

# 26TH ANNUAL CELEBRATE KIDS! CONFERENCE



**OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2021 | COLUMBUS, OHIO**

**PRESENTED BY OHIO CASA**



# THRIVING TOGETHER



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#CELEBRATEKIDS2021



# AGENDA

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

10 AM - 5 PM

REGISTRATION

1:45 PM - 5 PM

WORKSHOPS

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

7 AM - 8:15 AM

BREAKFAST

7 AM - 5 PM

REGISTRATION

8:15 AM - 10 AM

PLENARY SESSION

10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

WORKSHOPS

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

LUNCH

1:30 PM - 3 PM

WORKSHOPS

3 PM - 3:15 PM

SNACK BREAK

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM

WORKSHOPS

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

7 AM - 8:15 AM

BREAKFAST

7 AM - 11 AM

REGISTRATION

8:15 AM - 10 AM

PLENARY SESSION

10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

WORKSHOPS

12:15 PM - 1 PM

LUNCH

1 PM - 2 PM

AWARD CEREMONY

# AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please visit the following links to nominate an individual to be recognized at our awards luncheon:

- Rising Star Volunteer Award: [bit.ly/2021CASARisingStar](https://bit.ly/2021CASARisingStar)
- Pro Star Volunteer Award: [bit.ly/2021CASAProStar](https://bit.ly/2021CASAProStar)
- Mary Ellen Social Work Award: [bit.ly/2021CASAmaryellen](https://bit.ly/2021CASAmaryellen)
- Attorney Advocate of the Year Award: [bit.ly/2021CASAattorney](https://bit.ly/2021CASAattorney)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### **RULE 48**

- Up to 12 hours provided
- Included in registration fee
- Certifications available from local program directors post-conference (if you are not with a local CASA program, please see staff for certificate information)

### **CLE\***

- Up to 12 hours provided
- \$100 fee
- Confirm credits with SCO after 6 weeks

### **CPE\***

- Up to 12 hours provided
- \$50 fee
- Certificates emailed within 6 weeks

\*Applications pending

### **TO OBTAIN CREDITS**

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

\*Full payment required by close of conference in order to process



**MONDAY | 1:45 - 5 PM**

**M01 - UPDATES TO RULE 48 & HOW TO EXPRESS WRITTEN AND ORAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COURT**

*Holly Farah & Sarah Harvan, Summit County CASA*

Gain an overview and hear highlights of updates to the current duties and responsibilities of a CASA/GAL Volunteer in Ohio in accordance with Rule 48. Participants will learn how the changes impact the writing of a court report and the role of a child advocate. Attendees will also learn tips for testifying in court, and how to express both written and oral recommendations for the best interest of children served.

**M02 - CREATING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION**

*Dulce Hurst, Ohio CASA Board of Directors, Human Resources Consultant*

Develop greater awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion fundamentals while defining foundational understanding. Take a deeper dive into inclusion and how we all have a role to breakdown barriers.

**M03 - NOT JUST ANY RELATIONSHIP: USING DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS TO HELP CHILDREN THRIVE!**

*Melissa McClain, Akron Children's Hospital*

Focus on the strengths of children and the strategies that adults can use to nurture a path to thriving for all. By using the Search Insitute's 40 Developmental Assets as well as The Framework for Developmental Relationships, this hands-on session will detail practical tools for connecting with children and give participants the opportunity to practice the tools themselves.

**M04 - UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF A BATTERER IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND TEENS**

*Sonia Ferencik, Ohio Domestic Violence Network*

Explore the "universal rules of a batterer" and how their tactics of control and fear serve to keep all members of the family isolated from others. Learn how the victimized parent is undermined, and how the impact of trauma affects children via chronic and toxic stress. Trauma-informed approaches and new advocacy skills will be offered as well.

**REGISTER AT [OHIOCASA.ORG!](https://OHIOCASA.ORG)**

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH



**UNDERSTANDING ADDICTION: SQUIRREL LOGIC**

*Brad Lander, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center*

Begin understanding substance abuse as a “chronic brain disease” to fully conceptualize the impact of alcohol and drug use on the brain and behavior. Explore the physiology of how substance use becomes addiction, and examine realistic expectations based on neurological findings, so we can better support the recovery process.

