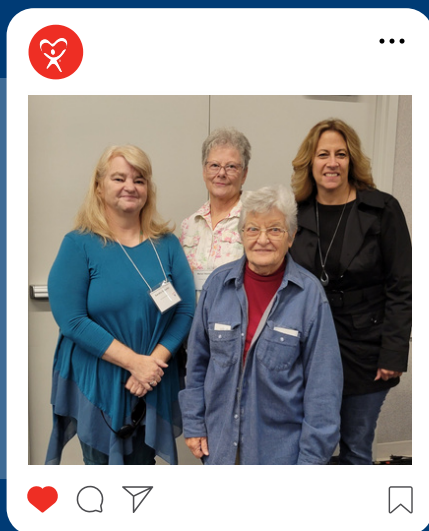




28th Annual Celebrate Kids! Conference Registration Brochure

September 20 - 22, 2023 | Hyatt Regency Columbus





Be sure to check social media for conference updates and more!

@OhioCASA | #CelebrateKidsConference

Registration

Hotel booking and conference registration links can be accessed at [**https://ohiocasa.org/celebratekidsconference/**](https://ohiocasa.org/celebratekidsconference/)

Registration dates and fees:

- \$150 until September 1st
- \$200 from September 2nd - September 11th
- Registration closed September 12th - 19th
- On-site registration open September 20th - 22nd (\$200)



Agenda

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Registration
1:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Workshops

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Registration
7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. | Breakfast
8:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Plenary Session
10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. | Workshops
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. | Plated Lunch & Awards Ceremony
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Workshops
3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. | Snack break
3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. | Workshops
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | CASA Connect Hour

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Registration
7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. | Breakfast
8:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Plenary Session
10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. | Workshops
11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Grab and Go Lunch & Basket Raffle

Continuing Education

RULE 48

- Up to 12 hours provided
- Certificates available from local program directors post-conference
- If you are not affiliated with a local CASA program, please see Ohio CASA staff for certificate information

CLE

- Up to 12 hours provided
- Confirm credits with SCO after 6 weeks
- Sessions W01, T08, and T16 approved for Attorney Professional Conduct hours

CPE

- Up to 12 hours provided
- Certificates emailed within 6 weeks
- Sessions W01, T08, T11, T16, and T22 approved for Ethics credit.

TO OBTAIN CREDITS

1. Pick up a credit certification request form at CASA Shop.
2. Track the workshops you attend using the Credit Certification Request form.
(Any exceptions will be noted)
3. Sign in to each workshop you attend. Provide your license number. Check box to indicate you are seeking credit.
4. Return your Credit Certification Request form to CASA Shop

Awards

Please visit the link below to nominate an individual to be recognized at our awards luncheon for one of the following honors:

- Pro Star Volunteer of the Year
- Rising Star Volunteer of the Year
- Mary Ellen Social Worker of the Year
- Attorney of the Year Award

<https://2atuwf5zogi.typeform.com/to/XDK8CwTs>

Workshop Descriptions

Wednesday, September 20

1:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

W01 | Practicing Cultural Competency and Humility

MelRo Potter, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Services, Ohio CASA

In this workshop, participants will take a deep dive into what it means to practice cultural competency and humility. Conversations will cover why this practice is important for those who work with youth and families.

W02 | Hidden in Plain Sight: Traumatic Brain Injury, Strangulation, and Domestic Violence

Rachel Ramirez, MSW, LSW, Founder/Director of the Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Domestic violence victims experience terrible and traumatic physical violence through blows to the head or strangulation. We are just discovering how that violence impacts the brain. Brain injury caused by domestic violence is rarely identified and almost never immediately treated, and results in short and long term physical, emotional, and cognitive consequences that can impact every area of a person's life, including their ability to successfully access and participate in your services. This session will provide an overview of what we learned in Ohio and how we developed CARE, an evidence-based framework that supports trauma-informed practices and survivor empowerment developed by the Ohio Domestic Violence Network in partnership with The Ohio State University.

W03 | Street Smart Ohio

Capt. Shawn Bain (Ret). & Sgt. Michael N. Powell (Ret.), Street Smart Ohio

This workshop will provide training on the current trends of drug abuse in our nation and communities. Items used to carry, conceal, or consume drugs will be discussed along with locations where these items can be purchased. Statistics will show how this epidemic has spread throughout the country.



