The Miami-Dade Community Based Care Alliance

In Collaboration with

OurKids
of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.
The Children's Trust
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
The Miami Foundation
For A Greater Miami
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
LOANS WORK
BMG Money

and the Florida Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA)

Present the

7th ANNUAL REGIONAL CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE
Reclaiming Hope for Children Exposed to Trauma

Registration Cost $15.00

November 9, 2012
Hilton Miami Airport
5101 Blue Lagoon Drive
Miami, Florida 33126
MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY BASED CARE ALLIANCE

MEMBERS

OFFICERS
Honorable Jeri B. Cohen, Chair 11th Judicial Circuit Miami-Dade County, Juvenile Division
Sonia Ferrer, Co-Chair 11th Judicial Circuit Miami-Dade County, Guardian ad Litem Program

MEMBERS
Imran Ali
Betty Alonso
Charles Auslander
Mark Buchbinder
Morris Copeland
John Dow
Terria Flakes
Rhea Gray
Esther Jacobo
Mayor Cindy Lerner
Alexsa Leto
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Isabel Perez-Morina
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Jackye Russell
Hon. Maria Sampedro-Iglesia
Bernardo Suarez
Sherria Williams
Mark Zaher

Miami-Dade County, Community Action and Human Services Department
The Miami Foundation
The Children’s Trust
I Have a Dream - Overtown
Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department
South Florida Behavioral Health Network
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
AHCA-Medicaid
Florida Department of Children & Families
Village of Pinecrest/Child Advocate
16th Judicial Circuit, Monroe County, Guardian ad Litem Program
Jackson Memorial Hospital
Educate Tomorrow
Miami-Dade Foster Parent Association
Switchboard of Miami Inc.
United Way of Miami-Dade
Advocate Program
Attorney/Child Advocate
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade
11th Judicial Circuit Miami-Dade County, Juvenile Division
Miami-Dade Police Department
Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office
Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
Michelle Breuer
Denise McArthur
Executive Director
Transitional Youth Coordinator
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

7:30 - 8:00  Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:00 - 8:15  Welcome
Honorable Orlando A. Prescott, 11th Judicial Circuit Miami-Dade County, Juvenile Division

8:15 - 8:30  Roles of Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department in the Child Welfare System
Lucia Davis-Raiford, Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department

8:30 - 8:45  Current State of Child Welfare in Miami-Dade
Honorable Jeri B. Cohen, 11th Judicial Circuit Miami-Dade County, Juvenile Division

8:45 - 10:00  Plenary A: Why is Trauma-Informed Care Important?

10:15 - 11:30  Session 1

11:45 - 1:00  Session 2

1:00 - 2:15  Luncheon & Award Ceremony

2:30 - 3:45  Plenary B: Making the Toughest Decisions: Giving it All We’ve Got

4:00 - 5:15  Session 3
PLENARY SPEAKERS

Plenary A
Kathryn Bauman, LCSW
Kathryn (Katie) Bauman obtained her MSW at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Since graduating in May of 2008, Mrs. Bauman has worked for and now directs the North Carolina Child Response Initiative at the Center for Child and Family Health (CCFH). In this role, she collaborates with officers of the Durham Police Department to address the mental health needs of children and families who witness or experience violent crime. She also provides mental health assessments and evidence-based therapeutic interventions in both English and Spanish to clients of the Center's mental health clinic. Along with others at the Center, Bauman co-wrote and now facilitates Strong Fathers, an evidence-informed group intervention for fathers who have committed domestic violence against their children's mothers.

