The New York Foundling’s
Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection

Proudly Presents

Doing What Works: Effective Mental Health Services in Child Welfare and for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Date & Time
Monday, December 13, 2021
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM ET

Location
New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge
333 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Keynote Presentation
The Past, Present, and Future of Mental Health and Child Welfare in America

Marilyn B. Benoit, M.D.
Past Chief Medical/Chief Clinical Officer and Senior Vice President of Clinical and Professional Affairs of Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health (2011-2018). Georgetown University Medical School, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry
The New York Foundling

At The New York Foundling, we trust in the power and potential of people, and we deliberately invest in proven practices. From bold beginnings in 1869, our New York-based nonprofit has supported hundreds of thousands of our neighbors on their own paths to stability, strength, and independence.

The New York Foundling’s internationally-recognized set of social services are both proven and practical. We help children and families navigate through and beyond foster care. We assist families struggling with conflict and poverty to grow strong. We help individuals with developmental disabilities live their best lives, and we help children and families access quality health and mental health services—core to building lifelong resilience and wellbeing.

The Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection

Founded in 1997, the mission of the Fontana Center is to prevent child maltreatment and promote the well-being of children through advocacy, professional development, public education, research and partnering with other organizations and national leaders.
Program: December 13, 2021

Eastern Standard Time
8:30 am- 9:00 am
Registration

9:00am - 9:15am
Welcome: Bill Baccaglini, CEO and President, The New York Foundling

9:15am - 10:15am
Keynote Presentation: The Past, Present, and Future of Mental Health and Child Welfare in America
Presenter: Marilyn B. Benoit, M.D.

10:15am - 10:30am: Break

10:30am - 12:00pm
Morning Workshops (please choose one workshop using the registration form below)

A. The Truth About Racism and Child Maltreatment
This workshop will address the dynamic interplay between racism and child maltreatment and the pernicious effects on children and families. Relevant concepts and frameworks for dismantling racism and potential recommendations for intervention will be explored. The learning objectives are recognizing how a history of racism has created disparities in child maltreatment, other forms of trauma, and the child welfare system. Another objective is to recognize the role of bias in child welfare practices and policies. Lastly, participants will be able to describe systems-level interventions needed to reduce disparities and transform care.

Presenter: Ernestine Briggs-King, Ph.D.

B. From Mellaril to Clozaril and a Few Stops in Between
This presentation will review the 1972 Wyatt vs. Stickney case and the generation of the developmentally-disabled assistance and bill of rights, human rights committees and the embedding of psychiatric treatment within behavioral intervention regulations. Then Dr. Kessler will review studies of diagnostic overshadowing, the rise of modern psychopharmacology, the change in April 2013 in 14 NYCRR 633.16 and the use of clozapine for aggression. The later point will be illustrated with case examples and theories of action.

Presenter: Richard J. Kessler, D.O.

C. Challenges and Opportunities in Providing Teletherapy to Traumatized Children: A National Survey of Clinicians
In this workshop the presenters will describe results of a recent national survey of 250 mental health providers offering teletherapy with traumatized children. The results reveal a number of important ways in which clinicians found teletherapy to be advantageous for their child, clients and caregivers. However, there were also perceived challenges and several areas where clinicians had not received sufficient, if any training. The workshop will provide practical recommendations for improving the quality of mental health treatment provided to traumatized children remotely.

Presenters: Melinda Konigsberg, Psy.D & Amy J.L. Baker, Ph.D.
D. **Ubuntu: Moving Toward Racial Equity through Universal Humanity and the Therapeutic Alliance**

The therapeutic alliance is the sacred cornerstone upon which treatment thrives. Unique challenges arise when there are cross-cultural barriers. Through emphasis on our shared interconnectedness as people and in recognition of the unique potential of individuals, it is very possible to overcome those barriers. In this workshop, Drs. Akeem Marsh and Jennifer Cabrera discuss effective strategies that clinicians can utilize to engage with patients and families of diverse backgrounds. Themes to be explored are impostor syndrome, model minority, guilt, and the journey of awakening.

**Presenters:** Akeem Marsh, M.D. & Jennifer Cabrera, M.D.

E. **The Role of the Trauma Narrative in Trauma-Focused Therapy: Is the Trauma Narrative Necessary?**

This workshop will be co-presented by two trainers, each with expertise in two different evidence-based trauma-focused psychotherapies, Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD (CPT) and Trauma-Focused-CBT (TF-CBT). The presenters will provide an overview of each model and research to support its use, describe the ways trauma processing occurs and the role of the trauma narrative in these treatment models, and reflect on the question of whether the trauma narrative is necessary when conducting trauma-focused therapy. The workshop will also include a moderated discussion between the presenters.