W04 | Strengthening Relationships Between Birth Families and Foster Parents

Chelsey Billman, Children Services Training and Development Team, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Office of Families and Children

Tara Shook, LSW, Children Services Training and Development Team, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Office of Families and Children

This training provides an exciting overview of Ohio's approach to strengthening relationships between primary and resource families. The training will provide guidance on how to build stronger ties between the two families and introduce new tools developed to assist agencies and their partners in those efforts. This training provides information on how using this approach can help provide better outcomes for families and help agencies with their workforce needs. The information presented in this training was driven by one of the 37 recommendations of the Children Services Transformation Advisory Council. This recommendation is titled "Strengthen Relationships Between Birth Families and Foster Parents." This approach stems from a national initiative showing how collaborative relationships promote family engagement, sibling connections, and family preservation for children and teens placed in out-of-home care.

Thursday, September 21

8:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Plenary Session

Serving with a Trauma Responsive Lens | Sarah Buffie | Soul Bird Consulting

This session will help participants understand trauma, how it affects the brain and body, and how we can join one another on the healing journey. Trauma Responsive Care not only looks at "what happened" to people but also "what did they do to survive." This is an important shift as we look to uncover the hidden resilience in everyone. This session will unpack 5 Core Convictions that support building a trauma-responsive lens in order to address people and situations in a trauma-responsive manner.

Thursday, September 21

10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

T01 | The Value of Leveraging Specialized Healthcare Services for Foster Youth

Sarah J. Beal, PhD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Scientific Director, Comprehensive Health Evaluations for Cincinnati's Kids (CHECK) Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Mary V. Greiner, MD, MS, Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Director, Comprehensive Health Evaluations for Cincinnati's Kids (CHECK) Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

In this workshop, we will discuss the health needs and models of healthcare service delivery for children in the custody of county public children services agencies, including barriers to services as children experience entry into PCSA custody and placement changes. A description of service delivery models in Ohio and other states will be described, with the focus of helping CASA volunteers support children and families in accessing healthcare information and health services for children in their care. A group discussion will focus on methods to identify healthcare needs of children and overcome challenges faced by CASAs, families, and youth.

T02 | A State Ombudsman Is Involved...Now What?

Jennifer A. Sheriff, Family Ombudsman, Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office
Jenny Stotts, MS, LSW, Youth Ombudsman, Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office

The Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office publicly launched in 2022 following Governor Mike DeWine's support of landmark legislation creating Ohio's first statewide grievance outlet focused on strengthening the children services system. The Youth and Family Ombudsmen receive and review complaints from concerned individuals who are seeking a neutral review of case-specific issues. The office convenes confidential meetings with complainants, government agencies, and other stakeholders with a key focus on issuing fact-based recommendations to resolve immediate concerns and improve the overall system. Attend this session to learn more about the mission of the Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office and what to expect if a state ombudsman initiates an independent investigation. This session will include a detailed overview of office operations, a snapshot of 2022 data, and an interactive discussion of various hypothetical complaint profiles to illustrate how the Youth and Family Ombudsmen pursue effective conflict resolution.

T03 | Sibling Relationships in Foster Care: Keeping Them Connected

Becky Peters, LSW, MSW, Trumbull County Children Services
DeeDee Prezioso, LSW, MSW, Trumbull County Children Services

This workshop will discuss the prevalence of sibling relationships in foster care and how maltreatment affects sibling relationships. Participants will also gain an understanding of the importance and benefits of placing siblings together whenever possible or maintaining sibling relationships when siblings have to be separated. Additionally, factors considered by child welfare professionals when making decisions about placement of siblings will be discussed.

T04 | Ohio Medical Marijuana - What You Should Know

Kevin Everhart, Area Manager for Central and Southern Ohio, American Court and Drug Testing Services (Averhealth)

This workshop will cover the current Medical Marijuana Laws and discuss what the requirements are for a Medical Card and the rules for minor children who have a Medical Card. At the end of this session, participants will also understand the "Dos" and "Don'ts" once a Medical Marijuana Card is obtained.

T05 | Disability, Trauma, and Education

Jen Newton, Associate Professor, Ohio University

This interactive workshop will begin with an overview of the language used in special education and the systems at work in schools. We will discuss the role of trauma in special education services and supports, and identify concrete strategies for advocating for students with support needs at school.



T06 | A Community Response to Stalking

Julie Sespico, Training Coordinator, The Center for Family Safety and Healing
Caitlin Tully, Training Supervisor, The Center for Family Safety and Healing

Stalking is common in our communities - almost one in three women and one in six men have been stalked at some point in their lives. Over 40% of stalking victims are stalked by current or former intimate partners and stalking impacts the entire family. This interactive presentation will define stalking, explore tools to prevent or interrupt stalking behaviors, and provide information about reporting processes as well as community resources.

