFS maintains responsibility for the program(s).



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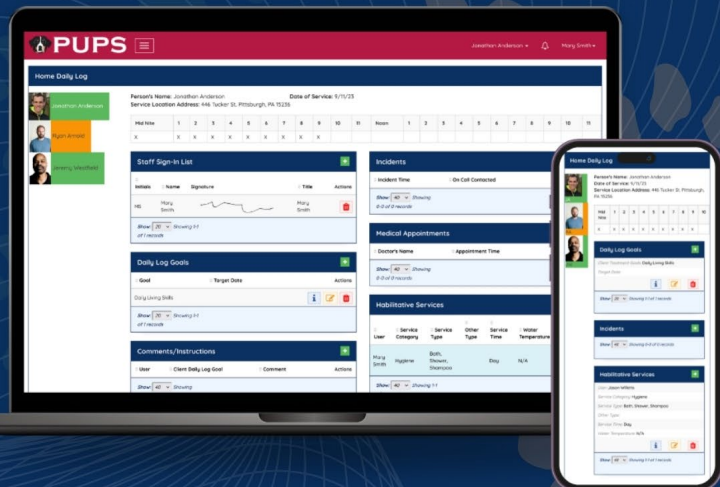
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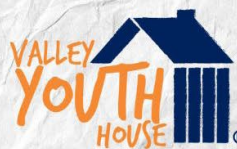
serves as a catalyst for youth to achieve their desired future through genuine relationships that support families, ensure safe places, and build community connections.

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PCCYFS STATEMENT OF VALUES

The membership of PCCYFS is committed to high quality, flexible, and innovative services for children, youth, and families that are easily accessible and support personal independence. In pursuit of this goal, we recognize a shared value base and foundation of practice that supports professional development and education, advocacy, and efforts to influence the funding environment.

WE VALUE:

Children and Their Families

We support a strength-based approach in our work, recognizing the value and worth of each child and family.

Respect for Each Other

We hold that each individual and agency is a valuable part of our common work and worthy of respect.

Strength in Cultural Diversity

We promote the strength of our cultural, racial, and historical diversity.

Unity of Voice and Action

We know the value of speaking with a united voice and common language derived from our shared experiences and are committed to acting decisively and collectively.

Integrated and Coordinated Services

We value a full array of services delivered through an integrated systems-of-care delivery process.

Multi-Level Involvement

We encourage active participation and leadership in Council committees, workgroups, and activities from administrative, management, and program staff within member agencies.

Quality

We support continuous quality improvement and best standards of practice within our collective system of services.

Achievement of Positive Outcomes

We strive to provide responsive services that reflect best practices and support achievement of positive safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes.

Professional Development

We work to establish and sustain culturally competent services and are committed to sharing professional expertise and resources.

Mutual Support

We value statewide support on local and regional issues.

Integrity and Accountability

We work to maintain credibility and accountability in our interactions with regulatory offices, purchasers of service, the communities in which we work, and especially the families that we serve.

What Our Members Say About Us

“PCCYFS has assisted in many ways to help develop wonderful relationships with county and state stakeholders as well as helped create a collaborative process between the public and private sectors.”

*Dipesh Chauhan M.A. C.A.M.S.
Director of Program Development
JusticeWorks YouthCare*

“As a non-profit organization serving youth and young adults, I highly recommend PCCYFS. The information we receive from this association is priceless. Through our membership, we are informed about changes occurring within the system in real time and we can collaborate with other providers on various matters to create change. PCCYFS advocates on our behalf, ensures providers are at the table, and has successfully worked with Legislators to pass legislation to improve our service delivery systems. The staff within PCCYFS are knowledgeable and well connected with those within the Department. Because of their work, there has been more collaboration between the Department and providers.”

Rebecca Van der Groef, LSW
CEO
Hoffman Homes for Youth

PCCYFS SERVICES

As thought leaders, PCCYFS supports continuous improvement within our collective system of services and strives to identify best practices that will achieve the most positive outcomes for the safety and well-being of children and families. PCCYFS offers member-driven solutions, education and professional development, and advocacy to its members in order to advance our field.

Workgroups and Committees

Each of our members has valuable insight to contribute as we identify issues, develop data-informed solutions, and promote best practices. PCCYFS members find great value in statewide and regional workgroups that address critical issues pertaining to agency operations and viability. These communities of practice provide excellent opportunities to elevate our field and develop solutions to benefit our agencies and the clients they serve. PCCYFS uses these discussions, proven solutions, and quality data to advise state and local decision makers.

Networking

Members network and learn from one another both regionally and statewide. Through special events,

workgroups, trainings, committees, regional councils, meetings, e-mail groups, and our members-only website, our members know they are never alone when facing a challenge. These forums also allow members to share unique solutions.

Communication

Through relationships with state and local officials, PCCYFS keeps members abreast of the latest developments in the field. Our staff and members have a voice at workgroups and task forces that ultimately influence the operations and direction of Pennsylvania's child serving system. PCCYFS diligently maintains consistent communication with members through regular e-communications such as a newsletter, regional meetings and a members-only website.

Professional Support

Through our sizable network of non-provider vendor members, agencies also have access to a pool of services, often at a discount, to support their agency business functions.



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For more than 45 years, Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services has been working to improve the quality of life for Pennsylvania's at-risk children and youth and their families.

PCCYFS works on behalf of its members to break down barriers and build relationships between counties and service providers. PCCYFS identifies system efficiencies to enhance services and service delivery in ways that make the client's experience more seamless. When special needs and issues arise, PCCYFS leverages the resources of its provider members to quickly identify the best resources to address the challenge and achieve successful resolution.

Memberships are available in the categories of provider, supporting and individual. More information and membership applications can be found at pccyfs.org.



PCCYFS

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