Donna Potter, LCSW
Donna Potter is a licensed clinical social worker and has been working with traumatized children and families since 1992. She has been an instructor for Duke University’s Department of Psychiatry at the Center for Child and Family Health since 2000. In that role, she has conducted forensic evaluations of child physical and sexual abuse and neglect and has acted as an expert witness for the courts. She also provides consultation to the State Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse on issues of diagnosis and treatment of Reactive Attachment Disorder, including having co-written the clinical guidelines for assessment diagnosis and treatment of RAD for North Carolina and providing training around the state and in other states on issues related to attachment and trauma. Donna provides evidence based mental health trauma treatment to children and their families and disseminates evidence based treatment practices throughout the state of North Carolina and across the country. She is endorsed as a trainer by the developers of both Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Child Parent Psychotherapy. The majority of her training and consultation focuses on issues of early childhood, attachment and trauma.

Plenary B
Raelene Freitag Ph.D., MSW, LCSW
Raelene Freitag, is director of the Children’s Research Center (CRC) and director of international projects at National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD). Raelene joined NCCD in 1997 as a senior research associate and was promoted to senior researcher in 1999. In 2005 she became director of CRC. Raelene has many years of experience as a child protective services worker, supervisor, and child interview specialist. She has also worked in law enforcement and mental health. Raelene has a Ph.D. in urban studies from the University of Wisconsin with an emphasis in social service systems. Raelene has managed numerous projects during her tenure at CRC, including Structured Decision Making® (SDM) systems in the United States, Canada, and Australia. She is currently working to integrate the best research on SDM assessment systems with the best of solution-focused and family engagement work. Implementation science and research on how we think is further informing Raelene’s work that integrates SDM systems into a broader practice approach. As director of international projects, Raelene seeks opportunities for international collaboration and research partnerships. Recent conversations with child welfare practitioners and academics in Taiwan, Nepal, Russia, and Singapore make clear that while there are important differences, child protection and other social service systems across the world face many of the same challenges. In partnerships, we all have much to gain. Raelene serves on the board of WIPSAC, the Wisconsin chapter of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, and the board of the Wisconsin chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.
CONFERENCE FACULTY

1. Bart Armstrong, Children Legal Services/Florida Department of Children and Families
2. Kathryn Bauman, National Child Traumatic Stress Network
3. Doree Benson, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
4. Avron Bernstein, Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)
5. Maria Berrios, CHARLEE
6. Wil Blechman, The Children’s Forum
7. Bree Bofill, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe
8. Lauren Book, Lauren’s Foundation
9. Santarvis Brown, CHARLEE
10. Donald P. Cannon, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
11. Stevenson Charlot, Miami-Dade College
12. Christina Colon, Young Parent Project
13. Tyson Elliot, Florida Department of Children and Families
14. Gilda Ferradaz, Florida Department of Children and Families
15. David Ferrer, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
16. Pastor Linda Freeman, Peacemakers
17. Raelene Freitag, Children’s Research Center
18. Sylvia Godoy, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
19. Dr. Peter Gorski, The Children’s Trust
20. Ben Guerrero, Florida Department of Children and Families
21. Wilfredo Hernandez, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
22. Paula Herron, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe
23. Leslie Hinds, Florida Department of Children and Families
24. Walter Lambert, University of Miami, Child Protection Team
25. Demian Laudisio, Switchboard of Miami Inc.
26. Jack Levine, 4Generations Institute
27. Barbara Mallard, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
28. Renee McCall, Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Dept./EHS Division
29. Trudy Petkovich, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe
30. Donna Potter, National Child Traumatic Stress Network
31. Barbara Pryor, Miami-Dade College
32. Elizabeth Randall-David, The Center for Creative Education
33. Kelly Rawson, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
34. Hon. Maria Sampedro-Iglesia, 11th Judicial Circuit Miami-Dade County, Juvenile Division
35. Yvonne Sawyer, Hope for Miami
36. Tangier Scott, Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Dept./EHS Division
37. Carla Silva, Alliance for GLBTQ Youth
38. Rose Stayduhar, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe
39. Sandra Stewart, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe
40. Taya Taube, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe
41. Towanda Tharpe, Greater Miami Services Corps
42. Dawn Thompson, Kristi House
43. Lissette Valdes-Valle, Florida Department of Children and Families
44. Kesia Vasquez, Miami-Dade College
WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS
Plenary Session A
8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Why is Trauma-Informed Care Important?
Donna Potter and Kathryn Bauman

Nationwide, greater attention is being devoted to the specific needs of children who have experienced trauma. What makes this population so unique, and why is it important to adapt services and procedures to address these needs? This workshop will help participants understand the impact of trauma on children’s lives and identify the benefits of approaching children and families from a trauma-informed perspective.

