17th Annual Conference
Together We Can!
Making a Difference for Children Who Have Been Abused and/or Neglected

November 12-14, 2019 | Lafayette, LA

2019 Registration & Conference Schedule

For more information: www.latwc.com or call 985-624-3514
Coordination of TWC is provided by Team Dynamics LLC
**Conference Basics**

**What is Together We Can?  Who Attends Together We Can?**

This is an annual multi-disciplinary conference that focuses on the children who have experienced abuse or neglect. These children may be in foster care, residential care, kinship care or have been reunited with their birth family. The Together We Can (TWC) conference will offer in-depth learning opportunities which address policy and practice concerns. We provide educational sessions for professionals featuring both national and local experts.

The TWC conference is geared toward social workers, attorneys, judges, court staff, CASA volunteers and staff, foster parents, children’s advocacy centers, law enforcement, educators, faith-based leaders and child welfare stakeholders—all working to make a difference in the lives of Louisiana’s abused and neglected children. An awards evening will be held on Wednesday to honor those who have demonstrated commitment above and beyond on behalf of children.

**Schedule Overview**

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<th>Tuesday, November 12</th>
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<th>Wednesday, November 13</th>
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<th>Thursday, November 14</th>
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<td>9:00 am—5:00 pm</td>
<td>9:00 am—11:45 am</td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>CASA Pre-Conference</td>
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<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Welcome, Luncheon and Opening Plenary Session 1</td>
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<td>1:45 pm</td>
<td>100 Series Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>1:45 pm</td>
<td>Institutes (3 hours)</td>
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<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>200 Series Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>12:00 pm—2:00 pm</td>
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We are happy to share this listing of the conference sessions and activities that are planned for the 17th annual event in Lafayette. We will have 5 plenary sessions and over 50 breakouts available. The conference will be held at the Cajundome. The conference is sponsored by a coalition of organizations that work to shape public policy, research and practice in child maltreatment and child welfare. We are welcoming many nationally recognized speakers this year to our faculty! We hope that you will join us to learn from them.
Annual Awards

In 2007, the legal and social work fields lost two people who were incredibly strong advocates for children. We have chosen to honor Catherine Lafleur and Linda Christmas with awards within their areas of service each year. Both embodied the love, the passion and determination needed to be a very special advocate for children. We hope you will consider nominating someone special for the 2019 awards. The form and guidelines for nominations are on the conference website.

Deadline for nominations: October 1, 2019
Click Here to Nominate Someone

Sponsor and Exhibitor Opportunities

You are invited to join the conference as a sponsor and/or exhibitor for our 17th anniversary event. There are a variety of options available and the earlier you confirm your participation, the earlier you will have your information listed and active.

We are pleased to announce that we will have a conference app this year and exhibitors/sponsors will be featured on the app, along with your contact information. Go to the conference website to download the exhibitor/sponsor brochure.

Exhibitor Links:
Exhibitor/Sponsor Brochure
Conference Registration is Online.
Everyone Must Pre-Register! NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION!

You will select your breakout choices during registration. We will print out your individual schedule for you and include it in your check-in packet. Your registration fee includes materials, up to three luncheons, the evening reception and morning/afternoon refreshments. Morning refreshments on Nov. 13 & 14 only.

REGISTRATION RATES
Register At: www.latwc.org

**EARLY BIRD RATE**
Register by October 5th at 11:59pm
- Full Conference $225
- Tuesday/Wednesday $195
- Wednesday/Thursday $195
- Tuesday only (Nov. 12) $105
- Wednesday only (Nov. 13) $125
- Thursday only (Nov. 14) $105

**REGULAR RATE**
Between October 6 and October 31
- Full Conference $275
- Tuesday/Wednesday $250
- Wednesday/Thursday $250
- Tuesday only (Nov. 12) $115
- Wednesday only (Nov. 13) $150
- Thursday only (Nov. 14) $115

REGISTER EARLY! Breakout sessions often fill quickly.
Registration will close on October 31, 2019.
Early Bird Rates expire on October 5, 2019.

Last Minute Rates Available only in emergency. Call us! 985.624.3514
The CASA Pre-Conference Sessions are offered only for the Directors and Administrators of the CASA programs.