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**TUESDAY | 10:15 - 11:45 AM**

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**T01 - SAFE & HEALTHY SEXUALITY: A PROGRAM FOR LIFE**

*Ronda Downard & Lora Graves, Wood County Juvenile Court*

Join us as we learn from this education program offered to young people in northwest Ohio. While it covers basic information regarding sexual health, and sexually transmitted diseases, this session takes the topic a bit further to explore indicators of healthy relationships, communication, consent, and legalities.

**T02 - THE STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES**

*John Wilson, Greene County Career Center*

This is a fast-paced session about how we all make quick judgements of others and how to change it. These new skill sets can be implemented immediately and will be especially valuable in our role as CASA Volunteers.

**T03 - DEVELOPING VOLUNTEER LED TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT - USE THE AMAZING RESOURCES ALREADY IN YOUR PROGRAM!**

*Stefanie Coe, CASA of Franklin County*

Explore how to harness the power and experiences of your volunteers and support volunteer-led initiatives. Developed by the Peer Training Team of CASA of Franklin County, look forward to learning the details of the group’s evolution, and learn new brainstorming techniques to engage with volunteers in your local program. **(For CASA Directors and staff)**

**T04 - ENGAGEMENT & INCLUSION OF FATHERS: FROM THE CHILD’S BEST INTEREST PERSPECTIVE**

*Gary Dick, University of Cincinnati*

Address ways in which different types of father engagement styles benefit their children throughout the life cycle. Participants will learn to identify the barriers that prevent fathers from being involved with their children, and gain strategies for engaging fathers. Paternal deprivation and father hunger will also be discussed.

**T05 - IT’S MY RIGHT?!**

*John Everett, Attorney*

How many times have you heard, “It’s my right?!” All the time? But what does that really mean? This training will give a general overview of the rights and responsibilities for each party to a juvenile court action.

**T06 - ANYONE CAN SLAY A DRAGON: DOING IT ALL OVER AGAIN (REPEATED T23)**

*Kim Kehl, Kehl Partnership Group LLC*

There is a cost to caring. Working with kids and their families with histories of trauma is not easy work. On top of it, the COVID-19 pandemic and recent social unrest has significantly disrupted the norms, expectations, activities of daily life, and resulted in the potential for widespread community and individual trauma. These threats can feel unpredictable and uncontrollable. This workshop will highlight the importance of self care and identify practices that participants can adopt to manage their own self care.

## **T07 - EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE**

*Andrew Pueschel, Ohio University College of Business*

This engaging and reflective session will link the participants' current situations at home, work, and their community with the possible positive impact they can make when they focus on increasing their own emotional intelligence. Participants will measure their current emotional intelligence while discovering ways in which they can maximize their success.

## **T08 - EVIDENCE-BASED COMMUNICATION WITH CHILDREN (REPEATED W08)**

*Jenny Stotts, Athens County CASA*

Explore evidence-based communication techniques to improve interviews and foster adaptability in professionals working with children. Explore 14 evidence-based strategies for communicating with children about major case changes, trauma & loss, and more. Participants will practice skills and develop a plan for implementing strategies and techniques.

## **T09 - ACEs AND RACE: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF HISTORICAL TRAUMA IN OUR CURRENT CONTEXT**

*Jesse Schroeder, Debbie Jones, & Joanna Malachowsky, Franklin County Family & Children First Council*

This session will begin with a brief overview of the Adverse Childhood Experiences study, and will further explain the underlying mechanics of social contexts and historical trauma. This session will also utilize the historical perspective to examine stressors from the COVID-19 pandemic, and will identify and describe resiliency factors that are exhibited as a response to adversity.

## **TUESDAY | 1:30 - 3 PM**

## **T10 - STREET SMART OHIO, PART 1**

*Shawn Bain & Michael Powell, Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)*

The goal of Street Smart Ohio is to provide current and up-to-date narcotics information on trends, terminology, paraphernalia, concealment techniques, and physiological effects of drugs. Two former undercover detectives with over 60 years of combined narcotics experience conduct the training.

## **T11 - WHEN COLLEGE IS NOT THE RIGHT FIT**

*John Wilson, Greene County Career Center*

When many of us were young, vocational schools were the place where people went who wore black leather jackets, had chains attached to their wallets and were probably never going to look inside a classroom again. All that has changed. Learn how Career Technical schools could be the place to help the children you serve get a head start on a life-long journey of skilled training to give them the competitive advantage in the 21st century.