Session 1
10:15 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

A-1: Getting Kids and Families Back on Track: Promoting Psychological Safety after Trauma
Donna Potter, LCSW and Kathryn Bauman, LCSW, National Child Traumatic Stress Network

Exposure to trauma during childhood can derail a child’s development in many areas. Children who have experienced trauma carry with them the memories, feelings, and tools that were part of their lives during the traumatic times. How can providers ensure that their services enhance psychological safety and avoid re-traumatizing or triggering children and families? This workshop will provide an overview of general considerations as well as specific programs targeting these concerns.

Dr. Peter Gorski, MD, MPA, The Children’s Trust

The impact of children’s encounters with the core components of the child welfare system will be considered with respect to findings from early brain development research, biological stress reactivity, attachment and learning.

A-3: Overview of Switchboard of Miami Services and Youth Suicide Prevention
Demian Laudisio, Switchboard of Miami Inc.

This workshop will initially give a brief overview of the Switchboard of Miami services to the community. Then the workshop will focus on Youth Suicide Prevention. QPR Question, Persuade and Refer, 3-Simple Steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. This Suicide Gatekeeper training is for caregivers who want to feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.
A-4: Special Services and Assistance Miami-Dade College Offers Our Youth
Barbara Pryor, MS, Kesia Vazquez, MSW and Stevenson Charlot, Miami-Dade College
Miami Dade College (MDC) has partnered with Single Stop USA, a non-profit organization, and the partnership has resulted in a brand new "One Stop Shop" for students to get connected to benefits. The concept is to have a place where students can go to get screened for multiple government benefits, receive assistance in applying for those benefits, and have follow-up to see if they have in fact received the benefits they are eligible for. We will also be presenting on ACCESS services. The department director will cover services available to students with disabilities as well as identifying how the child welfare system and MDC can have a seamless partnership.

A-5: Child Welfare Law Update
Avron Bernstein, J.D., Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)
This workshop will provide information on changes in dependency law that affects children, families, and child welfare professionals. Participants will be able to identify changes in the law affecting dependency cases and understand how changes in the law relate to expediting cases and facilitating permanency for children.

A-6: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking
Tyson Elliot, Florida Department of Children and Families
The presentation is designed to help the participants understand the relationship between the pimp/trafficker and the victim. The psychological dynamics used by the pimps/traffickers will be discussed. The profile for the child who typically is involved in this lifestyle will be explored. The commercialization of the pimp lifestyle will be discussed with the participants as well. Pictures of crime scenes will be shown to the participants and if time permits a case study on a typical case will be discussed.

A-7: Together-Making a Difference!- Using QPI Partnership Plan to Bring Normalcy to Children In Care
Trudy Petkovich and Rose Stayduhar, Our Kids of Miami-Dade County/Monroe
All of us are responsible for the well-being of children in care and we undertake this responsibility in partnership, aware that none of us can succeed by ourselves. Children need normal childhoods as well as loving and skillful parenting which honors their loyalty to their biological family. The purpose of this workshop is to articulate a common understanding of the values, principles and relationships necessary to fulfill this responsibility.
A-8: Taking Better Care of Ourselves to Take Better Care of Others
Jack Levine, Founder of 4Generations Institute
Learning key strategies for balancing our personal and professional lives is essential for achieving our goals and preventing stress. Our multi-tasking lives require a clear understanding of how to prioritize our time, minimize distractions and maximize performance….for ourselves, our families and workplace successes.

