ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Children, youth, and families - as well as those who provide care and support to them - are living in a time where hope for the future is needed. This conference aims to explore, restore promote hope for those involved in strengthening families around the world. Conference keynotes and workshops as well as optional pre-conference and networking opportunities will equip and refresh you in your personal and professional work with children, youth, and families.

For the first time ever this conference brings together 8 years of a statewide conference focused on supporting the most challenged children and youth in the community together with the 3rd Child and Youth Care Conference which has gathered in Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada), Vienna (Austria), and now in Southern California (USA).

The conference venue is located just steps from the Pacific Ocean in Ventura, California - an hour north of Los Angeles International airport or the Bob Hope Burbank airport or a half hour south of the Santa Barbara airport. Rail access is available one block from the hotel from Bob Hope Burbank airport.

You are invited to join like-minded colleagues for three days of learning, networking, and strengthening your work in supporting children, youth, and families.

Revised 17 Sept 2017
Nurturing Hope 2018

4th Biennial California Community-Based Services & 3rd Child and Youth Care World Conference

January 15 (pre-conference)
January 16-18, 2018

Hosted by Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families (www.casapacifica.org) and the International Child and Youth Care Network (www.cyc-net.org)

REGISTRATION

Pre-Conference: $165 ($195 after November 1)
Conference: $425 ($495 after November 1)

Registration & information: www.casapacifica.org/training


Meals included: Monday breakfast and lunch (for pre-conference participants); Tuesday breakfast and lunch; Wednesday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Thursday breakfast and lunch

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

All conference sessions will be taking place at the hotel. Participants are responsible for their own reservations.

Crown Plaza Ventura Beach
450 E Harbor Blvd
Ventura CA 93001 USA
Phone: 1-800-842-0800
www.cpventura.com

Hotel reservations & room block: https://aws.passkey.com/e/49123028?mode=find-res

This conference is open to the first 320 registrants.

Space is limited so register early. Registration & full conference details are available at www.casapacifica.org/training. For more information contact Darlene Navarro at dnavarro@casapacifica.org or 805-366-4064.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

• Child & Youth Care (CYC) practitioners
• Educators & trainers in Child & Youth Care (CYC) programs or higher education
• Child welfare, mental health & juvenile justice system personnel
• Family members & peers
• Child, youth & family advocates
• Resource Families (foster, kinship & adoptive parents)
• Wraparound teams
• Program staff supporting Emily Q. subclass members through Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) and/or Katie A. subclass members through Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS) & Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC)
• Short-Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP) staff & administrators
• Social Workers & Associate Social Workers
• K-12 educators & Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) staff
Monday, January 15

Pre-Conference Workshops

Breakfast on your own

9:30 – 4:30 Pre-Conference Workshops

Option A:
Purposeful Use of Daily Life Events
Thom Garfat & DLE Trainers
San Miguel Ballroom A

Option B:
Six Keys to Thriving
Mark Freado
San Miguel Ballroom B

Option C:
PRAXES Intensive Model
Practitioner Training
Dan Thorne
Santa Rosa Room

12:00 Lunch buffet

Evening Reception & CYC-Net Clan Gathering

All conference attendees are welcome to join this evening reception to kick off the conference proceedings. CYC-Net board members will be hosting the event and providing an update on the international network.

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Hosted by CYC-Net in the Bay View Room
Hour d’oeuvres & cash bar (Dinner on your own at hotel or nearby restaurants)
Tuesday, January 16 (Day 1)

8:30 – 9:30 Buffet breakfast (Top of the Harbor)
9:30 – 11:00 Welcome and opening plenary (Top of the Harbor)

**Your Caring Heart: Renewal for Helping Professionals & Systems**

Dr. Jaiya John (USA)
Founder of Soul Water Rising & Author of *Your Caring Heart: Renewal for Helping Professionals and Systems*

A meet and greet/book signing opportunity with Jaiya John will be available following the plenary session.

11:00 - 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:45 Workshops

- **A1:** The Art of the Question (Fasciano & McLeod) - Canada
- **A2:** Nurturing Hope for At-Risk Children in India (Modi) - India
- **A3:** Dream House: A Shared Vision for Children and their Caregivers (Kotb) - Egypt
- **A4:** Enabling Educational Success (Strahl) - Germany
- **A5:** Pathways to Child Welfare & Mental Health Services (Konarski) - USA
- **A6:** It’s Our Turn! Autistic Young People Inform Education and Policy (Marshall, Weinroth & Wilton) - Canada
- **A7:** Learning from Care Leavers Across the World (Milligan) - Scotland
- **A8:** Child & Youth Care Education: Communities of Practice…s! (Snell) - Canada

12:45 - 2:00 Lunch buffet

2:00 - 3:30 Workshop

- **B1:** Remaining Hopeful in Challenging Times (Perchard & Modlin) - Canada
- **B2:** Nurturing Hope with Children & Families in Times of Seismic Change with a Different Kind of Respite Care (Murdoch & Poynton) - New Zealand
- **B3:** Developing Hope through Parent-Centered Interventions in Behavioral Health (Thorne) - USA
- **B4:** Caring for Children Without Parents (Rygaard) - Denmark
- **B5:** Creative Child & Youth Care: Nurturing Hope and Change Through Arts-based Research and Practice (Vachon) - Canada
- **B6:** A Pocket Full of Memories!: An Exercise about Career Moments (Fulcher & Moran) - New Zealand & USA
- **B7:** Always Say ‘Yes’: And then say some more stuff! (Gharabaghi) - Canada
- **B8:** Providing Social, Emotional and Behavior Support for Young People in the Community (Godtel & Valenzuela) - USA

3:30 - 3:45 Break
3:45 - 5:00 Plenary session

**Lessons from South Africa: Nurturing Hope through Courage, Community & Collaboration**

Zeni Thumbadoo  
Deputy Director, National Association of Child and Youth Care Workers (South Africa)

Dinner & local activities on your own
Wednesday, January 17 (Day 2)

8:30 – 9:30 Buffet breakfast (Top of the Harbor)

9:30 – 10:30 Plenary (Top of the Harbor)

**Using What We Know to Nurture Hope for Children, Youth & Families**

Dr. Lorraine Fox (USA)
International Author & Trainer

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12:15 Workshops

**C1:** Reaching Children Through Play (Sousa & Ross) - Canada

**C2:** Too Fat, Too Old, Too Deviant or Too Insane: Exploring Issues of Suitability for Practice in Child & Youth Care (Byrne) - Ireland

**C3:** Cultural Intelligence in the 21st Century (Swanzen) - South Africa

**C4:** Mattering in Supervision (Charles & Garfat) - Canada

**C5:** What is Normal? Translating the Asperger Syndrome Culture (Getty) - Canada

12:15 – 1:30 Lunch buffet

1:30 – 3:00 Workshops

**D1:** Love & the Unconditional Space (Digney & Smart) - Ireland & Scotland

**D2:** Building Hope from the Stories of Young People in Care (Roberts) - Canada/Trinidad and Tobago

**D3:** The Art of Kid Whispering: Reaching the Inside Kid (Freado) - USA

**D4:** Professional Certification for Child & Youth Care Practitioners: Does it make a Difference? (Curry, Eckles & Kelly) - USA

3:00 - 3:15 Break

3:00 – 3:15 Workshops

**D5:** What Youth Say About Their Own Experience of Resourcing: Twelve Essential Elements (Sharpe Lohrasbe) - Canada

**D6:** Cyberspace as Life-Space: Giving Hope in Transcending Child & Youth Care Ethics Online (Kamps) - Canada

**D7:** The International Child & Youth Care Network: CYC-Net (Stabrey) - South Africa

**D8:** Is it Us or Them? Child and Youth Care Family Private Practice in The Home (Ennis-Gregory) - Canada
3:15 – 4:45 Workshops

**E1:** Three Thought Provoking & Inspirational “TED-Style” Talks: Challenging our Assumptions (Charles); Leadership Challenges (Rice), Advocacy Deconstructed (Demonte & Sago)

**E2:** To Intervene or to Not Intervene, That is the Question (Sliwinski & Carty) - Canada

**E3:** What I Wish They Knew: Student Narratives of Challenges, Resiliency & Hope (Hillman) - Canada

**E4:** Transition, Change & Maintaining Hope (Smart) - Scotland

**E5:** Residential Child and Youth Care in a Developing World (Islam & Fulcher) - Bangladesh & New Zealand

**E6:** Using a Child & Youth Care Philosophy and Orientation when Working With Adults (Skirving-Mills) - Canada

**E7:** Supporting Students in Practicum Education (McGrath & Fodchuk) - Canada

**E8:** Successfully Working Across Ponds (Brooker) - Australia

4:45 - 6:00 Free time

6:00 – 8:00 Banquet dinner

**Child & Youth Care Education & Training: Time to Turn Out the Lights?**

Heather Snell, Shadan Hyder, Cory Mackinlay, Paul Kitz & Colleen Snell (Canada)

Followed by Q & A session
Thursday, January 18 (Day 3)

8:30 – 9:30 Buffet breakfast
9:30 – 10:30 Plenary session (Top of the Harbor)

**Nurturing Hope Amongst Peers: Bangladesh’s Moanogharian ‘Hill Home’ Experiences**

Dr. Tuhinul Islam (Bangladesh)
Senior Research Fellow at Northern University Bangladesh/Director of Education & Child Development Programmes

10:30 - 10:45 Break
10:45 - 12:15 Workshops

**F1:** Technology Integration in Service Delivery: LifeBook as a Place for all Spaces (Rolfe, Cabral & Henderson-DeKort) - Canada

**F2:** Hope & the Therapeutic Use of Humour in Child & Youth Care Practice (Digney) - Ireland

**F3:** Hanging Out Upside Down: Exploring Young People’s Experiences Participating in Social Circus Programs (Erlich) - Canada

**F4:** Applied Mindfulness: Nurturing the True Self (Whitefawn) - USA

**F5:** When Process Blocks Progress: Workflow Efficiency for Social Agencies (Zasyatkina) - USA

**F6:** Resources for Happiness & Resilience are Within Each of Us (Oudemans - Indonesia)

**F7:** Rethinking Our Words: How Shifting Terminology Expands Solutions (Reed) - Canada

12:15 - 1:30 Lunch & closing reflections

Don’t miss the special announcement and preview of the 4th CYC World Conference in Durban, South Africa in July of 2019 in partnership with FICE and the National Association of Child Care Workers.
KEYNOTE BIOS

Dr. Jaiya John (USA)
www.jaiyajohn.com

Dr. Jaiya John was born into foster care in New Mexico, and is an internationally recognized author, speaker, poet, spoken word artist, and youth mentor. Jaiya is the founder of Soul Water Rising, a global human mission that has donated thousands of Jaiya’s books in support of social healing, and offers scholarships to displaced and vulnerable youth. He is a former professor of social psychology at Howard University, has authored numerous books, and has addressed over half a million professionals, adults, and youth worldwide. Jaiya is a National Science Foundation fellow, and holds doctorate and master’s degrees in social psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a focus on intergroup relations and identity development. As an undergraduate, he attended Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and lived in Kathmandu, Nepal, where he studied Tibetan Holistic Medicine through independent research with Tibetan doctors.

