

Live Conference Descriptions



***DAY ONE... Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

First Session: 9 -10 am

Keynote Address:

Social Emotional Learning
Caryn Curry, LCSW, Mental Health Consultant
Center for Childhood Resilience
Email: cacurry@luriechildrens.org

Bio - Caryn Curry is a Mental Health Consultant with the Center for Childhood Resilience. She provides training, coaching and on-site support to schools and community organizations on social and emotional skill building, creating healthy emotional climates for young people to thrive and trauma informed practices. Ms. Curry has over 30 years' experience working on behalf of children and families as a practitioner, program director, manager and advisor in hospital, community-based and school settings.

Ms. Curry earned her B.A. degree from Harvard University in Psychology and Social Relations and Master's degree in Clinical Practice from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. She also holds certificates in Social and Emotional Intelligence for Leadership and Coaching from the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential.

Second Session: 10:15 am - 11:45 am

Session: Teen Reach Meeting

Ariel Liddell, Prevention & Intervention Manager, Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY)
Email: aliddell@icoyouth.org

The Department of Human Services and the Illinois Collaboration on Youth will host the Teen REACH quarterly meeting during this session. Providers will hear from DHS's Teen REACH administrator on any programmatic updates and have an opportunity to clarify any questions regarding programming. The remainder of the session will focus on activities that will help build community among providers, focused on sharing the knowledge in the room and supporting program design and development going into FY22.

Session: Moving the Needle on STEM Facilitation

Tracy Truzansky, ACRES Coach, STEM Educator, Trainer
Email: tracytruzansky@gmail.com

What do you do to fully engage youth in a STEM experience? Do you rely on the "fun factor", or do you aspire to support youth in truly understanding science phenomena and/or engineering design? Explore strategies for asking purposeful questions, guiding science process, and giving youth voice in STEM experiences. We will use hands-on activities, videos and discussion to reflect on our practice as afterschool STEM facilitators with an option to go deeper in your own professional learning beyond the workshop time.

Session: Building Relationships with Your Families and Communities
Setara Sous, Area Manager, Champions
Email: SSous@discoverchampions.org

As a provider/youth worker we are the face of building the future. We play such a huge role with multiple channels within our daily life. This segment will help you with being able to make the most effective connections with all the relationships. Building relationships is a HUGE component in what we do every day. Participants will learn strategic ways they can build lifelong relationships with children, youth, families, community members and school districts. We will discuss how to use your Welcome Events, School PTO, Board Meetings to help increase your relationship.

11:45 am – 12:30 pm Lunch – Exhibitor and Virtual Awards Hall

Third Session 12:45pm -2:15pm

Session: Deep Dive into all things Grants
Cynthia Townsend, Director, Ideas, Knowledge & Strategies LLC
Email: cynthiatownsendiks@gmail.com

“We need a grant”. Four short words, but the work involved is anything but short. Ideally, this workshop is for those newer to the grant process, but program veterans may be challenged to think about the grant process differently. This workshop will provide an overview of the entire grant process, including; sourcing grants, the application process, being awarded, program implementation and reporting. Resources useful for seeking and writing grants will be shared and attendees will participate in exercises to better engage the grant process.

Session: The Impact of Trauma on our Youth: Resilience Trumps ACES
Karen C. Simms, MAMFT, LMHC, Meridian K. Consulting, Inc.
Email: traumaresilience.inc@gmail.com

Both in the public domain and in the human service arena, there is a lot of talk about trauma and its adverse impacts. While there is compelling evidence that trauma can be shaping and defining, this need not be the case. Indeed, many people experience trauma as an opportunity to build skills and resiliency. With support and resources, most people are able to endure, grow, overcome, and even thrive when faced with trauma and adversity. In this moment, when children, teens, and families may be experiencing more adversity than ever before, the need to focus on resilience is more important than ever before. During this workshop participants will gain a better understanding of how a focus on “resiliency” best supports youth who have been affected by trauma, adversity and/ or toxic stress.