## **T12 - OHIO KINSHIP AND NAVIGATION PROGRAM: WORKING WITH CASA**

*Veronica Burroughs, Felicia Adams, Doris Webber, OhioKAN*

Ohio's new kinship and adoption navigator program, OhioKAN, is serving families across the state. In this session, you will gain a greater understanding of the strengths and needs of kinship and adoptive families. You'll learn how supporting kinship and adoptive families is a trauma-informed strategy to prevent entry and re-entry into the formal child welfare system, and we'll discuss what services and supports kinship families are asking for.

## **T13 - ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM**

*John Everett, Attorney*

Ethics and professionalism are typically presented as a black and white topic. You are ethical or you are not ethical. Why? Ethics and professionalism are a joint effort of all participants in juvenile justice. Using the concepts contained in the various ethical codes, participants in this training will look at situations that give rise to ethical and professional questions in the area of juvenile justice. Participants will work together to focus on improving the ethics and professionalism of those who work in juvenile justice and ultimately the outcomes of children and families.

## **T14 - YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION**

*Melanie Palmer, Child Focus*

Suicide is one of the leading causes of preventable death in our nation today, and we lose an average of more than 130 young people each week to this tragedy. Learn to recognize warning signs of youth in distress and how to assist in a crisis. This workshop will provide the information and skills to empower community members to take positive action and help to save lives.

## **T15 - WHAT MATTERS MOST**

*Chief Magistrate Karen L. Cannon, Richland County Juvenile Court*

This workshop will highlight the important role CASA Volunteers have on the trajectory of a case and the invaluable impact of the CASA Volunteer's voice in open court and through written reports. This workshop will demonstrate how it is often the singular voice of the CASA Volunteer which is heard the loudest.

## **T16 - STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT LGBTQ+ YOUTH**

*Michelle Wilson, Athens Impact Socially Responsible Investments*

This workshop covers topics for people at all stages of learning around LGBTQ+ youth. We begin with general concepts about gender and sexuality. We'll move on to some up to date vocabulary to use when working with LGBTQ+ children and families. We will break up the talk with some interactive exercises where we discuss situations we could encounter. The goal is to find ways to incorporate inclusive habits into our work as a CASA Volunteer so everyone can feel safe and comfortable working with us.

## **T17 - ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN EXPOSED IN UTERO**

*Aubrey Page, The Change Starts Here Collaborative*

In-utero exposure is a common topic when children are infants, but what happens after that? This workshop will explain how to identify symptoms associated with in-utero exposure and ways to advocate for those kids who need additional support as they age. You will also learn how to combat the stigma associated with exposure and delicately discuss it with family and team members.

## **T18 - THE POWER OF PLAY: UNDERSTANDING HOW PLAY IS ESSENTIAL TO A CHILD'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT**

*Beth Cardina, Summit County CASA*

This session will assist CASA Volunteers and GALs in understanding the importance of play in facilitating healthy development in children. Research shows children who have experienced trauma or live in poverty have fewer "play opportunities." This lack of appropriate stimulation can jeopardize early brain development. As advocates, we need to be able to engage in, or identify ways children can engage in playful interactions and normalcy activities.



## **SAFETY STATEMENT**

We are working closely with the hotel to ensure that all social distancing and safety protocols are in place. The Hyatt has instituted new sanitizing and cleaning processes and everyone's health and safety will remain top of mind.



## **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 cool people and getting the best seat in your workshop, you will be acknowledged in the 2021 Celebrate Kids! Conference Program. Monitors will only be assigned to requested workshops, and will be notified by email if selected.

Duties include: Introducing workshop presenters, circulating and returning sign-in sheets, and maintaining workshop focus.



**T19 - STREET SMART OHIO, PART 2  
(CONTINUATION OF PART 1, MUST ATTEND  
BOTH)**

*Shawn Bain & Michael Powell, Ohio HIDTA*

The goal of Street Smart Ohio is to provide current and up-to-date narcotics information on trends, terminology, paraphernalia, concealment techniques, and physiological effects of drugs. Two former undercover detectives with over 60 years of combined narcotics experience conduct the training.

**T20 - A JUDGE'S EXPECTATIONS**

*Judge Anthony Capizzi, Montgomery County*

Join the discussion and gain a better understanding of the factors that judicial officers consider most important to decision making. While every courtroom is different, and each judicial officer will have personal preferences, there are core competencies that help CASA Volunteers improve courtroom presentations and avoid common mistakes in reports and requests. Enhance your courtroom and report skills in just one session!