Heather Snell (CANADA)

From direct care to CYC education Heather Snell’s CYC approach draws her to the ‘in betweens’ where disciplines merge and collaborations happen. After coordinating Humber College CYC programs for years, Heather is currently CYC part time faculty at both Ryerson University and University of Strathclyde. She is Chair of Research on the Child and Youth Care Education Accreditation Board and Managing Editor of Relational Child and Youth Care Practice.

Zeni Thumbadoo (SOUTH AFRICA)
www.naccw.org.za

Ms. Zeni Thumbadoo is Deputy Director of National Association of Child Care Workers – South Africa. Zeni has dedicated her working life to the children’s sector in South Africa – in direct service provision, contributing to children’s policy and legislation, advocacy and model development. She has worked in a children’s home; as a consultant to the Department of Social Development; as a trainer in child and youth care work; and as a coordinator of a process of piloting of innovative projects linked to transformed policy in the building of children’s services in the democratic South Africa. Since 1997 she has worked as the Deputy Director of the National Association of Child Care Workers. She has contributed to the professionalization of child and youth care work through the following actions: Spearheading various advocacy campaigns linked to the statutory recognition of the child and youth care field; serving on the Standards Generating Body for Child and Youth Care Work which developed national standards for the training of child and youth care workers; serving on the statutory regulatory body, the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care; and representing South African child and youth care work in various national and international forums. Zeni is currently further championing the recognition of child and youth care work through the national scale up of the Isibindi model which aims to develop 10,000 child and youth care workers serving 1.4 million children in a five year period. Zeni completed her Master’s degree in child and youth care
work with distinction. She is presently the Vice Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance.

Lorraine Fox (USA)
www.drlorrainefox.com

Lorraine holds a doctorate in clinical psychology and a doctoral certificate in organizational development, and is a Certified Child Care Worker. She walked into the world of child and youth care in September, 1964 and found her career home working with children and youth who were declared “emotionally disturbed” as a result of abuse and neglect. Lorraine has been a direct service worker, a supervisor, a clinical director, an Executive Director, and Assistant Professor. Finding work that has never stopped being challenging, kids and families worth loving, and wonderful colleagues to work beside, both nationally and internationally she shared her work, love and life with a like-hearted soul-mate. She has trained and consulted across the United States and in Australia, Canada, Guam, England, Scotland and Czechoslovakia. In addition to extensive work with private service agencies, Lorraine served as a contract instructor with the University of California, Davis, and the San Diego State University Foundation, training public service employees serving welfare and child protective clients and their community partners. In addition, Lorraine has a long standing relationship with the California Community Colleges Foster and Kinship Care Education Programs. She was awarded the Outstanding Service Award for Excellence in Teaching by the UC-Davis. Lorraine has published numerous scholarly articles, writes a monthly parenting column for her church newsletter, and co-authored an internationally recognized training curriculum. Lorraine has appeared on radio and television in the United States, Canada, and Australia and has been a consulting editor for the Journal of Child and Youth Care.

Dr. Tuhinul Islam (BANGLADESH)

Dr. Tuhinul Islam is a Social Work practitioner, child rights activist, researcher and academic from Bangladesh. He obtained his PhD in Social Work and Social Policy from the University of Edinburgh, UK. He was awarded a Masters in International Child Welfare from the University of East Anglia, UK, has an MBA in Human Resource Management He has 18 years’ work experience in the areas of child welfare management; institutional childcare; education, social inequality, development and research in the development sector in Bangladesh, Malaysia and the UK. Currently he is a Senior Research Fellow at the Northern University Bangladesh, a child welfare consultant with ActionAid Bangladesh and Director, Education and Child Development of a national NGO in Bangladesh.
Option A: Purposeful Use of Daily Life Events

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

The Purposeful Use of Daily Life Events (DLE) is designed to help the direct care practitioners become more effective in daily interactions with young people and families. Through a focus on everyday events and how these events connect to the overall goals established with young people and families, the direct care practitioner adopts a more proactive approach in intervention. DLE offers the potential to make every moment with young people and families more meaningful.

Presenter Bio

Thom Garfat, PhD is an international consultant and trainer who, for over forty years, has worked with children, young people, care givers and those who help them. His primary focus is on ‘making it work’; finding practical day to day ways to enhance the process of development and healing.

Option B : Six Keys to Thriving

CYCCB Content Domain: Relationship & Communication

As Child and Youth Care practitioners, we all strive to build strengths in young people. Our goal is to enable them to overcome adversity and to learn, grow, and flourish. This seminar will explore six biosocial drives that must be met for this to happen. Learn the six keys to helping youth thrive: safety, belonging, achievement, power, purpose, and adventure. Each key will be explored to discover the most effective ways to help youth reach their greatest potential.

Presenter Bio

Mark Freado has worked with private providers, public agencies, and schools throughout the United States as well as Canada, Europe, Australia, South Africa, and Asia, speaking, consulting, and delivering training services. He specializes in program development, leadership skills, and interventions for at-risk and disadvantaged children, adolescents, and their families. Mark has Masters Degrees in Forensic Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and Counseling from West Virginia University.

Option C: PRAXES Intensive Model Practitioner Training

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

Parents Reach Achieve and eXcel through Empowerment Strategies (PRAXES) is a practice which reduces the stress of parents of special needs children and improves the child’s behavior. This practice is ideal for parents of high-risk children with a history of hospitalizations, out-of-home placements, school disruptions, and/or juvenile justice record. The practice involves a 12-session curriculum, which will be taught to the parent through discussion and role play. Through the training, the participant will develop competencies to begin utilizing this curriculum with parents. The process of identifying clients, receiving referrals, engagement of parents, using the materials, and helping the parents develop skills will be included. The Practitioner Manual will be included in the training and the costs. Attendees will also learn how to incorporate and advance the practice into their agencies.

Presenter Bio

Dan Thorne, LMFT, is the Founder of PRAXES (Parents Reach Achieve and eXcel through Empowerment Strategies, with over 40 years’ experience as a clinician, program director, and parent of special needs children. He conducts trainings throughout California and online on PRAXES’ intensive model parenting practice and other parent- centered workshops.
TUESDAY MORNING

A1 - The Art of the Question

CYCCB Content Domain: Relationship & Communication

This workshop explores the use of questions in our daily interactions with children and families. We will explore the use and types of questions we ask in our professional work in a profession where assessing, communicating, and planning is a daily occurrence. Questions are quite powerful and can help to connect and promote growth when used in a purposeful way. We will explore how questions can build momentum, provide perspective and advance dialogue. We will also examine the potential obstacles that become present when questions are used incorrectly. This presentation will include group work to further explore our use of questions.

Presenter Bios

Ryan McLeod: Ryan is currently a Child Protection Worker for Peel Children's Aid Society in Ontario, Canada. He also teaches part-time at Humber College in the Child and Youth Worker and Police Foundations programs. Ryan has 15 years of experience working with children and families in Ontario, in a range of settings, functions and optics of practice.

Don Fasciano: Don is a Child and Youth Care Worker currently working within a day treatment classroom. Don has 20 years of experience working with children, youth and families in various settings, though predominately in residential care. Don is also a certified 4th generation Tai Chi instructor in the Wu Yi Jie He system.

A2 - Nurturing Hope for At-Risk Children in India

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Conference delegates are invited to pause and reflect on the situation of India's children and vulnerabilities that exist there with a population of 1.2 billion people, more than half of whom are children and young people. A comparative perspective shows that the population of children and young people in one South Asian country is greater than the total population of the entire English-speaking World! That includes Americans (325 million), Canadians (36 million), British (65 million), Irish (5 million), Australians (25 million) and New Zealanders (5 million) – some 461 million people in total! India is home to almost 31 million children in need of care and protection because they are orphans and hence extremely vulnerable. As a nation, work on family- and community-based support for child care remains a low priority, adoption rates are low and most children are still placed in institutional care, even though both law and policy identify this as the last resort option. After-care and foster care practices are developing very slowly. While efforts are made to pursue de-institutionalisation in keeping with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to expand family-based care and support for children, demand for out-of-home care far exceeds the nation's capacity to respond. Given the large number of homeless and destitute children, rural-urban migration, internal conflicts, extreme forms of poverty as well as children ensnared in sex trafficking, there are many constraints facing community-based child care and challenges associated with providing residential child care.

Participants are invited to review how residential child care is used by an NGO with children and young people in India to address the ill-effects of long-term institutional care. Sustainable development for India's homeless children lies in promoting innovative practices that blend family-based group living with positive elements of residential child care. Praxis challenges associated with translating theory into practices are highlighted as child and youth care addresses social class and social caste dynamics unique to mega-city living in India.

Presenter Bio

Dr. Kiran Modi is the Founder & Managing Trustee of Udayan Care, a New Delhi-based child rights organization with extensive child and youth care work offered through 15 small group care homes in 8 states of India.
**Session A3 - Dream House: A Shared Vision for Children and their Caregivers**

**CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism**

Wataneya Society for the Development of Orphanages has been working on the development and implementation of the quality standards for alternative care in Egypt since 2008 in collaboration with other organizations and the Ministry of Social Solidarity. In 2014, after mandating the quality standards for alternative care, Wataneya Society launched a special project aiming to upgrade 10 institutional homes (8 orphanages and 2 institutions for street children) and support them technically in applying the quality standards. The initial activity that marked the beginning of the project was a workshop titled “Dream House” where caregivers and children followed a number of steps and activities to come up with common shared visions, both on the personal and the institutional level. The workshop aimed at giving the caregivers and the children a platform for self-expression and building positive relationships among them. The moderators of the workshops received special training before starting the project and they included volunteers in addition to the staff working in the institutional support unit. The outcome of the workshop was a detailed plan and a commitment of the management of each of the institutions to ensure the achievement of the shared vision. At the time, a short documentary was produced to present the outcomes of the 10 workshops. In 2017, we are revisiting the “Dream House” workshop outcomes and assessing the impact and the sustainability of such activities. This evaluation will utilize surveys, interviews and document analysis.

**Presenter Bio**

Yosr Kotb is Senior Technical Expert at Wataneya Society for the Development of Orphanages, and master trainer in the Pearson Assured Learning and Development center. She delivers Child Protection and Positive Parenting programs to caregivers working in institutional homes. Yosr is a member of the Comparative and International Education Society.