**CASA Pre-Conference | 9:00 am—10:15 am**

Volunteer Recruitment in Rural Communities  
Dennise Jackson

Peer Coordinator Model of Program Management  
Maria Gnecco

Transition Planning: CASA’s role with older youth  
Joy Bruce

National CASA Flex Learning vs Traditional Pre-service Curriculum  
Alicia ‘Ali’ Darden, MEd

**CASA Pre-Conference | 10:30am—11:45am**

Volunteer Recruitment in Rural Communities  
Dennise Jackson

Peer Coordinator Model of Program Management  
Maria Gnecco

Transition Planning: CASA’s role with older youth  
Joy Bruce

National CASA Flex Learning vs Traditional Pre-service Curriculum  
Alicia ‘Ali’ Darden, MEd
Tuesday, November 12th

Luncheon | 12:00 pm—1:30pm

Trauma Informed Courtrooms: The Hows and Whys
presented by Judge David Matlock, JD, Caddo Juvenile Court

Tuesday Breakout Sessions 100 Series | 1:45pm-3:15pm

101 How to Give Effective Courtroom Testimony
Judge Ernestine Gray, JD, Orleans Juvenile Court and Nzinga Hill, JD, Orleans Public Defender’s Office

102 Child Welfare Stakeholder Roles
Trisha Casey, JD and Lacey Bodley, JD, Mental Health Advocacy Services

103 Intermediate Level Usage of Optima
Robert Hahn, Optima

104 CASA You’re Up
Otha “Curtis” Nelson, Jr., JD, Louisiana Supreme Court

105 Serving Students with Disabilities in Foster Care System
Debra Weinberg, JD, The Advocacy Center

Angelique (Angie) Brown, LCSW and Kari Kryda, Child Welfare Information Gateway

107 Family Engagement in the Mosaic: Culturally Responsive Evidence-Based Practice
Ellen Souder, LPCC-S and John Burek, MSCJ, Parenting with Love and Limits
Tuesday, November 12th

Tuesday Institute Sessions | 1:45pm-5:00pm

INS 1  Street Drugs: New Trends in Substance Abuse You Need to Know About
Lynn Reimer, ACT on Drugs

INS 2  Undoing Racism/Community Organizing Introduction
Kimberley Richards, MEd and Ron Chisom, People’s Institute

INS 3  Handle with Care
Andrea Darr, W. Virginia Center for Children’s Justice

Tuesday Breakout Sessions 200 Series | 3:30pm-5:00pm

201  TPRs and Appeals – The Preparation of Pleadings and Evidence for Attorneys and Laypeople
Kathy Lynn Cook, JD and Rebecca May Ricks, JD, Mental Health Advocacy Services

202  Assessing Child Safety Throughout Child Welfare
Etrena Gerard, MCJ and Heidi Bourgeois, LCSW, Louisiana DCFS

203  How to Properly Document Volunteer Advocate Supervision Using Optima Features: Wellbeing, To-Do’s, and Contact Entry Logs
Robert Hahn, Optima

204  Just the Facts Ma’am – Gathering Fact Based Information and Writing Fact Based Case Notes and Court Reports
David Duplechain, Family & Youth Counseling Agency

205  Our Girls, Our Communities: The Experience of Black Girls and Adolescents in Foster Care
Jemerika Haynes, Former Foster Youth, Clever Jam Communications

206  The Effects of Addiction on the Family
Stacy Eppers, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of Northwest Louisiana

207  Families First: Keeping Focus in the New Normal
Ellen Souder, LPC and John Burek, MSCJ, Parenting with Love and Limits
Wednesday, November 13th

Wednesday General Session

8:30am-10:00am
Welcome - Together We Can Steering Committee Members
Native Discovery
Presented by D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas, Native Discovery

Wednesday Breakout Sessions 300 Series | 10:15am–11:45am

301 Crossing Borders
Kathleen Gasparian, JD, Gasperian Spivey Immigration

302 What’s New with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)? So Much!
Judge Anne Simon, JD, Retired, Karen Matthews, LCSW, Chitimacha Tribe and Margaret Burt, JD

303 Extended Foster Care: Transition Planning for Older Youth (Part 1)
Joy Bruce, New Orleans CASA, Christy Tate, LCSW, Louisiana DCFS and Lauren Brocksmith, Louisiana DCFS

304 Family First Prevention Services Act and Beyond
Jacqueline Brown, RSW, MA, CWMFS, State Office, DCFS; Michelle Gros, JD, Special Projects and Strategic Plan Manager, PCCF; Mark Harris, JD, Louisiana Court Improvement Program; and, Melissa Maiello Kenyon, LCSW, Child Welfare Manager over LCQIP, and Federal Programs and Grants and Data and Analytics, State Office, DCFS

305 Successful Integration of Foster Youth into New Placements
Sonya Brown, LMSW, Project 18

306 Avoiding Burnout: Exhibiting Ethical Self Care
Lisa Donze Jacob, LCSW, Mercy Family Center

307 Initiatives Addressing Sex Trafficking in Louisiana
Dana Hunter, PhD, Louisiana Children’s Cabinet, Governor’s Office