**T21 - CHILD LABOR TRAFFICKING**

*Emily Dunlap and Grace Tellez, Advocating Opportunity*

This interactive workshop will define labor trafficking and explain where labor trafficking is commonly found in Ohio. Through case studies, participants will learn about the ways we make children vulnerable to human trafficking and how to spot red flags for labor trafficking and exploitation. This session will provide participants basic trauma-informed interviewing techniques utilizing a culturally humble, labor rights lens.

**T22 - SCARCITY OF RESOURCES**

*John Wilson, Greene County Career Center*

Remember waiting until the last minute in school to finish a project or study for a big test? Ever wait until the last minute and not be able to turn in your best work? What you experienced is a poverty of time. Research shows that your brain changes when you are in any kind of poverty but the decision making process is the same. In this session you will learn about what is actually going on in your brain and use this knowledge when helping yourself or others.

**T23 - ANYONE CAN SLAY A DRAGON: DOING IT  
ALL OVER AGAIN**

*Kim Kehl, Kehl Partnership Group LLC*

**(REPEAT SESSION FROM T06)****T24 - OHIO START: SOBRIETY, TREATMENT, AND  
REDUCING TRAUMA**

*Marla Himmeger & Fawn Gadel, Ohio START*

Ohio START is an evidence-informed children services-led intervention model that improves outcomes for both parents and children affected by child maltreatment and parental substance abuse disorders. This session will discuss the essential components of Ohio START and strategies used to engage parents, as well as the value of family peer mentors. Additionally, gain added perspective from START participants.

**T25 - FAMILY SEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT IN  
OHIO AND HOW CASA VOLUNTEERS CAN BE  
ALLIES**

*Rick Dencer, Kinnect*

This workshop will explore family search and engagement in Ohio seen through the eyes of the 30 Days to Family Program. Research shows children have better outcomes when they are able to be placed with family and when time in foster care can be reduced. This session will examine some of those outcomes, as well as the laws relevant to family search and engagement efforts. Participants can expect to explore their role in being an advocate for the children they serve and what they can do to help.

**T26 - SUPPORTING OLDER YOUTH WITH FOSTER  
CARE EXPERIENCE 101**

*Jana Pearce, Laurie Valentine, Nashawn Lariviere & Talia Holmes, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services*

This workshop will offer a high-level overview of Ohio's programming available to older youth in foster care and supports like Ohio's Bridges program available to young adults that have emancipated from foster care. Participants will learn how to access resources for the youth they represent, the importance of these supports and how to engage them in self advocacy.

## T27 - DEAR LEADERS - YES, YOU!

*Corey Best, Mining for Gold LLC*

As a leader, you sit at a unique intersection - bridging communities, families, staff, and levels of influence within the system. You hold power over families in this system - a system that incentivizes separating families over strengthening them. This dynamic makes it difficult to build relationships that are respectful, transparent, and non-tokenizing with families. Building these relationships requires time, a shared foundation of trust, and new ways of thinking that are in direct conflict with the purpose and culture of our current system. But by sharing power with families, the system changes.

## WEDNESDAY PLENARY

### **THE POWER OF BEING GOOD ENOUGH -- A JOURNEY WITH RACE AND RACIAL JUSTICE!**

*Corey Best, Mining for Gold LLC*

Learn about the adaptive value of investing in hope. Co-creating safe, strong, and supported communities is achieved through mutual respect, cultural/racial humility, shifts in practices and the fundamental belief that all voices embody the collective experiences that will ensure we live up to the vision we have for child and community welfare.

During the conversation, Corey will uncover meaningful examples of what it takes to live the value of belonging, racial justice, self-awareness, and reciprocity. He believes that the protective factors are magical ingredients that elevate systems and family partnerships.

Throughout this experience, you will witness the joy of authenticity and the transformative power of what occurs when we focus on what's strong and invest in hope.

## WEDNESDAY | 10:15 - 11:45 AM

### **W01 - RESILIENT LEADERSHIP: BUILDING STAFF BOUNCE!**

*Marla Himmeger, LSW*

By understanding the connections between nurturing resilience in children and families, and nurturing resilience in staff, you can learn how to better identify staff stress/risk and how it impacts professional performance. Leaders can gain knowledge as to what staff needs can be met to promote resilience in themselves and the families they serve. This training will also assist leaders in nurturing their own resilience. **(For CASA Directors and staff)**

### **W02 - CREATING THE SOUNDTRACK TO YOUR LIFE**

*Adrian McLemore, The 220 Experience*

"Music can change the world because it can change people." -U2 ...But can it change systems?