****DAY TWO... Thursday, April 8, 2021**

First Session: 9 - 10 am

Keynote Address

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Tammie M. Causey-Konate, Ph.D., Senior Technical Assistance Coordinator

American Institutes for Research (AIR)

Email: tcausey@air.org

BIO - Tammie Causey-Konaté, PhD, is a senior technical assistance consultant at American Institutes for Research (AIR). Causey-Konaté has over 25 years of experience as a professional educator, with her years in K–12 and higher education divided equally. She has international and regional experience in diversity and equity, cultural and linguistic competence, cross-education system partnerships, and the postsecondary development of school leaders for urban and rural education contexts. Co-editor of the book, *Called to Sankofa: Leading in Through, and Beyond Disaster: A Narrative Account of African Americans Leading Education in Post-Katrina New Orleans (2018)*, she also has extensive experience in trauma-informed practices.

Much of Causey-Konaté’s current work focuses on educational equity, including equity leadership, whole child equity, equitable access, diversification of the educator workforce, culturally responsive hiring practices, and social emotional learning. She presently leads projects to diversify the educator workforce in Wisconsin through the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest, and she supports the Center on Great Teachers and Leaders, Region 9 Comprehensive Center, and the Gates Foundation’s COVID-19 Longitudinal Deep Dive Study as a subject matter expert on equity. Additionally, she has been instrumental in helping to develop AIR’s *Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards for Projects, Research, and Operations (CLAS PRO)* and in supporting staff implementation efforts to advance equity. From 2015 to 2019, Causey-Konaté served as deputy director of the Southeast Comprehensive Center (SECC) – supporting state education agencies in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Through her work with SECC, she was integrally involved in equity-focused partnerships with state and local education agencies, which culminated in a multi-state equity summit and Equity in Action webinar series. Dr. Causey-Konaté holds a PhD in educational administration and MEd in curriculum and instruction, from the University of New Orleans.

Second Session: 10:15 am – 11:45 am

Session: Putting LGBTQ+ Supports into Action

Nat Duran, Youth Engagement Manager, Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago

Email: nat.duran@phimc.org

In this workshop, participants will have an opportunity to build their toolbox of strategies to show their support for LGBTQ+ youth in your work with them, their families, and community members. Small group scenario practice will allow participants to talk through foundational approaches while developing audience-specific talking points for the communities in which they work.

Session: Socially Distanced Fitness Activities in our New Norm

Tammy Notter, M.Ed., Educational Consultant, IAN Trainer

Email: tamarnotter@att.net

In this session, ideas and resources will be shared on how to keep youth moving whether they are home or at a program. The fitness activities can be done solo or in the future expanded to a group, using whatever resources are available. Keeping youth moving during COVID is one strategy to use to keep them physically and emotionally healthy. Be prepared to move during this session.

Session: Understanding and Acting on Afterschool Policy Issues in Illinois

Susan Stanton, Network Lead, Afterschool for Children and Teens Now (ACT Now) Coalition

Email: StantonS@actnowillinois.org

Join ACT Now to receive up-to-date information about afterschool policy issues in Illinois. We will provide information about our April Advocacy initiative and provide opportunities for you to take action in support of afterschool. Also gain critical advocacy skills to help you make an impact!

11:45am – 12:30pm Lunch – Exhibitor and Virtual Awards Hall

Third Session 12:45 pm -2:15 pm

Session: Strengths, Tendencies and Types: 3 Tools to Help You Lead Your Team
Gina Warner, President & CEO, National AfterSchool Association
Email: gwarner@naaweb.org

“There are three things that are hard: Steel, diamonds and knowing yourself.” Join this workshop, led by certified leadership coach and NAA President and CEO, Gina Warner, to explore three free and low-cost tools to help you better understand yourself so you can show up and LEAD your team with confidence, clarity and compassion.

Session: Managing Challenging Employees
Loretta Durrell, MS, MBA, Director of Human Resources, Trainer
Email: durrelld@gmail.com

Challenging employees require special attention requiring clear coaching and behavioral feedback. The workshop will give practical tips on management strategies when confronted with difficult employees and how to respond in a positive way.