**A4 - Enabling Educational Success**

**CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods**

This workshop explores how children and youths in care can be supported to succeed in their educational pathways. Practitioners often are disenchanted about the educational perspectives and prospects of the children and youths. To deal with that, frequently adverse pre-care experiences of the youths – like family background or traumatic experiences – are used to explain low educational achievements. But insufficient support in care can also be discussed as a determining factor. The topic of “enabling educational success” will be facilitated by a dialogue framed by the international discourse on the achievements and possibilities of school-based education in care. In addition, the meaning of school for the children and youths in care will be discussed. The complexity of the topic will be underlined by empirical findings of a German research project that analyzed the biographical perspective of care leavers in higher education. The findings of this project illustrate the interconnection of educational experiences and everyday life in, before and also after care. Overall, the aim of the workshop is to discuss the situation of educational adversity and opportunity for young people in care and to search for possibilities to support the children and youths in care to succeed within their educational pathways.

**Presenter Bio**

Benjamin Strahl is currently working as a researcher and lecturer in the Institute of Social Pedagogy and Organisation Studies at the University of Hildesheim in Germany. Before this, he worked for some years as a frontline child and youth care practitioner in residential care settings, foster care, and day care. He also is co-founder and member of the Careleaver e.V., which is the first nationwide care leaver (self-)association in Germany.

**A5 - Pathways to Child Welfare and Mental Health Services**

**CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism**

Many changes have occurred in the Child Welfare and Mental Health systems in California. In this session a representative from the California Department of Health Care Services will review the impact of the Continuum of Care Reform
(CCR) including the elimination of Rate Classification Levels (RCLs) and replacement of licensed group homes with Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs). This session will also provide background and updates on the ‘Emily Q’ class action lawsuit which established Therapeutic Behavioral Services, the ‘Katie A’ class action lawsuit which established a Core Practice Model that includes a Child and Family Team (CFT) for all young people served in the Child Welfare and Probation systems, Intensive Case Coordination (ICC), Targeted Case Management (TCM), Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), and Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC).

Presenter Bio

Troy Konarski, MSW is a Mental Health Specialist for the California Department of Health Care Services in Sacramento, California USA.

A6 - It's Our Turn! Autistic Young People Inform Education and Policy

CYCCB Content Domain: Cultural & Human Diversity

Child and Youth Care (CYC) Practitioners serve autistic young people in schools, hospitals, communities, residential facilities, and family homes. Yet, there is a dearth of knowledge regarding the lived experiences of autistic young people receiving these services. Strength-based CYC practice can be an ideal support for autistic young people, yet the literature does not reflect current autism advocacy or disability rights movements, which oppose behavioural interventions and person-first language. While government policies focus heavily on medical treatment interventions and behavioural therapies, emerging trends such as the social model of disability and neuro-diversity promote the strengths of diverse people living with disabilities. What is more, the focus on early intervention creates gaps in quality services for autistic adults, which negates their rights to full participation and accessibility in society. This workshop will engage the audience in dialogue with two young autistic self-advocates. These young leaders are involved in the author’s current graduate research project to inform CYCs on best practices to support autistic young people in achieving basic human rights using CYC principals. The project adopts a disability theory interpretive lens to understand how practitioners can learn from the lived experiences of autistic young people. Finally, the workshop will challenge CYCs to reflect on current policies and practices that work to either emancipate or oppress autistic young people.

Presenter Bio

Nancy Marshall has been working as a classroom-based and community-based CYCP for over ten years, with a focus on supporting young people diagnosed with autism. Nancy is a recent graduate of the CYC Master’s degree program at Ryerson University with a research focus on CYC approaches in autism issues.

Shauna Weinroth is a 22-year old college student who self-identifies with Asperger’s syndrome and ADHD. Shauna is an energetic young advocate whose voice has been highlighted in the Ontario Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth WHSTS (2016) report, along with interviews in the Toronto Star and CTV News.

Falon Wilton is a proudly autistic CYC student at Humber College. She is a member of many communities, including Autistics of Canada, Autistiqueers, and her autistic friend circle. Using her privilege as a hyperverbal adult, she advocates for the needs and strengths of autistics on every platform accessible to her.

A7 - Learning from Care Leavers Across the World

CYCCB Content Domain: Applied Human Development

This workshop will present the views and experiences of a number of adults who have transitioned from care (care-leavers) from a wide range of countries (low-, medium- and high-income) from across the world. Their views are remarkably similar across different cultures and global regions, and ask those responsible to improve care services and better support transitions to adulthood. The messages from the care-leavers often focus on the continued importance of family relationships, especially siblings; the problems of ‘social adjustment’ after living in non-family settings; and the need for certain types of ongoing support – principally a flexible and respectful adult. The ‘care-leaver’ voices have been gathered from conference presentations and research studies carried out in various countries by the proposer and
colleagues. Most of the young adults whose experiences and opinions will be presented have lived in residential settings but the findings may also resonate with those working in foster care settings. The presenter will facilitate discussion with participants in the workshop around the messages they are hearing and whether they think these are similar in North America and to what extent we truly committed to hearing and acting upon what they are saying.

Presenter Bio

Dr. Ian Milligan is a senior lecturer at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland and International Advisor in the Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland (CELCIS). Ian has provided consultancy, research, evaluation and training services in a number of countries. Ian has acted as a consultant to UNICEF, and the Scottish and UK governments. He has published in academic journals, and with colleagues has authored textbooks, national reviews and practice guidance papers.

A8 - Child and Youth Care Education: Communities of Practice...s!

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Growing from informal conversations between CYC educators, which evolved into working groups at various Canadian CYC conferences, the Canadian Child and Youth Care Education Accreditation Board of Canada began as a group of CYC educators who formally came together in 2006. Since that time the CYCEAB has grown from a task force to an incorporated membership organization consisting of 28 College, University and CYC professional organizations all invested in the teaching of Child and Youth Care. Fulfilling its role to promote excellence and relevance to CYC practice through education the CYCEAB began formal accreditation of CYC post-secondary programs in 2016. Unlike prescriptive models of educational accreditation, the CYCEAB approach has been to support CYC post-secondary program self-evaluation, quality enhancement and to acknowledge the pivotal role of local CYC practice as context for CYC education. The purpose of this workshop will be to share the CYCEAB experience in order to encourage and validate critical thinking about how we teach and learn CYC relational practice. Observations from the CYCEAB accreditation experience will serve as an invitation to a deeper discussion about the challenge and nuance of teaching CYC relational practice within an academic post-secondary environment. Specific findings from the first CYC Education Accreditation cycle will be discussed, along with results from the 3 year CYEAB study of CYC Field Practicum models used across Canada. While learning about CYCEAB findings, participants will be encouraged to consider how CYC practicums are situated and affect the field, and to share strategies and teaching practices that enhance congruence with principles of CYC practice.

Presenter Bio

From direct care to CYC education Heather Snell’s CYC approach draws her to the ‘in betweens’ where disciplines merge and collaborations happen. After coordinating Humber College CYC programs for years, Heather is currently CYC part time faculty at both Ryerson University and University of Strathclyde. She is also the Chair of Research on the Child and Youth Care Education Accreditation Board.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

B1 - Remaining Hopeful in Challenging Times

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

Hope is defined as “a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.” Remaining hopeful – and instilling hope in the young people – is critical to effective child and youth care practice. To remain hopeful we need to have an awareness of our own expectations and desired outcomes, and the ability to evaluate and modify these based on the needs of the young people with whom we are engaged. We need to have an awareness of how success is different for each of us. This session will draw on practice experience to explore ways in which hope underpins the provision of supportive, healing environments. We will discuss the importance of letting go of the things that can’t be changed and working towards things that we can help change (fostering the positives, nurturing strengths, and promoting resilience). Organizational factors that contribute to the nurturing of hope will be discussed, including the importance of nurturing employees and providing optimistic, hopeful
leadership through the times when hope is most challenging.

Presenter Bios

Michelle Perchard has been employed with Key Assets NL for three years as a Program Supervisor and has had the privilege of working with young people and their families during that time. Michelle also has a passion for advocating for individuals who are living with autism and has served on the Board of Directors with the Autism Society of Newfoundland. Michelle has a diploma in Child and Youth Care.

Heather Modlin has worked with young people in residential care for almost 30 years. She is currently Provincial Director of Key Assets Newfoundland and Labrador. Heather is a former president of the Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations, an active member and former President of the Child and Youth Care Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, a founding board member of the Child and Youth Care Educational Accreditation Board of Canada, a board member of the Child and Youth Care Certification Board and the International Child and Youth Care Network, and an editorial board member of the Relational Child and Youth Care Journal. Heather has a Master of Science in Child and Youth Care Administration from Nova Southeastern University and is a PhD candidate and sessional instructor in Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria.

B2 - Nurturing Hope with Children and Families in Times of Seismic Change with a Different Kind of Respite Care

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Situated in Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand, Cholmondeley Children’s Centre [pronounced Chum lee] began life in 1925 as a charitable children’s home for children convalescing from illness. By 2009 Cholmondeley had reached a crossroads, stuck in an ever decreasing circle of declining placements and deferred maintenance, it appeared destined to close. The decision was made in 2009-10 to re-develop and re-imagine the use of traditional residential care for respite care and education that is directly accessible to the community. And then just as transformation had begun, in September 2010 a magnitude 7.1 earthquake hit our region causing widespread damage and trauma throughout the Region. Five months later, on 22nd February 2011 everything changed. A 6.3 magnitude aftershock devastated the city of Christchurch, causing death and destruction and destroying the original Cholmondeley ‘home’. This started an ongoing series of seismic events that continue even today. This multimedia presentation will discuss the key cultural shifts that needed to occur so that the child and being in relationship became central, and how meaningful impact occurs within the family system as a whole, through building resilience and nurturing hope in communities already vulnerable through family dynamics and social challenges and now traumatised further by natural disaster. Our Respite Care with a Difference theory of child and family change has been developed and evaluated since 2010 along with new research conducted in 2017 which brings the voices of children into the narrative of respite care experiences, highlighting what children and families say are essential elements when health, education and welfare services try responding to their needs.

Presenter Bios

Shane Murdoch has been the CEO at Cholmondeley Children's Centre since 2009. Shane had spent 10 years in various residential and project management roles with Barnardos NZ prior to coming to Cholmondeley. Originally training as a nurse, Shane has a specific interest in the history of residential or group care for children and how it can best achieve long term sustainable and positive outcomes in current times. Shane is also a member of the National Executive for Social Service Providers Aotearoa, an umbrella group providing support and advocacy for organisations under contract to the Ministry of Social Development.