"Music has succeeded where politics and religion have failed." -Run DMC ... If these statements are true, then music has the capacity to improve the foster care system.

This fun and highly interactive conversation engages and encourages participants to envision how the power of music can be utilized to advocate for and connect with youth through its collective and universal impact on all of our lives.

### **W03 - WHAT THE HECK IS BEST INTEREST, ANYWAY?**

*Judge David Hejmanowski, Delaware County Juvenile Court*

Where does the best interest requirement in abuse, neglect, and dependency cases come from? What factors go into making it? What happens if a court fails to make that finding? These questions, and more, will be answered in this thrill-a-minute session that will have more twists and turns than a week's worth of Law & Order episodes.

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## **W04 - THE IMPORTANCE OF SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS**

*Deanna Prezioso, Trumbull County Children Services*

Studies have shown that sibling relationships can provide positive support and improved outcomes for children, but often families involved in child welfare find siblings placed in different placements for a variety of reasons. This workshop will help participants better understand the importance of sibling relationships for these children, as well as the barriers to keeping siblings in the child welfare system connected.

## **W05 - ADVANCED TRAUMA CARE: TRAUMA & BUILDING RESILIENCE**

*Carly Mesnick, Mesnick Counseling and Consultation  
Courtney Dobson, The Buckeye Ranch  
Laura Gaines, Individual Solutions  
Stefanie Lynn Coe, JD, CASA Volunteer, CASA of Franklin County*

Hear from experts in the field about how trauma and adverse childhood experiences affect physical, mental, and social development. Learn about strategies that build resiliency with trauma and specific resources and interventions in the local community. This session will examine childhood/familial trauma as well as secondary trauma that can build in those who work with children who have experienced trauma.

## **W06 - EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY: THE IMPORTANCE OF IEPs**

*Carla Guenther, Hamilton County Juvenile Court  
Stephanie Moes, Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio*

Children in foster care are 2.5 to 3.5 times more likely to receive special education services than their peers not in foster care. Child welfare professionals can help increase academic success for students in foster care by being informed advocates at IEP meetings. This workshop will ensure that participants are knowledgeable about IEPs and have the tools necessary to advocate for children in foster care throughout the special education process.

## **W07 - UNPACKING THE “NO”: EFFECTIVELY ENGAGING YOUTH IN PERMANENCY DISCUSSIONS**

*Melinda Haggerty, Esq. & Quinn Dybdahl, Esq., Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption*

It's critical for CASA Volunteers to discuss permanency options with youth in care to give a voice in decision making and to achieve positive outcomes that provide

long-term support. Explore why youth are hesitant to consider permanency and understand the process for effectively engaging youth in discussions about their future. Examine how the obligations imposed by a CASA Volunteer's role to make best interest recommendations to the court impact how to approach these discussions, and discuss legal barriers that can develop.

## **W08 - EVIDENCE-BASED COMMUNICATION WITH CHILDREN**

*Jenny Stotts, Athens County CASA*

**(REPEAT SESSION FROM T08)**

## **W09 - YOUTH-CENTERED SERVICE: A PANEL DISCUSSION**

*Ohio REACH*

A youth panel made up of peer mentors will be discussing barriers they faced by living in foster care. Our goal is to provide real life experiences and feedback on needs of youth today to better inform how CASA Volunteers continue to approach the work they do. In this discussion, CASA Volunteers will be able to ask questions and learn more about how they can work to be better advocates for the youth that they serve.



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SPONSORS



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

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OHIO CASA'S DEEP APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO THE PRESENTERS WHO HAVE DONATED THEIR PROFESSIONAL TIME AND EXPERIENCE ON BEHALF OF OHIO'S ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN, AND TO THESE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT THAT ALLOWS OHIO CASA TO OFFER A FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR MORE THAN 2,400 VOLUNTEERS.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD, AND PLATINUM LEVELS. EMAIL [KGILBERT@OHIOCASA.ORG](mailto:KGILBERT@OHIOCASA.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE 26TH ANNUAL CELEBRATE KIDS! CONFERENCE:

**HYATT REGENCY COLUMBUS**  
**350 N High St, Columbus, OH 43215**  
**(614) 463-1234**

**Register by September 10th: [ohiocasa.org/celebratekidsconference](https://ohiocasa.org/celebratekidsconference)**