308 Bullying: Impact on Children
Jeff Arseneaux

309 Warrior Spirit in Leadership (Session Repeats)
D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas, Native Discovery

310 Immunity for Social Workers
Otha “Curtis” Nelson, Jr., JD, Louisiana Supreme Court
Wednesday, November 13th

**Wednesday Luncheon and General Session**

**12:00pm—1:30pm**

**Updates** - Together We Can Steering Committee Members

**Implications of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP)**
Rhenda Hodnett, PhD, Louisiana DCFS

**Wednesday Breakout Sessions 400 Series | 1:45pm-3:15pm**

401 **Legal Ethics for Child Welfare Attorneys: Oh the Cases We See!**
Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, JD, Acadiana Legal Services Corp. and Margaret Burt, JD

402 **Overcoming Victim Obstacles in Forensic Interviews of Special Needs Children: A Case Study**
Danielle Williams, PhD, Center for Youth and Families and Kevin Tieman, MB, Torrington Police Department

403 **How to Build and Generate Ad Hoc Reports in Optima**
Robert Hahn, Optima

404 **Grief: A Special Kind of Sorrow**
Corie Hebert, PhD, Southeastern Louisiana University

405 **Extended Foster Care: Transition Planning for Older Youth (Part 2)**
Joy Bruce, New Orleans CASA, Christy Tate, LCSW, Louisiana DCFS and Lauren Brocksmith, Louisiana DCFS

406 **Working with Youth on Autism Spectrum**
Lisa Donze Jacob, LCSW, Mercy Family Center

407 **Civil Rights Protections for Parents in Recovery from an Opioid Addiction**
Carla Carter, US Department of Health and Human Services & David Roman, US Department of Health and Human Services OCR

408 **Unaccompanied Immigrant Children: Their Goals and Our Roles**
Bethany Linville, MA, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants and Andrea Garcia, Jewish Family Services

409 **Warrior Spirit in Leadership (Repeated)**
D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas, Native Discovery

*Session 410 is on the next page*
Wednesday, November 13th

Wednesday Breakout Sessions 400 Series | 1:45pm-5:00pm

410  Social Work Ethics
Tonyalea Elam, MSW, LCSW, Southeastern Louisiana University

Wednesday Breakout Sessions 500 Series | 3:30pm-5:00pm

501  Legal Professionalism for the Child Welfare Legal Field
Rebecca May Ricks, JD, Mental Health Advocacy Services and Margaret Burt, JD

502  Safe Babies Court Team: Champions for Children, Parents and Community Engagement
Amy Dickson, PsyD, LSU HSC School of Psychiatry/Psychology and Darneshia Bell, National Infant Toddler Court Program

503  How to Use Optima Reports as an Internal Control: Exception Reports
Robert Hahn, Optima

504  Permanency Matters
Kären Hallstrom, JD, Louisiana DCFS and Thailund Porter-Green, JD, Pelican Center for Children and Families

505  Open Table and Kinship Navigator
Christy Tate, LCSW, Louisiana DCFS and Lauren Brocksmith, Louisiana DCFS

506  Civil Rights Spotlight: Ensuring Language Access to Limited Proficient Court Users
Dylan de Kervor, JD, Federal Coordination and Compliance Section of DOJ Civil Rights Division and Kimberley Silas, JD, Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access

507  What is CSEC?
Rob Carlisle, Child Advocacy Services

508  Strategies for Effective Family Engagement
Corie Hebert, PhD, Southeastern Louisiana University

Linda Carter, LCSW (Retired Louisiana DCFS) and Lisa Welch, LCSW, Louisiana DCFS
Awards Night at Vermilionville
Wednesday, 6:30-9:00 pm

You must be pre-registered to attend the Awards Night at Vermilionville.

The Annual Awards Night at Vermilionville will be filled with music, food and dancing. We will honor the Together We Can Award recipients at the evening event. This is a fun night of networking, relaxation and sharing each other’s company. The band will be Terry and the Zydeco Bad Boys. Enjoy the food! Spend some time with friends! Dance a few steps!

A map with directions to Vermilionville is available at the conference registration desk.