T07| Understanding the Dynamics of Domestic Violence

Emily Kulow, Director of Mobile Advocacy and Meaningful Access, Ohio Domestic Violence Network
Alicia Williamson, Director of Training and Program Services, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that can include physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, and any other behavior to establish power and control. Domestic violence is pervasive and affects millions of individuals across the United States regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, education, gender, sexual orientation, or any other identity. This workshop will address the barriers survivors face both in a domestic violence relationship and after it ends. Participants will hear first hand the impacts separating from an abusive partner can have on a family.

T08 | Ethics and Professionalism

John D. Everett, Esq., Attorney at Law

Wait a minute, I just watched a hearing where the judge's daughter argued a case in front of the judge. The caseworker just called a 16-year-old to warn them about a drug test. The guardian ad litem just offered to rent an apartment to one of the parents so they can get their child back. What? This session will look at the ethical and professional questions that come up in juvenile cases.

Thursday, September 21

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

T09 | The Healing Power of Belonging

Sarah Buffie, MSW, LSW, Founder/Director, Soul Bird Consulting

This session is for those who support people in their trauma healing journey. This session will specifically focus on building the resilience factor called "affiliation" (belonging). Participants will learn how to build affiliation and why it matters for people who've experienced trauma. The session will focus on learning how to discover gifts and support engagement with an "inner circle" of close friends as well as the community at large. At the end of the session participants will understand the connection between, and the importance of, contribution as a way to build belonging.

T10 | Children with Substance Using Parents

Cheryl Stahl, M.ED., LPCC, Substance Use/Mental Health Program Director, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

This workshop will educate participants on the stigma and bias around substance using parents. It will also cover how to talk about substance use with parents using motivational interviewing techniques, how to use safety planning strategies to protect children in homes with substance using parents, and how to support parents in recovery for continued success.

T11 | Deeper Roots: A Personal Narrative of Adoption, Race, and Family

Liz Gordon-Canlas, Managing Director, Zora's House

This workshop includes a personal narrative of how transracial adoption is defined and experienced by children and adult adoptees and will help participants examine their own thoughts and beliefs around transracial adoption, race, and family systems through critical and challenging questions posed by the presenter. At the conclusion of this session, participants will understand how unique the adoption experience is based on the held identities of the adoptee and will also be aware of available resources that uplift the voices of adult adoptees, a critical voice in adoption reform.

T12 | Post Emancipation Services: Young Adult Services & Bridges

Sarah Levels, MSW, Bridges Policy Developer, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Families and Children

This workshop offers an overview of post emancipation services available to young adults 18 - 21 who have aged out of foster care in Ohio. The presentation begins with a discussion about final transition planning requirements and considerations for youth in foster care. An overview of post emancipation services is discussed which includes Young Adult Services, Bridges, Medicaid coverage until the age of 26, and the Ohio Education Training Voucher (ETV) . Finally, the audience is provided information that outlines how they can play an important role in supporting former foster youth on their journey to independence.

T13 | Crossover Youth: Working with Dually Involved Youth

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, J.D., B.S. Ed., Judge, Summit County Juvenile Court

Statistics show that youth in the child welfare system are at greater risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system for delinquent behavior. This workshop will explore the reasons for this increased risk, discuss red flags that help identify those at highest risk, and discuss strategies to assist youth in avoiding juvenile justice involvement. Strategies that courts and community partners can employ to assist dually involved youth will also be discussed.

T14 | Understanding Rural Poverty

Robin A. Bozian, J.D., Retired Project Managing Attorney Southeastern Ohio Legal Services
Katherine O'Malley, J.D., Senior Attorney, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.

By the end of this session, participants will understand the unique challenges for families living with violence or other traumatic events in rural communities. Additionally, CASA volunteers will be equipped to permeate the "curtain of isolation" often associated with rural living to understand the dynamics of the home.

T15 | Supporting Healthy Teen Relationships

Julie Sespico, Training Coordinator, The Center for Family Safety and Healing
Caitlin Tully, Training Supervisor, The Center for Family Safety and Healing

Teens face many different pressures in relationships, and they need adults to start the conversation. This session will cover the dynamics of teen dating relationships to help adults learn how to appropriately communicate with teens, empower teens to make healthy relationship choices, and provide local, state, and national resources for youth.

Workshop Monitors



When registering, be sure to select the box to indicate if you are willing to serve as a workshop monitor. In addition to meeting like-minded people and getting the best seat in your workshop, you will be acknowledged in the 2023 Celebrate Kids! Conference Program.