Edwina Poynton is originally from Ireland. She qualified as a nursery nurse and a social worker in England and has post graduate qualifications in clinical supervision and leadership from Aotearoa New Zealand. Edwina has had over 30 years’ experience working with children and families within a wide range of contexts and cultures including education social work, child protection, foster and residential care in , the UK, Bangladesh and Aotearoa New Zealand. Edwina is the Service Development Manager at Cholmondeley Children's Centre, vice chair of Fostering Kids NZ and chair of Key Assets NZ Foster Care Panel. Edwina has recently completed an MSc in Child and Youth Care at Strathclyde University, Scotland.
B3 - Developing Hope through Parent-Centered Interventions in Behavioral Health

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

With the country’s shift of care for youth moving towards the community, parents play a more critical role in the youth’s success. Many youth in either foster or residential care also have special needs, i.e., mental health, intellectual disabilities, and/or trauma. The parents of these children (resource families, biological parents or relative kin) tend to have higher levels of stress in the form of depression, anxiety, and marital conflict. When parents cannot handle the extra demands of these children, they impact the child’s development, cause further emotional delays and placement complications. Most agencies focus on parenting skills, yet the parent’s emotional health is left unattended. This presentation will address strategies to engage, intervene, and help the parent’s functioning.

Presenter Bio

Dan Thorne, LMFT, is the Founder of PRAXES (Parents Reach Achieve and eXcel through Empowerment Strategies, with over 40 years’ experience as a clinician, program director, and parent of special needs children. He conducts trainings throughout California and online on PRAXES’ intensive model parenting practice and other parent-centered workshops.

B4 - Caring for Children Without Parents

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

Urbanization, migration and the economic crisis have caused millions of children globally to lose contact with parents. They grow up in low quality orphanages and foster care systems, frequently without government monitoring systems and caregiver education. Thus many suffer from neglect, physical and emotional abuse, and fail in education and adult life. The appalling number of families unable to keep their children calls for large scale intervention programs, promoting urban family support and attachment based educations for professional caregivers and foster families. However, the costs of traditional training and education prevent the formation of training and monitoring systems. To meet this challenge, the presenter created the Fairstart Foundation and gathered a network of international child and youth researchers, to provide NGOs and professional organisations worldwide with free e-learning training programs for groups of caregivers, and a four month international online instructor class, connecting professionals from Indonesia to Chile. The site www.fairstartfoundation.com now provides training programs in 18 language versions for foster and group care. The international instructor education provides organisations with a low cost tool for training large numbers of caregivers. The project has created a new focus for researchers.

Presenter Bio

Niels Peter Rygaard is a Danish child psychologist and co-founder of the Fairstart Foundation. He is author of "Severe Attachment Disorder in Childhood", now in 14 languages. For more information and to contact Niels visit www.nielspeterrygaard.com.

B5 - Creative Child and Youth Care: Nurturing Hope and Change Through Arts-based Research and Practice

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

This workshop will look at art in programming for young people, in research about young people, and the intersection of the two in arts-based research (ABR) with young people. The session will draw upon the long history of arts practices with children and youth, discuss how ABR is used in researching children, youth, and families (exploring the value it has for CYC practitioners), and then move towards looking at how CYC practitioners can use ABR in their own work with young people and families. The presentation will draw upon examples of ABR using theatre, photography, video, visual arts, poetry, and other mediums. There will be opportunities for workshop participants to discuss their own arts-informed work as practitioners, educators, and researchers.

Presenter Bio

Wolfgang Vachon has worked with children and youth as a practitioner, artist, and educator for close to three decades. Community-arts practice has informed his work with diverse young people, in multiple contexts. Wolfgang is on faculty at
Humber College and hosts CYC Podcast: Discussions on Child and Youth Care (www.cycpodcast.org).

B6 - A Pocket Full of Memories! An Exercise about Career Moments

CYCCB Content Domain: Applied Human Development

This workshop is based on an experiential training exercise which was recently published in the journal of Relational Child and Youth Care Practice (Vol. 30/1). The session will begin with all participants together and a short introduction about how coins represent universal symbols that enable associations with early memories around handling money and family exchanges around money, of early work experiences for pay and of feeling valued both personally and professionally. Then using family birth order – only child, oldest, youngest and middle child – participants will form into small groups of 5-7 participants and have fun using coins from their coin purse or wallet to explore ways in which personal and professional herstories and histories are shaped by family events and dynamics associated with money, feeling hopeful for the future and being valued in our youth. Next, each small group will be invited to consider the value, history and world locations from which 2-3 additional ‘international’ coins are shared with each small group. ‘Foreign coins’ will be circulated around each small group with the aim of extending learning about historic, geopolitical and cross-cultural influences that shape how societies ‘value’ child and youth care work. Time at the end will collect coins and summary highlights from small group discussions and then explore ways in which this exercise might be adapted and purposefully used in participants’ work with young people and their families.

Presenter Bios

Leon Fulcher has worked for more than forty years as a social worker in residential child and youth care work and foster care in several parts of the world. Leon has specialised in working across cultures and geographies, team working and caring for caregivers, as well as supervision and promoting learning with adult carers. is the chairperson of the Board of Governors of the International Child and Youth Care Network (www.cyc-net.org) and lives in New Zealand.

Aliese Moran grew up in the rainforests of the Pacific Northwest, hitched-hiked across North America, and traveled on the subways of Boston and New York during her brief childhood. Deeply connected to her Native American roots, she became a youth activist who blazed her own trail, fought for Indian Fishing Rights and Community Healthcare, the rights of foreign contract workers at Guantanamo Bay and as a Campaign Manager petitioning to reduce the cost of US healthcare. She is blessed with a daughter and a son, both of whom have made her a grandmother, and together they are all blessed that their great grandmother is still with them. A former little league soccer coach, Aliese is also a certified legal assistant and heavy equipment operator with an interest in civil engineering. She lives with two Labradors, is passionate about simpler ways of life and enjoys a rousing debate.

B7 - Always Say ‘Yes’: And then say some more stuff!

CYCCB Content Domain: Relationship & Communication

This workshop is designed for both new and seasoned practitioners. It takes seemingly very small and trivial interactions that every practitioner experiences every day and explores the implications of typical responses. All examples are drawn from real and everyday experiences of front line practitioners in residential, school-based and in-patient hospital settings. The goal is to develop a tool box of in-the-moment responses to everyday situations that take account of neuroscience, trauma-informed practices and social justice contexts pursuant to multiple and intersecting identities. The workshop draws heavily on the thought and practices of Henry Maier, Mark Krueger, Gerry Fewster and Karen VanderVen.

Presenter Bio

Kiaras is currently the Director of the School of Child & Youth Care at Ryerson University in Toronto. He worked for 20 years as a frontline child and youth care practitioners and a supervisor in residential care settings, homeless youth shelters, custody facilities, schools and hospitals in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Over the course of the past 15 years, Kiaras has continued his active engagement with front line staff, young people, and service systems in Canada, Europe, South Africa and elsewhere. He writes a regular,

**B8 - Providing Social, Emotional and Behavior Support for Young People in the Community**

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

Casa Pacifica’s Community Based Services in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties provide a wide range of social, emotional, and behavioral support for youth ages 2 – 22 years in various community settings including schools, homes, and group homes, to name a few. Come learn specific interventions to use in the various phases of treatment; rapport building/assessment phase, implementation phase and transition and fade-out phase. Participants will leave with interventions that they will be able to use immediately with youth of all ages in all stages of treatment.

**Presenter Bios**

Beau Godtel is a Senior Program Manager at Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families. He has worked for Casa Pacifica for the past 14 years and has been a TBS and IHBS Program Manager for 10 of those years. Prior to Casa Pacifica, Beau gained experience working with youth in various youth camps, Big Brothers Big Sisters and outdoor education. Beau became certified as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in September of 2013.

Dr. Kimberly Valenzuela has worked for Casa Pacifica in Santa Barbara County since October of 2004, and takes the clinical lead in overseeing Santa Barbara’s community programs; Wraparound, Therapeutic Behavioral Services, SAFTY, and School Based Services. Dr. Valenzuela has worked with youth for almost 20 years in various settings, including Day Treatment Intensive, psychiatric hospitals, as an in-school therapist, and in outpatient mental health services in Los Angeles County. Dr. Valenzuela completed her undergraduate work at the University of California, San Diego, and then obtained both her Master’s degree and Doctorate of Psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles. Dr. Valenzuela later received her Board Certification in Behavior Analysis from National University. In addition to overseeing Santa Barbara County’s Community Programs for Casa Pacifica, Dr. Valenzuela has a private practice in Santa Maria, California, where she provides treatment for children, adults, couples, and families.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING**

**C1 - Reaching Children Through Play**

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

This workshop will explore engagement, assessment and interventions strategies based on a therapeutic model of play therapy. Participants will learn new play-based tools for their practice as well as how the use of play is effective, developmentally sensitive, and a safe way to process difficult experiences and complex feelings. Participants will examine the impacts of separation, divorce and domestic violence to gain new insights related to supporting children and youth in the context of a counseling setting. The presenters will share their experiences as play therapist and as a young person in a women’s emergency shelter.

**Presenter Bios**

Brenda Sousa is a Registered Psychotherapist and Play Therapy Associate with the Canadian Association of Child and Play Therapy. She has a private practice and works at the Women’s Rural Resource Centre in Strathroy, Ontario, Canada.

Veronica Ross is a Child and Youth Care student in the advanced diploma program at Lambton College in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada where she has recently completed three work placements as a Child and Youth Care Practitioner. She has extensive work experience in children’s mental health and the violence against women sector.

**C2 - Too Fat, Too Old, Too Deviant or Too Insane: Exploring Issues of Suitability for Practice in Child and Youth Care**

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism
The inspiration for this workshop comes from my experience as a college lecturer. I have found in recent years that approximately 10% of my students have been diagnosed with depression or anxiety. While the majority of them are stable in their mental health, some are not, and yet they pass through their (academic) coursework and are deemed eligible to work with some of our most vulnerable young people. I have also experienced students that have problematic relationships with alcohol and/or drugs but these issues are not being addressed by the system. While this workshop will explore mental health, it will also explore wider issues that could impact on an individuals ability to practice, such as clinical obesity, age or criminal history. This workshop will explore the following questions: (1) Should there be an upper or lower age limit for those working in child and youth care? (2) Is it possible/desirable to be an active addict (including cigarettes) and work in child and youth care? (3) Is it appropriate/acceptable to role model clinical obesity to children in care? (4) To what extent should criminal convictions impact on a workers employ-ability in child and youth care? (5) To what extent should a clinical diagnosis of a mental health difficulty impact on an individuals employ-ability in child and youth care? The workshop will be interactive/participatory in style and the agenda includes open discussion on sensitive issues with a view to identifying the skills and qualities required for child and youth care work.