**Presenters:** Wendy Bassett, LCSW-R and Carrie Epstein, LCSW-R

**Moderator:** Shelly Burke, LMHC

**12:00 pm - 1:30 pm:** Lunch (Attendees will receive a $20 stipend for lunch)

**1:30pm- 3:00pm**

Afternoon Workshops (Please choose one workshop using the registration form below)

*Afternoon workshops will be the same as the morning workshops*

**3:00pm-3:30pm**

**Closing Session: The Do’s and Don’ts of Self-Care: Setting the Stage for a Healthy 2022!**

The demands and stressors on child welfare professionals are always fierce, and more so during the pandemic. Developing and maintaining a regular self-care practice is important in supporting overall wellness, stamina, and managing stress. This session will cover recognizing stress symptoms, how the brain responds to stress, recognizing adaptive versus maladaptive coping strategies, creating a self-care plan and the importance of maintaining it during, and after, the pandemic. Do’s and Don’ts for staying fit, sound sleep and social media/news intake will be explored.

**Presenter:** Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D.
Speaker Bios

Amy J. L. Baker, Ph.D., is Director of Research at Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection of The New York Foundling. She earned her doctorate in Developmental Psychology from Teachers College of Columbia University in 1989. Dr. Baker is the author or co-author of over 100 articles and 8 books, including "Research Methods in Child Welfare" (Columbia University Press). Areas of research expertise include parent-child attachment, early intervention, parent involvement, mental health of youth, and child welfare.

Gwendolyn (Wendy) Bassett, MSW, LCSW-R, is a psychotherapist and consultant with a private practice in New York City. She specializes in working with adults who seek recovery from the aftereffects of trauma. Wendy has expertise with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD); brief, evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapies for PTSD with individuals, groups, and couples; and veteran post-deployment mental health. In addition to her clinical work, Wendy is a Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for PTSD trainer and consultant. She has been involved in numerous CPT dissemination projects, training mental health clinicians and trainees throughout the U.S, Canada, and the U.K.

Marilyn B. Benoit, M.D., is the past Chief Medical/Chief Clinical Officer and Senior Vice President of Clinical and Professional Affairs of Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health (2011-2018). She attended Georgetown University Medical School, where she is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry. She holds a graduate degree in Health Services, Management & Policy from The George Washington University School of Public Health. Dr. Benoit’s career spans academia, where she provided decades of training to medical students, residents and fellows, and served as Interim Chair of the Department of Child Psychiatry at Children’s National Hospital, Washington, DC.

Ernestine Briggs-King, Ph.D., serves as the Director of the Data and Evaluation Program for the UCLA-Duke National Center for Child Traumatic Stress and the Director of Research for the Center for Child and Family Health. She is a clinical/community psychologist and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and the Behavioral Science, Duke University School of Medicine. Dr. Briggs-King’s professional expertise focuses on implementation, dissemination, and evaluation of evidence-based treatments; child traumatic stress; resiliency; mental health disparities, quality improvement, and increasing access to care for underserved youth/adolescents.

Shelly Burke, LMHC, is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in New York who specializes in providing evidence-based therapy for children, adolescents, and adults who are experiencing symptoms of posttraumatic stress. Shelly started at the New York Foundling in 2017. She is currently acting as the Cognitive Processing Therapy supervisor and as the Program Director for the Phoenix Project, a youth sex trafficking intervention and prevention program. Shelly is nationally certified in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and is a nationally rostered Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) provider. Shelly is also a certified facilitator of HIP Teens, a group intervention specifically targeting building healthy relationships and improving the health and psychosocial potential of participants around their own sexual health and decision-making.

