



April 18, 2025

Welcome to PCCYFS

New Member



Present Help in the Time of Trouble Refuge, Inc.

Present Help in the Time of Trouble Refuge, Inc. is a 501C3 Nonprofit organization that was established to help young women aged 13 to 17, who were victims and are now survivors of human trafficking. Their mission is to create specialized foster environments that support these young women in their healing journey, empowering them to rebuild their lives and thrive.

They partner with the Department of Human Services to provide comprehensive services that include individual counseling, educational opportunities, life skill training and pathways to reunification with families or independent living.

VISIT

PCCYFS Members Only Training

The image below does NOT have individual clickable links. Please click the image for the full document with pertinent links

Supporting Providers as They Navigate Custody Issues

A Virtual Presentation for Pennsylvania Council of Children,
Youth and Family Services (PCCYFS) Members



Join Tucker Arensberg attorney [Marisa K. McClellan, Esq.](#), an accomplished child welfare leader and advocate for families, for an informative session tailored to foster and adoption agencies and placement providers serving children with special needs. This will be a question-and-answer session about custody laws in Pennsylvania.

Date & Time:
May 6, 2025, from 12:00 - 1:00 PM

To register and submit questions, click here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rwUF-FA0qSDqnArvPcbSpjA or e-mail PCCYFS at hbaoffice@pccyfs.org.

Tucker Arensberg: A Full-Service Law Firm

Tucker Arensberg has over 85 attorneys serving clients across Pennsylvania and beyond. In addition to family law and child welfare, we provide services in general business law, mergers and acquisitions, labor and employment, insolvency and creditors' rights, health care, litigation, estates and trusts, school and municipal law, technology and intellectual property, energy, real estate, workers' compensation, employee benefits, banking, criminal defense, investment management, and fiduciary services.

About the Presenter:
Marisa K. McClellan, Esq.

With over 20 years of experience, Marisa represents clients in custody, divorce, and adoption matters and has served as court-appointed counsel and Guardian ad Litem in parental rights cases. Before joining Tucker Arensberg, she served as Administrator at Dauphin County Children and Youth, overseeing child welfare services, legal operations, and fiscal management. Marisa has been instrumental in implementing innovative programs for youth with special needs and advocating for statewide child welfare improvements.

For more information, contact Marisa K. McClellan, Esq. at mmcclellan@tuckerlaw.com or (717) 221-7961.

TUCKER ARENSBERG
Attorneys

The PCCYFS Legislative Advocacy Page is now LIVE!

This is where members can find all the up-to-date information on current advocacy efforts, bill tracking, PCCYFS advocacy wins, Public Policy Priorities, Public Policy Committee meetings, and more! Note that you must be logged in to review the bill tracker. Check it out [here!](#)

Congregate Care History Survey - Deadline Extended to May 2, 2025

PCCYFS is developing a resource that outlines a recent history of congregate care settings and the financial and policy-related decisions that have impacted their capacity to operate and are [issuing a survey to gather input from our congregate care providers](#). While general best practice encourages the use of community-based and home-like settings, the needs of the youth our systems serve have not changed and have, in fact, become increasingly more complex. Similarly, there are a number of conversations happening at the state level around complex cases and the barriers within the current service array to effectively support certain youth. As lawmakers and other state-level decisionmakers have this discussion, PCCYFS would like to put together a resource on behalf of providers that shares the “story of congregate care” and how we got to this point. **We are asking all congregate care providers to complete [this survey](#) to help inform how various policies have impacted your work. Please complete [the survey](#) below by COB May 2.** If you'd like to contribute to the project but would prefer a discussion rather than filling out the survey, contact us at hbgoffice@pccyfs.org to schedule some time with our staff.

Introduction to Multidimensional Grief Therapy (MGT)



Multidimensional Grief Therapy (MGT) (Kaplow et al., 2023), is an evidence-based intervention for children and adolescents, ages 7 and up, designed to reduce unhelpful grief reactions (grief that keeps kids “stuck”), promote adaptive grief reactions (grief that helps kids to cope better after a death), and help children and adolescents who have experienced loss lead healthy, happy, productive lives.