Presenter Bio

John Byrne is a social care Child and Youth Care worker and lecturer in social care practice at the Waterford Institute of Technology in Ireland. He is also a practicing Humanistic Psychotherapist. He has over 20 years experience of working in a wide range of care settings and has contributed to several publications on issues related to social care practice and mental health.

C3 - Cultural Intelligence in the 21st Century

CYCCB Content Domain: Cultural & Human Diversity

In considering culturally reflective practice with young people, two aspects are considered in this workshop. Firstly the cultural awareness of the practitioner and secondly an understanding of the impact of the generational gap, with consideration of the young person in the 21st century. Much has been shared about how young Millennials and Generation Z look at the world, and the question that remains is how this knowledge translated into Child and Youth Care (CYC) practice. The workshop will provide an opportunity for the participants to consider their own sensitivity towards how they differ culturally and generationally from their young clients (through sensitizing activities). Questions from the Cultural Intelligence Scale will be used to determine aspects of cultural relativity. After some concepts of cultural intelligence are discussed, the Millennial and Gen Z characteristics will be shared. A reflection on the role of generational differences between the young person and the CYC practitioner will be facilitated, with the creation of 21st century strategies for CYC practice within the school and residential care settings. The aim of the workshop is for the practitioner and academic to leave with a sense of their own position and influence within this relational context. To offer understanding of diversity creates a safe space that can nurture the hope of young persons to have their needs met and to increase the likelihood of optimal developmental pathways.

Presenter Bio

Rika Swanzen (PhD), Associate Professor and Programme Leader of Child and Youth Care at Monash South Africa. She has twenty years’ experience in the social development sectors and in 2016 she was appointed by the Minister of Social Development to represent training institutions on the South African Council for Social Service Professions for a 5-year term.

C4 - Mattering in Supervision

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Everyone needs to experience that they matter. Recent research has shown that the experience of mattering is associated with not only positive experiences of self but also with enhanced performance. Research also shows that what people experience in supervision tends to be reflected in their work with young people and families. So, if we want young people and families to feel like they matter, direct care workers must experience mattering in supervision. This workshop will explore the territory of mattering and how it may be experienced in supervision.
Presenter Bios

Grant Charles, Ph.D., RSW is Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of British Columbia and Affiliated Associate Professor with the Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics at the British Columbia Children's Hospital. He holds adjunct positions at the Department of Community Health Sciences in the College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba and the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. Prior to coming to the UBC, he worked in a variety of mental health, special education and child welfare settings. He also taught in the Child and Youth Care Program at Lethbridge Community College. He is a graduate of the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. He is a past editor of Relational Child and Youth Care Practice.

Thom Garfat, Ph.D., is an international consultant and trainer who, for over forty years, has worked with children, young people, care givers and those who help them. His primary focus is on ‘making it work’; finding practical day to day ways to enhance the process of development and healing for young people and families.

C5 - What is Normal? Translating the Asperger Syndrome Culture

Asperger Syndrome Differences are a different normal, a different way of perceiving, processing, relating and interacting with the environment and society. Asperger Syndrome (AS) affects the way an individual communicates and expresses their creativity, thoughts, ideas, actions and emotions. The different abilities and potential creativity can be so diverse for the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) individuals that they may be capable and incapable at the same time depending on the situation, circumstances and environment they are in. Asperger Syndrome is not an excuse, it is a reason.

The child and youth of today need patience, understanding and tolerance in order for them to have the opportunities for their future. The definition of normal will vary, yet when someone or something isn’t typical, isn’t usual, the distance from the standards that have become society’s comfortable and acceptable balance will create judgment, exclusion and even being stigmatized or shunned by society. The reality is that everyone has their own normal and it takes courage to be your normal. Experience and share in a non-clinical journey into the Autism Spectrum with an empowering message and a touch of unique humour into the world of Autism Spectrum Culture.

Presenter Bio

Nancy Getty of Ontario Canada is an international speaker and published author on the subject of Asperger Syndrome/Autism. Nancy was diagnosed as an adult with Asperger Syndrome complicated with an anxiety disorder and is the single mother of now adult twins, both diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum.

C6 - Building Pathways of Resilience, Hope and Well-Being

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

This workshop will focus on relationship enhancement and the importance of connection based healing in the context of trauma. Information regarding adverse childhood experiences, trauma and attachment will be provided to give framework regarding young people and difficult behaviors they may exhibit. Emphasis will be on how to build authentic relationships in order to create adaptive neuropathways and allow for new narratives to be developed. Insight will be given on the brain and how we can change the way we interact with young people who struggle to develop healthy relationships and increase healing opportunities with the brain in mind. Finally it will be the goal to tie in these factors with strategies to create increased resilience, hope and well-being for young people who have experienced trauma.

Presenter Bio

Tonya Hotchkin serves as Director of Clinical Services at Tanager Place Behavioral Health Clinic in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Tonya is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist as well as a Registered Play Therapist and Certified Trauma Practitioner. Tonya is a certified trainer through Starr Global Learning Network. Tonya has advanced training in Theraplay, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, Sand Tray and Play Therapy.
C7 - Attracting, Welcoming, and Leading the Millennials: Child and Youth Care’s Biggest Hope for Future Excellence

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

The Child and Youth Care profession, like all professions in today’s world, is under constant pressure from shrinking resources, increasing compliance requirements, and ever-increasing pressures on our time. Many leaders find themselves frustrated with the dynamics that can create having to settle for services that are “just good enough”. Yet, we all know the children and families we provide services to not only need, but deserve, services that far surpass good enough and reflect the highest standards of excellence we can offer. In 2008 the 60 Minutes television show featured a report that stated this young generation of “Millennials” entering the workforce would “destroy everything we hold sacred” in terms of traditional values.

Organizations and leaders in a wide variety of fields were frantic about the impact this would have on quality and hope for the future. Many of us in CYC work have shared frustrations with perceptions of a different “work ethic”, lack of loyalty to the organization, and a higher sense of “entitlement” Millennials were bringing to our work. Yet, we have also seen that this generation has an exceptional amount of idealism, a strong commitment to social justice, and a whole new range of unique skills and talents. The Millennials, in fact, represent the biggest reason for hope our profession will continue to grow and flourish at a level of excellence.

This highly interactive workshop will focus on how CYC leaders can best capture the hope this generation brings and develop strategies to attract the best and brightest of Millennials to make CYC their profession, make them feel welcomed and valued, learn from them and nurture them in their development as our future leaders.

Presenter Bios

Frank Delano, LMSW is President of Professional Package Trainings. Frank has been deeply involved in Child and Youth Care his entire career and worked over 25 years in a large children’s residential center near New York City. He has presented at every Canadian National, International, and World CYC Conference since 1997. He has authored numerous articles on leadership, supervision, and his relational “Money in the Bank” concept.

Okpara Rice, LISW joined Tanager Place as executive director in July, 2013 and assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer in July of 2015. He is active in the field and in the community and currently serves as the Immediate Past President of the Board of Directors for the Association of Children’s Residential Centers. He is a member of the Marion Cares Board, NAMI of Linn County Board of Directors, and a member of the Cedar Rapids School Board Diversity Committee.

Jill Shah, LPC is a Training Consultant for Professional Package Trainings and a quality improvement leader for the City of Austin, Texas. Jill has focused her career on professional development and education in the fields of supervision, homeless services and trauma counseling. She has authored articles on constructive confrontation, defining supervision, and power in the supervisory relationship.

C8 - The PersonBrain Model: A NeuroRelational Approach to Provide Hope for Challenging Children and Youth

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

This session will explore practical knowledge of how experiences, both positive and negative, shape the brain and, as a result, how the brain drives behaviors. He will introduce The PersonBrain Model, a NeuroRelational approach that promotes hope and opportunity, providing positive, brain-based supports grounded in proven theories and practices. Paul will discuss how our brains continuously develop within our relationships and environments. From the moment we are born, our brains are learning to respond to experiences, and how to promote transformation of negative experiences into positive outcomes through the power of strong, supportive relationships and NeuroDynamic Interventions.

Presenter Bio

Paul Baker, Ph.D. is the CEO of Accentra Behavioral and Educational Services in Tennessee, the Clinical Director for Allambi Care in Australia, and a foster and adoptive parent. As a developmental neuropsychologist Paul developed The PersonBrain Model, a...
comprehensive, strength-based neurorelational support model and co-authored The Hopeful Brain: NeuroRelational Repair for Disconnected Children and Youth, The Minded Brain: An Educational Curriculum to Enhance Social, Emotional and Cultural Experience and Better Behavior...Positively!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (1)

D1 - Love and the Unconditional Space

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

Ranahan asks, “How far do child and youth care workers have to go in caring for their clients? Does caring include loving”? This session seeks to explore two related topics that are current in the field of Child and Youth Care; 'Love' and 'Unconditional Space'. C.S. Lewis observed that, “affection is responsible for nine-tenths of whatever solid and durable happiness there is in our lives”. The human fear of not feeling loved can be at the base of mankind’s destructiveness. In contrast the converse is also true, yet there is a fear to accept this. Love is at the heart of caring and can be demonstrated in simple every day moments of understanding and compassion. Supposedly caring programmes can (in an attempt to 'safe-guard' children and youth), actually be denying the single most potent input that they need. In an era when any type of positive moments are contingent on preset criteria, kids who are in emotional turmoil can be deprived of the one this that will help them through the tough times, moments of love. Feeling unloved, it is easy to feel that there is no hope. As Steinbeck (1952) wrote, “The greatest terror a child can have is that he is not loved and rejection is the hell of all fears”. Providing young people with 'space' and opportunities for positive growth and development (spaces that are not contingent on 'good behaviour' or 'compliance') are essential elements on demonstrating love and caring, which in turn is essential if we are to inspire hope. Love, Unconditional space and unconditional connection can overcome Steinbeck’s terror. We shall explore the meaning of love, the need for love and facilitate a safe space to discuss this. In addition we will open the door to speak about the notion of unconditional space and ask the question, 'is anything truly unconditional'?

D2 - Building Hope from the Stories of Young People in Care

CYCCB Content Domain: Relationship & Communication

What creates hope when a child can no longer live with their family? In developed societies orphaned, abandoned, and neglected children living on the streets were for many years cared for in large-sale institutions—“orphanages”—but more recently the trend has been to move to a model of caring for the children through extensive and bureaucratized systems of adoption and foster care. Orphanages were established in many developing countries, such as in the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago. Recently there is a move internationally to close these institutions in favour of foster care or small group homes. This presentation is based on a dissertation study that examined the lived

Presenter Bios

Dr. John Digney began work in the area of Child & Youth Care (Alternative Care) after qualifying with an honours degree in Psychology in 1991, and has had several varied roles, including front line practice, management and clinical practice. Since that time he has achieved professional qualifications in Business Management, Psychotherapy, Psychoanalysis, Project Management, Training & Education, Facilitation & Mediation and has a PhD in Therapeutic Child & Youth Care. John writes extensively for various journals (both on-line and print) and has edited/written several books. He is a certified Senior trainer in all 'TransformAction International' training programmes and is a regular presenter at national and international conferences and provides consultancy and training internationally. He is presently the National Training & Development Coordinator for Tusla (Ireland’s Child and Family Agency).