Jennifer Cabrera, M.D., has focused her career on advocacy and caring for children, teens, young adults, and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. She is board certified in both General and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Cabrera has presented nationally and internationally, and co-authored multiple chapters on topics examining the impact of complex trauma on systems-involved youth. She began her post-graduate career at The Nicholas Scoppetta Children’s Center, serving as Medical Director for the ACS Bellevue Mental Health Service. During this time, she maintained clinical affiliation with Bellevue Hospital Center and academic appointment with the NYU Grossman School of Medicine.
Carrie Epstein, LCSW-R, is Co-Director of the Yale Center for Traumatic Stress and Recovery and Assistant Professor at the Yale Child Study Center at the Yale University School of Medicine. For the past 30 years, Ms. Epstein has been providing treatment, supervision and consultation on providing mental health treatment and on developing new programs for children and families impacted by trauma and traumatic grief. She is recognized both nationally and internationally as an expert in the field of child trauma, child traumatic grief and disaster response. One of the original Principle Investigators of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), Ms. Epstein has responded to multiple school shootings and other mass casualty disasters across the country, including playing a lead role in the New York City response following September 11th, as well as a lead role in Yale’s response to the shooting in Sandy Hook Elementary School, providing ongoing training and consultation to mental health professionals, school administration, teachers, staff and families.

Richard J. Kessler, D.O., completed a psychiatric residency at the Long Island Jewish Hillside Medical Center and received a certificate in psychoanalytic medicine from the Psychoanalytic Institute at New York University Medical Center. He served for 25 years as the Chief Medical Officer of Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, as the Director of Behavioral Health at the Westchester Institute for Human Development, and as the MR/DD representative to the Consortium on Treatment Services of the American Psychiatric Association. At present, Dr. Kessler is the Medical Director of the Sipuk Mental Health Clinic in Brooklyn and the Co-Editor of the multidisciplinary journal, *Neuropsychoanalysis*.

Melinda Konigsberg, Psy.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist and the Senior Vice President of Mental Health and Medical Services at Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York. In addition to streamlining the mental health and medical departments for foster care, therapeutic and residential programs, she also oversees Health Homes, Home and Community Based Services, and Children and Family Treatment and Support Services. She is committed to health equity and ensuring children and youth receive the highest quality trauma-informed, evidence-based care to improve access to services for children and their families, which has resulted in better health outcomes.

Akeem Marsh, M.D., has dedicated his career to working with children and families of medically neglected communities. He currently serves as the Assistant Medical Director of The New York Foundling’s Home of Integrated Behavioral Health and as a member of the Verywell Mind Review Board. Dr. Marsh is board certified in both General and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Marsh is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a distinguished fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). He currently maintains an academic appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine, has presented nationally and internationally and is also the co-editor of forthcoming book “Not Just Bad Kids: The Adversity and Disruptive Behavior Link.”

Mary L. Pulido, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the first child protection agency in the world. She has held senior management positions at the Child Protection Center of Montefiore Medical Center (a Child Advocacy Center), the Children’s Village, and at Covenant House/Under 21. Dr. Pulido’s protocol for crisis debriefing following child fatality and critical incidents is utilized throughout the New York City Child Protective Services system. Dr. Pulido is a member of the Medical Reserve Corps of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She serves on the National Board of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and is President of the NYS Chapter of the APSAC Board and is Chair of their Public Policy Committee.
The New York Foundling's 2021 Annual Professional Conference
Registration

Name:
Title:
Agency/Organization:
E-Mail Address:

CEU Credits:      Y        N
If yes, license type:  
If yes, license number:

WORKSHOP CHOICES
Please choose one workshop for the morning and one workshop for the afternoon.

Morning Workshops:
___A. The Truth About Racism and Child Maltreatment
___B. From Mellaril to Clozaril and a Few Stops in Between
___C. Challenges and Opportunities in Providing Teletherapy to Traumatized Children: A National Survey of Clinicians
___D. Ubuntu: Moving Toward Racial Equity through Universal Humanity and the Therapeutic Alliance
___E. The Role of the Trauma Narrative in Trauma-Focused Therapy: Is the Trauma Narrative Necessary?

Afternoon Workshops:
___A. The Truth About Racism and Child Maltreatment
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Covid-19 Safety Protocol
New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge and the New York Foundling will require all attendees to be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination before entering the conference. Masks will be strongly encouraged at all times. We will make every effort to keep the conference socially distanced.

Pricing
General Admission: $25.00
Please submit payment here:  https://www.eventbrite.com/e/190566488497

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children members (APSAC): Free
Please email FontanaCenter@nyfoundling.org confirming you are an APSAC member

New York Foundling Staff: Free
Please email FontanaCenter@nyfoundling.org from your New York Foundling email

The New York Foundling is a provider of social work, mental health, and psychology continuing education credits for LMSW’s, LCSW’s, mental health counselors, and psychologists by the New York State Education Department. Participants will receive 4.5 continuing education credits.

Please fill out this page only and send to FontanaCenter@nyfoundling.org. Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email within 5 business days.