The address is: 300 Fishers Road Lafayette, Louisiana

Past TWC Award Recipients

Catherine Lafleur - Legal Advocacy for Children and Families Award
2008 Diane Winston, Former State Representative
2009 Andrew Shealy, Assistant District Attorney
2010 Clay Walker, Public Defender’s Office
2011 Judge Charles Porter, 16th Judicial District
2012 Joy Peacock, Deputy Judicial Administrator, Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court
2013 Judge Anne Simon, Louisiana Supreme Court - Court Improvement Program Fellow
2014 Candice S. LeBlanc, Louisiana DCFS Bureau of General Counsel
2015 Leslie Lacy, Mental Health Advocacy Services
2016 Nzinga Hill, Orleans Parish Public Defender's Office
2017 Franchesca Hamilton Aker, Acadiana Legal Services Corporation
2018 Richard Pittman, JD, Louisiana Public Defender Board

Linda Christmas Service to Children and Families Award
2008 Nancy Miller, Louisiana Office of Community Services
2009 Linda Starns, New Horizons Youth Services Bureau
2010 Robert Couvillon, Louisiana Office of Community Services
2011 Myra Magee, Foster Parent/Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association
2012 Carrie Hicks, Foster Parents/Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association
2013 Helen Buttitta, Louisiana DCFS Children’s Justice Act Fellow
2014 Dr. Pamela Saulsberry, University of Louisiana at Monroe
2015 Elijah Evans, Former Foster Child and Founder of No Use for Abuse
2016 Sonya Brown, Former Foster Child and Founder of Project 18
2017 Joy Bruce, CASA New Orleans
2018 Kim Winston Bigler, Founder of James Samaritan (formerly James Storehouse)
Thursday, November 14th

Thursday General Session | 8:30am-10:00am

Welcome: Together We Can Steering Committee Members

Keeping Families Together Through Support, Services, and Collaboration:
Rhenda Hodnett, PhD, Department of Child and Family Services, Judge Haney, Michelle Gros, JD, Pelican Center for Children and Families, Richard Pittman, JD, Kristin Savicki, and Syraja Griffn

A mini-resource fair will be held Thursday morning. If you would like your agency to participate with a small

Thursday Breakout Sessions 600 Series | 10:15am—11:45am

601 Intergenerational Impact of Louisiana’s Opioid Crisis
Monteic Sizer, PhD, Northeast Delta Human Services Authority

602 Engaging with Clients on Front End
Margaret Burt, JD

603 Calming Studio: A Model for Replication
Lucinda Miles, Volunteers for Youth Justice

604 Relationship Building: Better and Stronger Connections Between CASA and DCFS
Cala Burgos, Louisiana CASA and Rodney Hastings, JD, DCFS

605 Fostering 101
Jessica Simpson Masters, BSW, Louisiana DCFS and Sarah Burleigh, Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

606 Family Preservation Program: Foundation Steps for Systemic Change
Marcia Arseneaux, JD, PhD, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

607 Planful Transitions
Rhenda Hodnett, LCSW, PhD, Louisiana DCFS and Charles Zeanah, MD, Tulane University

608 Engaging Fathers in Child Welfare: What are the Benefits?
Tracy Hoggatt, LCSW, Louisiana DCFS and Fertaeshia Broussard, MS, Louisiana DCFS
Thursday, November 14th

Thursday Breakout Sessions 600 Series | 10:15am–11:45am

609 Understanding and Applying HIPAA Compliance Guidelines for Child Welfare Cases
Tiffany Boveland, MS, JD, LCMC Health

610 CINC, A Fresh Perspective from a Bird's Eye View
Thailund Porter-Green, JD, Pelican Center for Children and Families and Guy R. Lain, J.D., C.W.L.S.' Attorney 3, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, Bureau of General Counsel

Thursday Luncheon and Closing General Session | 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Welcome:
Together We Can Steering Committee Members

Braver, Smarter and Stronger than You Think or I Believe: Former Foster Youth will Share Their Experiences.

Panel Presentation of Former Foster Youth
Facilitated by Tonyalea Elam, LCSW, Southeast Louisiana University

Closing Comments by Judge Ernestine Gray, JD, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

CLE and CEU Credits

CLE and CEU (NASW-LA) credit applications will be filed for approval. Participants who attend all conference sessions can earn continuing education credits. There will be opportunities for credits in both legal and social work ethics and legal professionalism. Forms for legal professionals will be available at the registration desk. CEU certificates reflecting general, clinical and ethics hours earned are emailed within 30 days after the conference. CLE credits are filed electronically within 30 days after the event. You must turn in your documentation before leaving the conference for your hours to be filed for CLE or for the CEU certificate to be emailed to you. CLE teaching credit forms will be available for legal speakers at the registration desk.
Lafayette Cajundome, located at 444 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, Louisiana.

Conference Accommodations:
Refer to the conference website for a listing of all the hotel room blocks available with discounted rooms.

QUESTIONS? Call Team Dynamics
985.624.3514
Or send an email to susan@teamedynamicsweb.com.