Monitors will only be assigned to requested workshops, and will be notified by email of selection. Duties include: Introducing workshop presenters, circulating and returning sign-in sheets, and maintaining workshop focus.

Thank you in advance!

T16 | Cultivating Affirmation for LGBTQIA+ Youth

Lane Shirrell, Community Education and Research Manager, Kaleidoscope Youth Center

The high rate of discrimination at school links directly to mental health risk factors and physical health disparities in LGBTQ+ youth. Participants will hear about some of these links, then segue into a discussion about what they can do about it: What does it mean to be a visible ally? Centering on the idea that allyship is something that you do, not someone that you are, identify what makes allyship visible to youth, and start discussing various things professionals can do to make sure their spaces are affirming.

Thursday, September 21

3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

T17 | Redefining Masculinity - Know Better. Do Better. Be Better.

Glenn A. Harris, Director of Prevention, Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN)/Ohio Men's Action Network (OHMAN)

Media, Art, and Culture are a representative force in our society. It is also a microcosm of the society we live in, for better or worse. We can use art and culture to spark necessary conversations and gain a deeper understanding of the world around us. This workshop unpacks what Media and Culture say to us about gender and masculinity, the relationships we form and the impact they have. What do they look like when they are healthy? What can happen when they aren't?

T18 | Partners in Permanency: Strategies for Locating and Engaging Connections Together

Natalie Adams, MSE, LSW, Senior Manager, Training, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Tara Robertson, Senior Manager, Training, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Andrea Williams, Senior Director, Training, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

With 120,000 youth in foster care waiting for adoption in the United States, it is critical for child welfare team members to work cohesively to help our youth achieve the best possible outcomes while giving them a voice in decision-making and attaining permanency that provides long-term support. We will review the importance of legal permanency for all youth in care while discussing the significance of engaging biological family and others already known to the youth. In this session, we will provide successful strategies in working together to reach our common goal of locating and engaging those known to the youth for the purpose of achieving permanency.

T19 | Talking with Teens

Alexandra Gilbert, MSW, LISW-S, Alexandra Gilbert LISW LLC, Northwoods Clinic

This session includes conversations around how to talk with teens (or other adolescents too!) Explore different types of communication styles, and skills to help facilitate conversations to encourage kids to open up. This workshop will cover conversation skills, and a translation of teen lingo to help you understand what they are trying to say.

T20 | Building Resiliency in Youth & Families

MelRo Potter, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Services, Ohio CASA

After completion of this session, participants will walk away empowered and inspired. This workshop will provide attendees with an understanding of the healing benefits of building resiliency in youth and families.

T21 | Vocational Rehabilitation & other Employment Resources for Transition Age Youth

Aileen Brock, Attorney at Law, CAP Coordinator, Disability Rights Ohio

Melissa Day, Advocate, Disability Rights Ohio

Jessica Folsom, M.Ed., CRC, WIP, Program Administrator, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Attendees will learn about vocational rehabilitation services, how to apply, eligibility, and what services are available specifically for transition age youth. Attendees will learn about Social Security Work Incentives that help social security beneficiaries work while on benefits, and special considerations for transition age youth receiving benefits. Attendees will also learn how Disability Rights Ohio can assist transition age youth through its Client Assistance Program and its grant for the Protection and Advocacy of Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS).

T22 | The Interconnectedness of Immigration and other Courts

Samantha M. Salamon, Esq., Asian Services in Action, Inc.

In order to competently work with an immigrant or refugee family in civil courts, multiple factors must be understood and taken into consideration. This presentation will break down aspects of culture and immigration that will have a direct impact on developing a healthy, sustainable, and practical plan for families to follow. While this information does not replace the advice of an attorney, this presentation is designed to equip practitioners to identify potential red flags in their cases and come up with meaningful, culturally-specific solutions or to learn of resources to request assistance from.

T23 | Kids Say the Darndest Things: Communicating with Young Children

Sarah Harvan, MA BA, Training Coordinator, CASA/GAL Program of Summit County

Spending time with children is often the highlight of a CASA/GAL's duties and responsibilities. But, what happens when the children don't want to talk? How do you redirect those who talk, well, a lot? This workshop will provide examples and practical strategies for CASA/GAL volunteers and staff to effectively communicate with young children and build confidence for interviewing children on their cases.