Maxwell Smart has worked in the field of Child & Youth Care for 30 years. He qualified as a Social Worker in 1986 and has worked in all areas of social care, specialized in child protection & family practice. He has practiced SW in Scotland & England and moved into residential care in 1995. He has a diploma in Social Work & MSc in Advanced Residential Child Care and is a Certified RAP & ‘DLE’ trainer. He is presently Assistant Residential Manager at Lothian Villa Musselburgh East Lothian.
experience of orphaned and abandoned children in the middle-income country of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). Alumni of small community group homes, small and medium sized faith-based homes and large residential homes formerly called orphanages shared about their positive and negative experiences of admission, life in the home, discharge from the homes, and life after leaving the home. This presentation will extrapolate from their experience how we can nurture hope for children in care particularly in high needs, low resource countries.

Presenter Bio

Petra Roberts, Ph.D. is Assistant Professor in Social Work at the Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Roberts holds a doctorate in Social Work, MSW and a Graduate Diploma in Population Health from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. Dr. Roberts has over twenty years’ experience in child protection, mental health, teaching and research in Canada and the Caribbean, including nearly five years of work in children’s services and higher education in Trinidad and Tobago.

D3 - The Art of Kid Whispering: Reaching the Inside Kid

CYCCB Content Domain: Relationship & Communication

Children’s challenging and troubling behaviors are frequently the focus of interventions rather than recognizing them as externalizations of inner pain and distress. Beyond surface management lie the keys to understanding, reaching, and teaching young people who desperately need the guiding light that a well-trained, caring adult can provide. The Art of Kid Whispering is the pathway to discovering the inside kid. Learning and practicing listening and decoding skills are essential to understanding the private logic and goals that underlie a young person’s difficult or self-defeating behavior. Defiant youth outwit adults with strategies of fight, flight, and fool. The presenter will describe how to understand the private logic of adult-wary youth, thus helping participants to decode their troubling behavior and begin replacing hostile, resistant encounters with respectful alliances.

Presenter Bio

Mark Freado has worked with private providers, public agencies, and schools throughout the United States as well as Canada, Europe, Australia, South Africa, and Asia, speaking, consulting, and delivering training services. He specializes in program development, leadership skills, and interventions for at-risk and disadvantaged children, adolescents, and their families. Mark has Masters Degrees in Forensic Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and Counseling from West Virginia University.

D4 - Professional Certification for Child and Youth Care Practitioners: Does it make a Difference?

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Research indicates that one of the most important factors promoting the quality of service and outcomes for children, youth and families is a competent and caring workforce, regardless of setting or practice model. Since child and youth work, when viewed across the varied practice settings, is the largest human service workforce; the potential to promote positive outcomes is significant. Yet, considerable variability in the quality of the workforce exists across and within organizations and program areas. Can professional certification, using a model based upon foundational competencies that span across the varied practice settings in child and youth work, be a low-cost but large-scale strategic intervention that significantly improves the lives of children, youth and families? This overview of the development, implementation, and impact of professional certification administered by the Child and Youth Care Certification Board will emphasize three primary methods of child and youth worker competence assessment: (1) situational judgement exam, (2) supervisor rating and (3) portfolio review. Research evidence supporting the efficacy of the certification approach will be discussed along with current and future challenges to promoting the quality of the workforce and building the profession of child and youth work.

Presenter Bios

Dale Curry, Ph.D., LSW, CYC-P is Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Kent State University and Director of the International Institute for Human Service Workforce Research and Development.
Frank Eckles, B.S., CYC-P is Executive Director of the Academy for Competent Youth Work and a Past President of the Child and Youth Care Certification Board.

Amy Kelly, B.S., CFLE, is a Graduate Research Assistant, Kent State University and Domestic Violence Specialist at Safer Futures.

D5 - What Youth Say About Their Own Experience of Resourcing: Twelve Essential Elements

CYCCB Content Domain: Applied Human Development

This workshop presents gleanings from a descriptive, phenomenological, and psychological inquiry where youth attending tri-phasic trauma treatment were interviewed about their resourcing experience are presented and integrated into the working relationship. A resourcing experience was explained as any part of their therapy session that helped with coping or symptom management. The results revealed a basic structure in the resourcing experiences of the youth participants which was comprised of 12 constituents: (a) perceived attitude of the therapist, (b) personal and contextual relevance, (c) currency, (d) choice and control, (e) calming, (f) unsticking, (g) experiential, (h) triumph, (i) internal ease, (j) needing a guide, (k) naming the resource, and (l) betterment. The findings contribute to an understanding of the resourcing experience of youth by adding the client’s voice to the therapeutic process. Results will be presented against developmental theory and provide clues to increase relevancy and efficacy of resourcing efforts. Suggestions for practice will be presented.

Presenter Bio

Rochelle Sharpe Lohrasbe, PhD, RCC, holds a PhD in Child and Youth Care (UVIC). Rochelle works in private practice with children and families facing significant personal and relational challenges employing a strengths-based approach. She provides guidance for practitioners in the field and teaches and presents internationally.

D6 - Cyberspace as Life-Space: Giving Hope in Transcending CYC Ethics Online

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Today’s generation of young people rely on the Internet and “cyber system” for social connections. When asked about their experiences online, young people agree that establishing social connections through therapeutic counselling helps them remain hopeful in their everyday experiences (Dolev-Cohen & Barak, 2013). With cyber-technologies having permeated the ways in which young people seek support for a wide range of issues, the purpose of this presentation is to articulate the critical nature of creating, maintaining and following ethical guidelines for online child and youth care (CYC) practice when therapeutically engaging with young people. A review of the licensing boards for marriage and family therapists, professional counsellors, psychologists, social workers, and CYC practitioners revealed that all of the aforementioned disciplines, with the exception of CYC, have incorporated the online context into their legal and ethical standards of practice. As the authors believe that young people deserve to be in relationships with CYC practitioners who are willing to engage with them where they feel most connected and comfortable, while also being held accountable for the choices they make, the lack of online ethical standards is of great concern. A core theme of this presentation seeks to ask practitioners to re-consider their conceptualizations related to the cyber system, asking them to embrace this emerging context as life-space rather than an online tool as social online connections to young people feeling hopeful and less isolated. Using the current CYC ethical framework, the authors extend these standards into the online context, while discussing the implications of doing so. We address issues such as accessibility, anonymity, multi-dimensional technologies, asynchronous communication, online security, informed consent, and the challenges of liability, privacy, and confidentiality within the profession of CYC. Through addressing the implications for policy, practice, and research, the authors conclude that as the ecology of the child has extended to include cyber-space, ethical standards for practice should also do the same. It is our hope that in the best interest of young people, practitioners are able to accept the process of learning how to meaningfully engaged with another in the online space.

Presenter Bios
Colleen Kamps, BACYC, MACYC Candidate, CCW (cert.) is a full time professor and coordinator at Centennial College in the Child and Youth Care Program. She also works as a Private Clinician providing counselling services to young people and adults, providing clinical supervision and consultation to professionals, and training across Canada. Colleen recently developed an online course on trauma and suicide for a First Responders certification program through Simon Fraser University, in which she is now teaching. With 40 years experience in the field of child and youth care, working in several sectors including, residential services, children's mental health, child welfare, trauma/abuse programs, education, and private counselling, Colleen still continues to pursue new adventures.

**D7 - The International Child and Youth Care Network (CYC-Net)**

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Since 1999, The International Child and Youth Care Network (CYC-Net) at www.cyc-net.org has been one of the most valued and visited CYC resource websites in the world. It presently receives around 1500 unique daily visits. Its main objectives are (primarily through the internet and electronic media) to promote and facilitate reading, learning, information sharing, discussion, networking, support and accountable practice amongst all who work with children, youth and families in difficulty. CYC-Net is open access to all end-users. This presentation is an introduction into what CYC-Net is, how it operates and what it offers the CYC field.

**Presenter Bio**

Martin Stabrey lives in Cape Town, South Africa. He studied Economics and Information Technology at the University of South Africa. He is CEO of Pretext Publishing, COO and member of the Board of Governors of CYC-Net. He is also the product of an excellent child and youth care program in South Africa.

**D8 - Is it Us or Them? Child and Youth Care Family Private Practice in The Home**

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

Often families seeking support need to conform to a professional's or agency's own specific treatment philosophies and practise. What if instead, we conform our practise to the family's collective needs, being informed by, but not specific to, these ideologies? We often hear statements that families or parents aren't "ready for" or "willing to" participate in treatment. Perhaps, it is because the treatment is not realistic to their needs, abilities and limitations. This presentation will discuss the Child and Youth Care Practitioner's need for being fluid and adaptive to a family's needs while keeping true to our values and commitment to relational and strength-based practise.

**Presenter Bio**

Mardi Ennis-Gregory is the Bartimaeus Family Service Director in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Mardi has twenty years of experience as a Child and Youth Care Practitioner working with children, adolescents, adults and their families in a variety of mental health and social service settings. Mardi is also a part-time Professor in the Child & Youth Care program at Humber College teaching specifically about family practice. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Ontario Association for Child and Youth Care.

**E1 - Three Thought-Provoking & Inspirational TED-Style Talks**

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

This session includes three thought-provoking and inspirational TED-Style talks. Each presenter will take 15 minute to share a conceptual piece. After the moderated presentations, presenters will have the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters in a question and answer session. Topics include: Challenging our Assumptions (Charles), Leadership Challenges (Rice), and Advocacy Deconstructed (Demonte & Sago)

**Presenter Bios**

Grant Charles, Ph.D., RSW is Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of British Columbia and Affiliated Associate Professor with the Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics at
the British Columbia Children’s Hospital. He holds adjunct positions at the Department of Community Health Sciences in the College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba and the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. Prior to coming to the UBC, he worked in a variety of mental health, special education and child welfare settings. He also taught in the Child and Youth Care Program at Lethbridge Community College. He is a graduate of the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. He is a past editor of Relational Child and Youth Care Practice.

Okpara Rice, LISW joined Tanager Place as executive director in July, 2013 and assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer in July of 2015. He is active in the field and in the community and currently serves as the Immediate Past President of the Board of Directors for the Association of Children's Residential Centers. He is a member of the Marion Cares Board, NAMI of Linn County Board of Directors, and a member of the Cedar Rapids School Board Diversity Committee.