This webinar will provide an overview of MGT and additional information on the two-day MGT Learning Collaborative being offered in July 2025, which will equip mental health professionals working with youth in juvenile justice settings (or those youth at risk for becoming involved in the justice system) with the tools and skills needed to utilize the intervention.



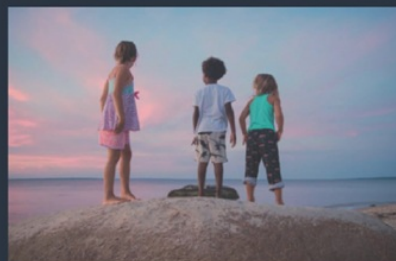
April 29th
2025



12pm-1:30pm
EST

MULTIDIMENSIONAL GRIEF THERAPY

A Flexible Approach to Assessing
and Supporting Bereaved Youth



Julie B. Kaplow, Christopher M. Layne,
Robert S. Pynoos & William Saltzman

CAMBRIDGE Medicine

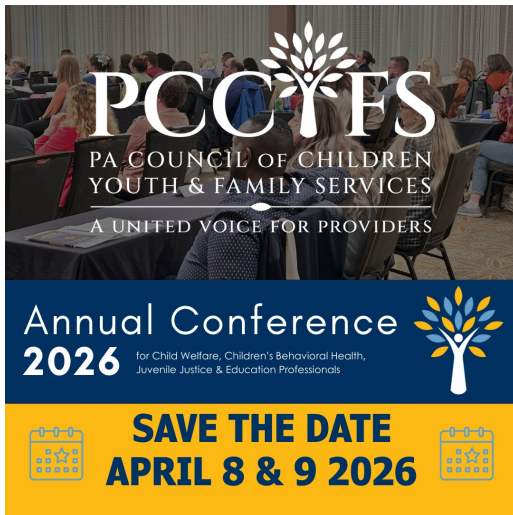
[Register Here](#)

Introduction to Multidimensional Grief Therapy

Multidimensional Grief Therapy (MGT) (Kaplow et al., 2023), is an evidence-based intervention for children and adolescents, ages 7 and up, designed to reduce unhelpful grief reactions (grief that keeps kids “stuck”), promote adaptive grief reactions (grief that helps kids to cope better after a death), and help children and adolescents who have experienced loss lead healthy, happy, productive lives.

This webinar will provide an overview of MGT and additional information on the two-day MGT Learning Collaborative being offered in July 2025, which will equip mental health professionals working with youth in juvenile justice settings (or those youth at risk for becoming involved in the justice system) with the tools and skills needed to utilize the intervention.

April 29, 2025 12:00pm
[REGISTER HERE](#)



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thank you to our sponsors, venue staff, vendors, volunteers and of course conference attendees! PCCYFS Annual Conference 2025 was a wonderful event.

Click [here](#) for more event pictures

Scholarship Opportunity for Foster Children

The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA is announcing a scholarship available to students who have been in foster care at some point in their lives. Please pass along this information to anyone who might be eligible.

Taylor J. Ertel Scholarship for Foster Children has been created for:

- PA resident who has been placed in foster care by a child welfare agency at some point in their lives
- Admitted to a program of study: training may range from short vocational courses such as cosmetology, data entry or welding, through college and graduate study

Additionally, scholarship opportunities can be viewed [HERE](#) and students may apply from this page. The application portal where students can create an account and complete a universal application can be found [HERE](#).

Workforce Crisis Survey

Faculty at the Social Work Department of Kutztown University of PA are conducting

research on the workforce crisis impacting Pennsylvania's Child Welfare System through an anonymous survey for child welfare caseworkers. Agency staff who work directly with children, youth and families should participate in this study by completing the questionnaire. This includes any positions that interact with clients as part of their responsibilities, including case carrying supervisors. This is an opportunity to expose the nature of private provider workforce in the third phase of the pre-during-and post COVID eight-year study. Responses will be kept completely confidential, and individual submissions will not be identifiable. Aggregate data will be shared with all members of the PA General Assembly in the form of an executive summary to ensure that our elected officials are fully aware of the challenges facing child welfare workers.