****DAY THREE... Friday, April 9, 2021**

First Session: 9 am- 10:30 am

Session: Working with Intergenerational Staff
Nikki Hale, Nikki Hale Consulting, Inc. Advancing Youth Development Facilitator, Center for Youth Program Quality Consultant and Certified Youth Development Practitioner and High Performance Coach
Email: nikkihaleconsultinginc@gmail.com

In this session, we will discuss the myths and truths about different generations, from millennials to boomers and all in between. We will discuss the role of unconscious bias and share strategies you can use to facilitate communication among intergenerational staff teams. Ultimately, teamwork makes the DREAM work!

Session: Be a SUPER Leader! Leadership Secrets with a Superhero Theme
Tyler Kearns, Program Coordinator, Clayton Kid Zone
Email: tylerkearns@claytonschools.net

Like "Batman" to the "Bat signal", as leaders we always answer the call but do, we have the right tools to do it? Not everyone can be a superhero but we all have the ability to become a SUPER leader! Join me and unlock the leadership powers inside you. Let's power up, and rise to become Super-Leaders.

Second Session: 10:40 am – 12:10 pm

Session: Engaging Unconscious Bias in Out-of-School Time Space
Cynthia Townsend, Director, Ideas, Knowledge & Strategies LLC
Email: cynthiatownsendiks@gmail.com

Some would argue that ‘unconscious bias’ is an oxymoron. Are our biases truly unconscious? Does the ideal of biases being unconscious negate the effects? Youth that experience significant unconscious bias may carry its effects into adulthood. The out-of-school-time space has proven to be a critical component of the development of many youth. It is important that professionals in this space be aware of biases, their effects and resources to lessen those effects. This workshop will challenge participants to explore personal biases and in the out-of-school-time space and learn of strategies to negate biases that youth might experience.

Session: Driving a Pathway to Career Readiness: Preparing our Youth for the 21st Century
Tiana Cody, LSW, Educational Consultant, IAN Trainer
Email: ticody@auntmarthas.org

This interactive workshop session will use positive language and self-image while navigating employment and education. During the session we will discuss why it is important to prepare our youth for the 21st Century. We will also explore and assist with barriers to employment and education for youth. By the end of the session each participant will be provided with engaging tips, soft skills with interviewing, and self-awareness.

Session: The Importance of Parent Engagement and SEL
Caryn Curry, Mental Health Consultant, Center for Childhood Resilience
Email: cacurry@luriechildrens.org

This interactive workshop will focus on the role of social and emotional learning in parent engagement in your program. We know that SEL is foundational to youth’s healthy development and well-being. How can you engage parents to partner with you to build their youth’s SEL skills? Come learn how to support parents to enhance the skills they need to model and teach SEL to their youth.

During the session participants will learn the importance of engaging parents in social and emotional learning. They will take away 3 strategies to engage parents in their own social and emotional skill-building. Last, participants will learn 3 strategies to overcome barriers to effective partnerships with parents.

12:15 pm – 12:45 pm Lunch – Exhibitor and Virtual Awards Hall

Third Session 12:45 pm -2:15 pm

Session: Addressing Gender-Based Violence with Teens
Maggie Arthur, MSW, Northside Prevention Educator & OurMusicMyBody Campaign Coordinator
Email: marthur@ourresilience.org

Rape Culture is a concept used to describe a culture or community in which gender-based violence – including rape, intimate partner violence, and sexual harassment or discrimination – is pervasive and normalized due to societal attitudes about gender and sexuality. This workshop will help you integrate conversations around preventing sexual harm, creating safe relationships and confronting rape culture in your after-school programs with middle and high school students. We will discuss what this culture is, how it shows up in the classroom and how we see it reflected in our students’ beliefs and values. Attendees will leave with examples of activities they can integrate into their lessons that will ask students to envision a world without gender-based violence.

Session: Strategic Collaborations for Family Child Care Providers: Screening and SEL Development
Penny Woolford- Williams, M.Ed., MSW, Educational Consultant and IAN Trainer
Email: pwilliamswoxford@gmail.com

Children's social and emotional development is one of the greatest indicators of school readiness. Are you screening and assessing children's social and emotional development? Are you building parent capacity? In this workshop we will discuss and share how family childcare professionals can create and develop a social emotional screening system that incorporates parent participation and collaboration. Walk away with how to incorporate a SEL screening and development system, build parent capacity, and continue to prepare children for academic success.

2:15 pm – Closing (Give-a ways)