Aurrora De Monte graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor's in Child and Youth Care and a minor in Indigenous Studies in 2008 and has been a member of the OACYC since moving back to Ontario. Aurrora’s practice has involved a variety of community and school based programs/agencies. Currently, Aurrora is full time faculty in the Child and Youth Care program at Fleming College, and supports young women and families involved in the justice system, as well as works as an independent practitioner within a private practice. Aurrora is completing her MSc in Child and Youth Care Studies at the University of Strathclyde and their dissertation explores relational teaching in Child and Youth Care. Aurrora is passionate about advocacy as it relates to CYC practice, including legislation and professionalization.

Heather Sago is a mother of two beautiful boys, a daughter, a sister, caregiver of multiple animals, bilingual (French/English speaking), an athlete, a traveller, advocate for children’s rights, a professor, a clinician and child and youth worker. She works in residential justice settings and has a BA in criminology from the University of Manitoba, a BSW from the University of Calgary, and an MSW with a child and youth care specialization from McGill University. Heather serves on the At Risk Youth Justice Committee & Judge's Roundtable, the Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies Research Evaluation Advisory Committee, and the Development & Implementation Committee for the Child and Youth Care Educational Accreditation Board of Canada.

E2 - To Intervene or to Not Intervene, That is the Question

CYCCB Content Domain: Relationship & Communication

Separation and divorce is never easy for children, and in situations where there is high conflict, children are often caught in the middle, trying to be loyal to both parents and often paying a big price. This workshop will explore the complex cases that arise while providing supervised visitation services, especially when court ordered services require a neutral third party to observe and report on the interactions between a parent and their child(ren). Brayden Supervision employs experienced Child and Youth Care (CYC) practitioners to provide the supervision, and recognize that the supervisory skills required are advanced and often times outside of the CYC scope of practice. We will be exploring our ethical guidelines in terms of supporting parents who have been accused, or sometimes convicted of abuse – either physically or emotionally. Using case examples, we will explore questions such as: While supervising a visit, when do we intervene, if ever? If we do not intervene, does that align with our values and our professional code of ethics? Does custody and access supervision fit into the CYC scope of practice? How do reports remain neutral, particularly if we are choosing what to log and what not to log based on our values, opinions and ethical obligations? We will explore the CYC skills and interventions that are counter indicated and these will be discussed to highlight the unique challenges supervised visitation requires of the practitioners.

Presenter Bios

Debbie Sliwinski is Managing Director for Brayden Supervision Services in Toronto, Ontario. Debbie is a certified Child and Youth Counselor, with over forty years of experience; her particular focus is in the areas of children’s mental health, child welfare, and trauma. Debbie presently sits on the board of the Toronto Chapter of Supervised Visitaton Network.

Emily Carty is a Service Director for Brayden Supervision Service in Muskoka, Ontario. She
has an MA in Child and Youth Care from the University of Victoria and over 16 years of experience supporting children, youth, and families in various capacities.

E3 - What I Wish They Knew: Student Narratives of Challenges, Resiliency, and Hope

CYCCB Content Domain: Applied Human Development

“What I Wish They Knew” is a short video showcasing Selkirk College students sharing their challenges, coping strategies, and wisdom. Students from a wide range of disciplines disclose their experiences with the hope that their stories will decrease stigma and increase understanding and compassion for those with mental health issues. Grounded in a narrative and phonological methodology, participants were interviewed on their post-secondary experiences. Students were asked to speak at length to their lived experience of maintaining mental wellness while attending college, particularity in relation to resources that they found supportive or lacking. Originally conceptualized as a learning tool for instructors, this project has proven useful as a student resource; a collection of diverse narratives which highlight and normalize mental health struggles and encourage students to seek early intervention. This film also urges a reconsideration in the way educators relate to students in post-secondary environments. In-line with relational-based practices, such as Child and Youth Care, Selkirk College instructors are being encouraged to consider students in an evermore holistic light - as individuals with diverse needs both academic and personal. Selkirk attempts to address these needs through various mechanisms including increased student support services and awareness campaigns such as this video. Finally, the participants in this project have identified the experience as a therapeutic one. In sharing their struggles and triumphs, the individuals in this video hope to inspire current and future students to request support to overcome challenges they encounter in their academic journey.

Presenter Bio

Matty Hillman is a Child and Youth Care instructor in the Human Services program at Selkirk College in the beautiful Kootenay region of British Columbia (traditional territory of the Sinixt people). He has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Child and Youth Care from the University of Victoria. His research interests include, sexual violence prevention and response on post-secondary campuses, healthy masculinities and critical youth mentorship. As a muralist, he is especially interested in the intersection of youth work and public art - exploring the opportunity these complimentary practices create for empowerment, community building and social justice advancements.

E4 - Transition, Change & Maintaining Hope

CYCCB Content Domain: Relationship & Communication

“What we call the beginning is often the end and to make an end is to make a beginning”. Very often when change occurs there are associated feelings, which tend to be negative (such as despair, fear, anxiety, grief and anger). This session will be a space to examine and discuss ‘change and transition’ and will begin with a focus on giving meaning to terms such as ‘transitional moments’, ‘moments of trauma’, ‘transition trauma’ and ‘invisible transitions’. If we can better understand these constructs and their impacts on children and youth we are better placed to inspire hope through a relational approach and a re-framing of change as ‘opportunity’, whilst being sensitive to the emotional impact of change and issues such as ‘transition trauma’.

Presenter Bio

Maxwell Smart has worked in the field of Child & Youth Care for 30 years. He qualified as a Social Worker in 1986 and has worked in all areas of social care, specialized in child protection & family practice. He has practiced SW in Scotland & England and moved into residential care in 1995. He has a diploma in Social Work & MSc in Advanced Residential Child Care and is a Certified RAP & ‘DLE’ trainer. He is presently Assistant Residential Manager at Lothian Villa Musselburgh East Lothian.

E5 - Residential Child and Youth Care in a Developing World

CYCCB Content Domain: Cultural & Human Diversity
This workshop explores findings from an international study of residential child and youth care practices in more than 80 Countries, countries that exclude the USA, Canada and Australia – the leading advocates for de-institutionalization as an ideology now funded and propagated throughout the Developing World. Child and Youth Care practitioners in the Western World rarely stop to consider how in India alone, there are more children and young people aged 18 and under than the entire population of the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand! Cross-cultural knowledge and expertise is essential in our 21st Century World! This workshop will introduce North American participants to ways in which residential child and youth care with education offers alternative opportunities for children, young people and families in communities where professional supports are not readily available, or where the nearest speech therapist or optician may be three hours away by road transport. Why are some types of residential child and youth care de-institutionalized while other forms of residential child and youth care with education expand, whether as elite boarding schools or residential treatment centres funded through health insurance?

Presenter Bios

Dr. Tuhinul Islam is a Social Work practitioner, child rights activist, researcher and academic from Bangladesh. He obtained his PhD in Social Work and Social Policy from the University of Edinburgh, UK. He was awarded a Masters in International Child Welfare from the University of East Anglia, UK, has an MBA in Human Resource Management He has 18 years’ work experience in the areas of child welfare management; institutional childcare; education, social inequality, development and research in the development sector in Bangladesh, Malaysia and the UK. Currently he is a Senior Research Fellow at the Northern University Bangladesh, a child welfare consultant with ActionAid Bangladesh and Director, Education and Child Development of a national NGO in Bangladesh.

Leon Fulcher has worked for more than forty years as a social worker in residential child and youth care work and foster care in several parts of the world. Leon has specialised in working across cultures and geographies, team working and caring for caregivers, as well as supervision and promoting learning with adult carers. is the chairperson of the Board of Governors of the International Child and Youth Care Network (www.cyc-net.org) and lives in New Zealand.

E6 - Using a Child & Youth Care Philosophy and Orientation when Working With Adults

CYCCB Content Domain: Developmental Practice Methods

This presentation will highlight the CYC care and treatment principles and interventions that we have found very effective when working with adult populations in both developmental services and mental health frameworks. We provide specialized behavioural support to people of all ages in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in Canada. Our services are provided as additional support to people receiving service in social service, child treatment, child welfare, education, health care and criminal justice settings. We also offer services directly to families as a support in meeting the special and unique needs of a family member.

Presenter Bio

Cheryl Skirving-Mills is a Service Coordinator for Bartimaeus Inc. in the Kitchener, Waterloo and Guelph communities in Ontario, Canada. She brings 20 years of experience working with people identifies as hard-to-serve because of their behavioural challenges. Her particular interest is working with adults, children and youth with developmental and mental health challenges and their families.

E7 - Supporting Students in Practicum Education

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Practicum is often considered the central component of student learning in Human Service education, but there is limited knowledge about its place or purpose in Child and Youth Care. During this interactive presentation, the facilitators will describe their process of supporting and supervising students during their first practicum and will encourage participants to share their experiences (as student, supervisor or educator). Literature on learning in practicum with a particular emphasis on coordination, supervision and student aptitude will be integrated into the presentation.
Presenter Bios

Jenny McGrath is an Assistant Professor in the Child and Youth Care Program at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She lectures in family support, group work, activity programming and advanced practice with individuals. Jenny also supports first year students through their practicum experiences. Her research interests include practicum education, creative pedagogy, family support and activity based interventions. Jenny is a doctoral student at the University of Victoria and is a Certified Child and Youth Care Worker in the province of Alberta.

Sarah Fodchuk is the supervisor at the Chantal Berube Youth Centre in Beaumont, Alberta, Canada. She provides creative and innovative programming at the youth centre and is an advocate for youth involvement in the larger community. Sarah accepts a CYC student every year in her program and actively mentors them in all aspects of their learning. She is a graduate of the Bachelor of Child and Youth Care at MacEwan University and is a Certified Child and Youth Care Worker in the province of Alberta.

E8 - Successfully Working Across Ponds

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Undertaking international youth work programmes and projects in different parts of the world highlights the similarities in issues for young people (e.g. unemployment, alcohol and other drugs, family support, etc.) and workers (training/professional development, resourcing programmes, etc), as well as a variety of differences in practice and understanding unique to each country. This session will take participants on a journey through a number of programmes and projects currently being undertaken by myself (e.g. Northern Ireland, Kenya, the Commonwealth), to look at the similarities and differences in current international youth work. Participants will have the opportunity to compare these to their own experiences and practice.

Presenter Bio

Dr. Jennifer Brooker is the Northern Irish Coordinator for YMCA George Williams College, London, and is an integral part of the International team which delivers programmes in various parts of the world, on behalf of the College. This includes work in Malta, Kenya and with the Commonwealth Secretariat. Her expertise is international youth work practice and youth worker education. The Australian President for FICE International, she is also responsible for FICE’s working parties for Quality Assurance and Mapping and the upcoming FICE Academy.