T24 | State-led Kinship Programs - How CASA Can Inform and Support

Chelsey Billman, Children Services Training and Development Team, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Office of Families and Children Tara Shook, LSW, Children Services Training and Development Team, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Office of Families and Children

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has made a concerted effort to support kinship caregivers over the years. This session will provide information on all of the relevant resources available to kinship caregivers, and help explain the alphabet soup that is kinship support programs. Resources will be provided to participants to help kinship caregivers navigate those options and support permanency for the children in their care.

Friday, September 22

8:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Plenary Session

Dealing with Dysregulation in Families Impacted by Grief and ACEs | Dr. Tanikka C. Price, Esq. | Health Impact Ohio

In this workshop, we will explore stress and how toxic stress leads to dysregulation. We will also explore the correlation between toxic stress, dysregulation, and high Adverse Childhood Experiences. Participants will learn the signs of dysregulation and then learn how to deal with those signs of dysregulation using CPR: Consistency, Predictability, and Reliability.

Friday, September 22

10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

F01 | Motivational Interviewing - The Talk of Change

Cheryl Stahl, M.ED., LPCC, Substance Use/Mental Health Program Director, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

This workshop will educate participants about the foundational principles of Motivational Interviewing: unconditional positive regard, empowerment, and autonomy. In addition, participants will learn the core principles and skills of Motivational Interviewing with practical strategies for use in their work with clients who use substances.

F02 | Engaging Primary Families

CeCe Norwood, MA, Consultant/Trainer, Nirvana Now!

As Guardians ad Litem, it is extremely important that we develop a positive relationship with primary families. This course will address the importance of engaging primary families, and common barriers to developing strong relationships with the primary families will be discussed. Participants will consider how a child might be impacted if they lose their connections with their primary family. Strategies to support positive relationships with primary families will also be discussed.

F03 | Guardian ad Litem in Human Trafficking Cases

Michelle Mumaw, Esq., Staff Attorney, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Franklin County

This workshop provides an overview of common issues in cases in which a child may have been trafficked. It will describe different contexts in which a child's victimization intersects the juvenile justice system and will identify barriers within the system. It will describe strategies used by CASA volunteers in Franklin County to advocate for improved outcomes and to effectively connect with children who may have been trafficked.

F04 | Supporting Students at School

Jen Newton, Associate Professor, Ohio University

This interactive workshop will begin with an overview of the barriers many kids experiencing trauma confront at school. We will discuss how to remove those barriers and support kids in accessing their education both academically and socially. We will identify specific advocacy strategies to implement in meetings with school staff.

F05 | Defining and Establishing "Best Interests"

Judge David Hejmanowski, Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court

In this session, attendees will learn what "best interests" means, and will also learn how courts determine if "best interests" are met. This workshop will explain and help attendees understand the consequences of a failure to find best interests.

F06 | Ohio's Safe Babies Court Program and CASA Volunteers

Caitlin Feasby, Statewide Coordinator, Ohio Infant-Toddler Court Team, Groundwork Ohio
Erin Ryan, Director, Center for Maternal & Young Child Health, Groundwork Ohio

This workshop will highlight the work of Groundwork Ohio as an early childhood policy and advocacy organization, its partnership with the ZERO TO THREE as the national resource center, and other essential statewide partnerships driving the Safe Babies approach. The presenter will discuss the Safe Babies Court Team approach and the evidence base for its effectiveness in enhancing child welfare experiences for children ages 0-3 and their families. This presentation will both focus on the scope of the Safe Babies program and its structure/services as well as the specific interventions implemented (i.e., how it looks in practice). This session will offer a systemic overview of the most common risk factors affecting children ages 0-3 and their families in Ohio, as well as the ways the SBCT approach tactfully diminishes many of those systemic challenges through a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach.

F07 | Conversation about Child Abuse with Non-Medical Professionals

Désirée Jones-Rubin, MD, MPH, FAAP, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Child maltreatment is a devastating social problem. I envision a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities. This workshop will review the basic concepts of child abuse. Non-medical professionals can then better learn how to protect vulnerable children and support at-risk families by recognizing the signs and symptoms of suspected child abuse or neglect.

F08 | How to WOW the Court and Advocate for your Ward! Guardian ad Litem Report Writing and Testifying

Judge Elizabeth Gill, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Division and Juvenile Branch.

At the end of the session, participants will know how to effectively write and submit a GAL report and recommendation in compliance with Rule 48 of the Ohio Rules of Superintendence for the Courts and will develop strategies and best practices for testifying in court and representing the best interest of your wards. This interactive workshop allows for the exchange of ideas and experiences to best represent your ward in Court and to comply with the mandates of the Ohio Rules of Superintendence for the Court.

Thank You