[Survey Link](#)

Pennsylvania Psychiatric Leadership Council - Centers of Excellence Spring Conference

The upcoming Pennsylvania Psychiatric Leadership Council/Centers of Excellence spring conference, happening on Monday, **April 28, 2025**, is being held at Best Western Premier (800 E Park Dr, Harrisburg, PA 17111). Breakfast is at 8am and the meeting begins at 8:30am. You can attend in person or via zoom.

The title is **Reimagining the Mental Health System: Steering the Behavioral Health System in Times of Change and Turmoil**. Some of the topics that will be discussed are a federal update with keynote speaker, Tim Clement (Vice President of Federal Affairs, Mental Health America), state and members updates on where we are at this moment with PA's Behavioral Health Council, how to address concerns/empower distressed communities for those left behind and happenings in distressed communities.

Earn up to 7 Free CME (Continued Medical Education) & CE credits available (Social workers, Marriage and Family Therapist and Professional Counselors)

[Tentative Agenda](#)

[RSVP](#)

PCCYFS NextGen Leadership Institute

PCCYFS NextGen Leadership Institute: Equipping the Future Leaders in Human Services



Leadership & Management Training with Motus9

- ✓ Align and implement Vision, Values, and Mission
- ✓ Learn to manage during change & difficulties
- ✓ Address elephants and have difficult conversations
- ✓ Master the art of effective decision-making
- ✓ Improve your ability to manage down and laterally



October 13th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Followed by Networking Dinner
October 14th, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm



Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC)
403 East Winding Hill Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

for more info visit pccyfs.org/leadership-institute



PCCYFS, in partnership with Motus9, are excited to announce the PCCYFS Leadership Institute: Equipping the Future Leaders in Human Services. This will be an exciting professional development series beginning this October. It will be a two-day learning opportunity, which includes several virtual bridge session opportunities to help with the transfer of learning.

This will be held **IN PERSON** at the Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC) in Mechanicsburg, PA, on **October 13 & 14, 2025**. In an effort to keep this as a small group learning environment, only a **LIMITED AMOUNT OF TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!**

Visit our [website](#) for more information, including details on the workshops.

Tickets are **NOW AVAILABLE!** PCCYFS Members can purchase discounted tickets during the current **EARLY ACCESS WINDOW**.

Tickets include the in-person and virtual learning opportunities, including all meals during October 13 & 14. An evening dinner networking opportunity is also included. Please visit our [website](#) for more information and to register.

Please contact hbgoffice@pccyfs.org with any questions.



[Read the latest PCCYFS Legislative Updates.](#)

Behavioral Health Updates

Community Behavioral Health (CBH) – Provider Notice: Continued Suspension of Provider Rate Requests

Due to CBH's ongoing fiscal constraints, the suspension of provider-initiated rate requests will remain in place for the entire 2025 calendar year. Please note that CBH is not positioned to provide financial assistance to providers beyond the agencies' typical claims reimbursement.

See provider notice [HERE](#).

Community Behavioral Health (CBH) – New! Evidence-Based Behavior Management Principles and Intervention Strategies for Outpatient and Mobile Therapists

April 23, 2025, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This training focuses on addressing behavioral concerns for children with externalizing disorders that are risk for a range of social difficulties, academic failure, and other comorbidities. Evidence-based interventions are largely based on principles of positive reinforcement while engaging parents and teachers in the child's treatment plan. This presentation will review the evidence-based interventions that have been shown to be most effective for youth with externalizing disorders across decades of research including reward systems,

differential reinforcement, and strategies for scaffolding the environment. This virtual training is free and intended for mental health clinicians (particularly outpatient and mobile therapists) working with elementary/school-aged clients. BHTEN is a co-sponsor of this workshop. CEUs are available. Register [HERE](#).