Session 2
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

B-1: Screening Children for Past and Current Trauma Exposure
Donna Potter, LCSW and Kathryn Bauman, LCSW, National Child Traumatic Stress Network
The detrimental impact of trauma on children’s development and functioning has been well-established, and numerous evidence-based treatments have been found effective in decreasing trauma-related symptoms. Nevertheless, many children go without appropriate services due to inadequate screening for trauma exposure. This workshop will outline what questions providers should be asking, how they can ask these questions, and what standardized measures may be helpful during the assessment phase.

B-2: Child Maltreatment: Recognition and Reporting in the Florida Context
Dr. Walter Lambert, University of Miami Child Protection Team
At the end of this session the participants will be able to understand the statutory requirements for reporting reasonable suspicion of child maltreatment; recognize patterned bruises and burns associated with inflicted injuries; understand the dynamics of child sexual abuse and how it differs from an acute sexual assault (rape).

B-3: How Fully Understanding LGBTQ Foster Care Youth Can Help Us Reach Permanency Goals
Elizabeth Davis-Randall, RN, Ph.D., Center for Creative Education
Carla Silva, Alliance for GLBTQ Youth
This workshop will increase your understanding of LGBTQ issues and youth. At the end of this session you should be able to identify challenges and effects faced by LGBTQ youth. Additionally, you should be able to identify strategies to become better allies to all youth.
B-4: High School Diploma Options and Postsecondary Choices for Foster Youth
Sylvia Godoy, M.S. Ed. and Barbara Mallard, M.S. Ed., Miami-Dade County Public School System
This session will provide an overview of all the different high school completion options available to students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). Additionally, a description of Miami-Dade County Public Schools Vocational/Technical program offerings will be presented.

B-5: Internet Crimes Against Children
Special Agent Don Cannon, Special Agent Wilfredo Hernandez and Special Agent Kelly Rawson, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
The workshop will focus on awareness and education regarding the problems associated with the lack of parents’ understanding of the Internet as it relates to their children’s access to the Internet. Parents need to understand technology, how easy it is for children to have access to the Internet and how predators use this technology to gain access to children.

B-6: Safe Harbor Act Implementation Panel (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children)
Dawn Thompson, Kristi House
Gilda Ferrada, Ben Guerrero and Lissette Valdes-Valle, Florida Department of Children and Families
Bart Armstrong, Children Legal Services/Florida Dept. of Children and Families
Taya Taube, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe
As of January 1, 2013 the Florida Safe Harbor act goes into effect and affects minors who are victims of domestic sex trafficking. First responders will now have the option of treating commercially sexually exploited children as child-victims and placing them in the dependency system instead of the delinquency system. These children will receive specialized treatment geared to the unique trauma caused by commercial sexual exploitation. The law also makes provisions and certain requirements regarding their placements in private treatment centers and designated safe houses. This session is intended to familiarize child welfare professionals with the laws and its practical implementation in the Southern Region.

B-7: Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department Services to Our Most Vulnerable Population
TowandaTharpe, B.B.A., Greater Miami Services Corps
Tangier Scott, Ed.D., Self Help División
Renee McCall, Head Start Division
This workshop will help educate case managers and others in the child welfare system about the services that the Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department provides to clients. The workshop will provide information from three
divisions of the department, Greater Miami Service Corps: Head Start and Early Head Start and Self Help.  

**Greater Miami Services Corp** - Will discuss the services provided to connect disconnected youth to education and employability training opportunities that increase opportunities towards self-sufficiency. Many of the targeted population include youths transitioning from foster care.  

**Head Start/Early Head Start Program** - The presentation will share information on the comprehensive child development programs which serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women and their families. The programs are child and family focused and their overall goal is to increase the social competence of young children in low-income families while fostering the role of parents as the primary educator and nurturer and advocate for their children.  