THURSDAY MORNING

F1 - Technology Integration in Service Delivery: LifeBook as a Place for all Spaces

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

This presentation explores the creation of an online role-playing game assessment/intervention tool that can be applied to a variety youth specific milieus. LifeBook is a virtual space that young people create to represent their worldview for their subjective perspective, while allowing practitioners to potentially access and assess the dynamics and creations within. The potential for relational connection and meaningful engagement within this virtual space is explored within the presentation. Further, elements of virtual spaces such as empowerment, disinhibition and control will be outlined in order to emphasize the applicability of this program to young people. The authors compare two virtual worlds - The Sims and Second Life - as the technological background and relevance for the program.

Presenter Bio

Trisha Rolfe is currently working on her Master’s in Child and Youth Care at Ryerson University. Trisha is interested in the future of the field of Child and Youth Care incorporating new technologies, Internet/online identities, and online counselling. She has a passion for LGBTQ+ advocacy, youth homelessness, indigenous youth in Canada, mental health issues, and the act of storytelling to encourage young people to use their voices to create social change. Trisha is the founder of an online-based non-profit organization called The Storyteller that utilizes core CYC concepts to create a safe space for young people to share their stories and raise their voice on issues that they are passionate about.
Emmie Henderson-Dekort is currently a Master’s Student in the Child and Youth Care program at Ryerson University. With a special interest in trauma-informed practices and approaches, Emmie considers herself to be an advocate for young people’s voices and choices. Working from a children’s rights-based framework also speaks to Emmie’s passion for supporting children’s and youth’s meaningful participation across all settings that impact their lives. Making a significant difference in young peoples’ lives and forming meaningful relationships is what motivates Emmie to continue to expand her practice and knowledge base along her journey of Child and Youth Care work.

Celine Cabral is currently a Master’s student in the Child and Youth Care Program at Ryerson University. Her interests include the role of community and meaningful relationships in the development of children and youth, advocacy for the rights and needs of children and youth, and the inclusion and awareness of international perspectives in program and policy development within Child and Youth Care. Celine finds these areas of Child and Youth Care to be of particular interest as they are reflexive of the unique pathways Child and Youth Care professionals may journey upon when working with children and youth. Celine hopes to have influence on the policies and practices involving marginalized youth, to better support them.

**F2 - Hope and the Therapeutic Use of Humour in Child & Youth Care Practice**

**CYCCB Content Domain: Relationship & Communication**

As all relational-focused carers and workers know and understand, effective work with ‘troubled youth’ is based on an understanding of how to connect and remain in relationship, whilst in the same instances be able to use our innate and learned skills to help bring about positive and therapeutic change. This workshop will provide some insight into humour and ‘humour-based interventions’ when dealing with challenging or troubling behaviours. The content will allow participants gain an appreciation of the complexity of humour, whilst remaining cognisant of potential hazards associated with inappropriate use of humour. Topics that will be considered include (i) how humour fits within a CYC approach, (ii) the 6- C’s of humour in CYC practice, (iii) Humour in caring professions and (iv) a sharing of moments that humour brought hope.

**Presenter Bio**

Dr. John Digney has worked in the field of Child & Youth Care since 1991. He initially qualified in Psychology and has since gained professional qualifications in Psychotherapy and psychoanalysis, Project Management, Training & Education, Facilitation & mediation and Life coaching. He has a Doctorate in therapeutic Child & Youth Care Practice. John commenced his career in disability services before joining the team at Oberstown Boys School, a juvenile detention center. Following from this he set up Rath na nOg, a therapeutic residential programme. John is presently Ireland Child and Family agencies National Training & Development Coordinator.

**F3 - Hanging Out Upside Down: Exploring Young People's Experiences Participating in Social Circus Programs**

**CYCCB Content Domain: Cultural & Human Diversity**

Social circus is a social intervention which teaches circus skills to marginalized young people with the purpose of opening space for narrative inquiry where different stories of young people and what is perceived as possible can emerge. Circus is a deliberately constructed space where limits that are ordinarily placed on the human form - such as gravity or physics - do not apply. This allows for alternate narratives of young people and their lived experiences to emerge through a young person’s engagement in the process of learning circus skills. This intentional space invites possibilities for young people to imagine and enact new possibilities for their lives. This presentation will showcase the results of a small-scale arts-based participatory action research project with young people who have participated in social circus programs in Ontario. This project examines how social circus programs have contributed to participants social, physical and emotional well-being. Furthermore, connections between social circus and child and youth care (CYC) pedagogies, will be explored. Areas where CYC pedagogy enhances current understandings of the mechanisms through which social circus influences young people’s lives, both in and outside of the programs, will be highlighted. Participants in this presentation will
develop a greater understanding of how social circus can be utilized as an adjunctive intervention for marginalized young people, and how participation in social circus programs can foster changes in young people, which manifest both in and outside of circus spaces.

Presenter Bio

Shay Erlich holds an MA CYC from Ryerson University. Shay is hard of hearing, disabled, genderqueer and queer, which greatly influences their work and research. Shay’s research interests focus on social circus as a therapeutic medium for young people as well as exploring Deafness and disability in child and youth care.

F4 - Applied Mindfulness: Nurturing the True Self

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Applied Mindfulness is the practice of discovering our true nature. Our true nature transcends the body, the breath, the mind, emotions, intellect and the ego. It is based on teachings and practices of ancient eastern cultures, as well as the teachings of indigenous elders from all continents. Nurture yourself and nurture hope within by learning how to utilize your body to access your psyche. Using your physical body as a vehicle, you will intimately connect with your non-physical body. Participants will develop techniques to connect with their true human nature and therefore begin changing past negative conditioning. This presentation will guide you to psychologically and kinesthetically experience the practice of self-nurturing, self-compassion, self-love, self-respect, and self-dignity. Using gentle body movements while seated (or standing if you prefer) you will learn a gentle approach to nurture and heal your body and your mind. The principle of natural law, as taught by Native elders, elucidates the ripple effect and how self-nurturing, healing and personal growth ripples out to positively affect our families, our communities and ultimately the world. This experiential presentation will teach how to nurture and heal your own life, as well as to increase the potential for assisting others to heal the lives. It will awaken your true nature. Applied Mindfulness will improve your outlook on life and your ability for increased compassion and hope, for self and for others.

Presenter Bio

Sharon Whitefawn, MA, has over 25 years of professional experience teaching Yoga/Meditation, Health/Fitness, and Spirituality. She earned her MA at Immaculata University and works as a Mental Health practitioner and a spiritual guide. Sharon became an Ordained Interfaith Minister at The School of Sacred Ministries in 2000.

F5 - When Process Blocks Progress: Workflow Efficiency for Social Agencies

CYCCB Content Domain: Professionalism

Are you so bogged down by paperwork you hardly have time to serve youth in your community? Do you find yourself doing tasks because "this is how it's always been done?" If you're nodding your head, it may be time to take a hard look at your agency's workflow. In this talk, business strategist Stefanie Zasyatkina will cover methods of workflow analysis to reduce administrative burden. With 10 years experience in foster care and adoption, Stefanie will teach you how to identify workflow weaknesses, streamline program processes, and start automating so your staff can free up time to focus on what matters most.

Presenter Bio

Stefanie Zasyatkina has served as a workflow strategist and technology consultant for foster care and adoption agencies for ten years. As founder and director of InReach Solutions, Stefanie has a unique perspective on how process and workflow improvements can exponentially increase impact and allow social agencies to fulfill their missions.

F6 - Resources for Happiness & Resilience are Within Each of Us: Invigorating Mindfulness, Emotional Intelligence, and Resilience (MEIR) within Families, Schools, and Child-Care Facilities

CYCCB Content Domain: Applied Human Development

150 times a day, across the Indonesian archipelago, a child is brought to, and left at a child-care institution or orphanage. In each of these situations, children face fear, isolation, abandonment, and an uncertain future. The
adults who care for the child have a certain range of hopes in their mind and heart. The institution has their set of hopes. Society has their own set of hopes. The children have their set of hopes. Within this Indonesian context, this workshop will explore the concept that the resources for happiness & resilience are within each of us. To the extent that children can identify, develop and leverage these resources, we can also increase our hope & resilience in life. Participants will learn how to bolster these internal resources through intentional grounding in five core essentials: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.

Presenter Bio

Randolph Oudemans Randolph’s passion is working with children and youth. He connects well and enjoys being with them, learning from them, teaching, inspiring, and challenging them. He promotes both a thoughtful and intentional approach to helping children/youth explore who they are and what they are experiencing moment-by-moment, as well as the vital importance of the intentions, thoughts, words, actions, and finally relationships, which shape their lives. If the warp of Randolph’s life can be described as his love and work with children and youth, (pre-eminently and sine quo non his own three children), then the weft can be described as his varied international career. Spanning more than 30 years across several geographies, he has at times been an international businessman, a school teacher, a youth director, a University lecturer and a family man. As President of an NGO, which he founded in 2004, he has spent many years designing and implementing programs helping children experience the joys of life and preparing them with important social-emotional and other vital life-skills. His positive outlook is infectious and he excels at providing transformative experiences for people. From a foundation and orientation of genuine respect, love and compassion for children and youth he is committed to helping them as individuals and collectively, as community members. He is a USA citizen, born to immigrant parents who were both born in Sumatra, Indonesia.

The ways in which we understand and develop programs for high-risk youth are heavily influenced by the historical and political context in which they exist. These contexts influence policy processes and terminology that we use to frame our understandings of what the problems are, and consequently then limits our abilities to theorize possible solutions. This presentation focuses on how youth worker's documentation responsibilities and terminology used when referring to our clients can be limiting and constricting the ways we are able to implement effective and meaningful changes in our programs to address the needs of vulnerable populations. This presentation will explore examples of how terminology can conceptualize youth as damaged, the ways we measure success with our clients, and how those measures of success are often founded in Eurocentric logic that are not applicable to differing cultural epistemologies. Participants will reconsider the practice of documentation and terminology in Children Services to include the acknowledgement and implementation of multiple existing realities of the diverse populations we engage with. This workshop will examine the historical relationship of the government and youth in care and how existing public policies may not support the healing process of youth but attempt to conform them to positions in society so they can contribute in an economic way. Alternatives will be presented to begin to shift terminology and practices through the implementation of an Indigenous holistic model for policy development and will explore practical implications for youth workers.

Presenter Bio

Kelsey Reed is a doctoral student in Educational Policy Studies with the University of Alberta, with a specialization in Indigenous Peoples education and a sessional instructor with MacEwan University in the Child and Youth Care Program. Kelsey’s research interests include urban Aboriginal identity & Child Welfare Policies.