Wellness Days by Youth MOVE PA

In the summer of 2025, Youth MOVE PA is thrilled to announce the 5th Annual Wellness Days Carnival Edition, "Shattering the Stigma," which will take place at Northmoreland Park in Apollo, PA, and Kirby Park in Wilkes-Barre, PA. This year's events promise to be a vibrant celebration for children, young adults, family members, and service providers alike. Attendees can look forward to a variety of activities, including a DJ, music, guest speakers, community resource booths, balloon art, face painting, food trucks, a bouncy house, arts and crafts, a caricature artist, and opportunities to meet first responders—all offered free of charge.

We express our heartfelt gratitude for the remarkable partnerships and sponsorships that have contributed to making this year's 5th Annual Wellness Days Carnival Edition, "Shattering the Stigma," our most successful yet. This year's partners and sponsors include The PA Care Partnership, Luzerne-Wyoming Counties, PerformCare, Carelon, the Transitional Age Youth & Young Adult Advisory Group (TAAG) of Carelon, AML Inc., The Bradley Center, Pyramid Healthcare Inc., Youth MOVE Revolution, and The Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association.

[Registration](#) is now open!

Questions may be directed to [Kevin Puskaric](#)

PCCYFS Member Binti Offers Free Training Opportunity on Kinship Care on May 6th

Please consider joining PCCYFS member Binti as they hold a free training titled "Empowering Kinship Care: Lessons from Experts and Leveraging Technology for Stronger Connections".

Children thrive in kinship care, yet finding and engaging family members remains a persistent challenge for child welfare agencies. How can innovative technology and expert strategies help overcome these barriers? Join this engaging webinar featuring child welfare leaders and technology innovators who have successfully transformed family finding efforts.

REGISTER HERE! This virtual training opportunity will be on May 6th at 1:00.

Speakers include:

- Tiffany Collins from Binti who was a former leader of one of the largest family finding units in the United States.
- Deborah Cook from Thomson Reuters, who is a Government Solutions Director with expertise in data-driven family search.
- Jason Slonceski from Westmoreland County, PA, who is the Assistant Director & hands-on user of Binti's Family Finding and Engagement module.

Learning Goals:

- Proven strategies for identifying and engaging kinship caregivers.
- How technology is streamlining family finding efforts.
- Real-world success stories from the field

This training is designed for child welfare executives, directors, managers, supervisors, and frontline workers seeking to enhance and strengthen kinship care practices.

The Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) Updates

[Training for Child Residential Facility Staff](#)

[Quarterly Information Sessions](#)

[Quarterly Fiscal Meetings](#)

[Chapter 7 - Medical Assistance Policy](#)

[Reimbursement of Administrative Costs of Independent Legal Representation of Children, Youth, Parents and Relative Caregivers in Dependency Proceedings](#)

Upcoming PCCYFS Events

Custody Laws in Pennsylvania ~ Question and Answer with Maris K McClellan, Esq.

May 6, 2025 12:00pm - 1:00pm

PCCYFS Public Policy Committee

May 14, 2025 2:00pm - 3:30pm

PCCYFS Board Meeting

June 25, 2025 10:00am

PCCYFS Annual Conference 2026

April 8 & 9, 2026

[See the full PCCYFS calendar of meetings and events](#) and email hbgooffice@pccyfs.org with any questions.

PCCYFS Newsletter Archive

Looking for information from a previous PCCYFS newsletter? Visit the [PCCYFS Newsletter Archive](#) which is now live on pccyfs.org.

Support PCCYFS with a donation! [click here](#)

©2025 PCCYFS. The contents of this publication are viewed as a benefit of membership and should not be disseminated.

OUR MISSION: PCCYFS is a leading, statewide membership

PCCYFS | 3425 Simpson Ferry Road Suite 201 | Camp Hill, PA 17011 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!