**Self Help** - The information learned from this workshop will help case managers empower families to improve their quality of life. As a result, more families will be better equipped to take ownership of their lives and move towards self-sufficiency. Participants will receive information on services that are available through the Community Action and Human Services Department to help achieve this goal.  

**B-8: CEO and Founder of Lauren’s Kids shares her personal experience from sexual abuse victim to survivor**  
Lauren Book, M.S. Ed., Lauren’s Kids  

**Plenary Session B**  
2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
**Making the Toughest Decisions: Giving it All We’ve Got**  
Raelene Freitag Ph.D, MSW, LCSW  

Child protection work involves making critical decisions that impact children and families. This presentation will explore recent research on decision-making and apply this research to the child protection setting. The best decisions can be made when we use high quality practice skills to engage the whole family, when we learn to use both our intuitive and analytic thinking, and when our work is supported with reliable and valid decision support tools.  

**Session 3**  
4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.  

**C-1: When Therapy is Needed: Finding Good Treatments and Screening Therapists**  
Donna Potter, LCSW and Kathryn Bauman, LCSW, National Child Traumatic Stress Network
Children who experience mental health problems related to trauma exposure require treatment that is specifically tailored to address the wide range of symptoms that may result. Fortunately, several evidence-based treatments have been proven effective in reducing symptoms for these children. In this workshop, participants will learn about available treatments and how to assess the experience and credentials of mental health providers.

C-2: Effects of Substance Abuse on the Brain
Dr. Wil Blechman, The Children’s Forum
This will be a discussion regarding effects of psychoactive drugs on the brain of a child, and how these effects may differ according to the age of the child.

C-3: Understanding the Effects of Trauma on Adolescent Sexual Development
Christina Colon, Young Parent Project
Elizabeth Randall-David, The Center for Creative Education
Dawn Thompson, Kristi House
This workshop will increase knowledge of the bio/social/environmental factors that affect adolescent behavior. It will also increase understanding of how trauma/abuse affects adolescent behavior. Furthermore, it will help you develop skills to reframe youth’s behavior in a more affirming manner.

C-4: Educational Intervention and Special Education
Doree Benson, M.S. Ed and David Ferrer, M.S. Ed., Miami-Dade County Public Schools
This session will provide an overview of Special Education as well as the differing educational exceptionalities. Additionally, the steps and levels of educational intervention needed in addressing academic and behavioral issues will be explained.

C-5: Courroom Decorum
Judge Maria Sampedro-Iglesia, 11th Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade County, Juvenile Division
Maria Berrios, CHARLEE
This will be a going back to basics workshop. It will cover issues such as professionalism and decorum in the courtroom. Given the unique nature of the dependency court many individuals including judges, magistrates, attorneys, guardians ad litem, case managers, parents and children participate in court proceedings. All parties need to be respectful of others and maintain a professional attitude at all times.

C-6: Effect of Poverty on Our Most Valuable Population
Dr. Santarvis Brown, Catalyst Miami
More members of our community have to ask for help because of the recession’s ongoing impact. The state’s Community Action Agencies are reporting a 20 percent
increase in demand. According to the latest Census figures, more than one in six Floridians lives in poverty – the highest in more than a decade. Many of these clients are educated professionals. How is this situation affecting our most vulnerable population in Miami-Dade?

C-7: Everything Adoption: Working Together to Create Families Through Successful Adoptions
Trudy Petkovich, Bree Bofill, Paula Herron, Sandra Stewart, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Leslie Hinds, Florida Department of Children and Families
Comprehensive panel encompassing the pre-adoption process, post adoption and everything that can happen in between, including the Adoption Review Committee and the appellate process.

C-8: Children of Inmates
Pastor Linda Freeman, Peacemakers
Yvonne Sawyer, Hope for Miami
Children of inmates are a large and hidden population of at-risk youth, largely disconnected from the social services and supports they need to thrive. The Miami Service Network for Children of Inmates uses evidence-based practices to identify and support these children and help them re-connect to the parent who left them behind.