

PPAL 2021 Virtual Conference

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Morning Workshops

NATHAN DOTY, Ph. D. & BRIAN WILLOUGHBY, Ph. D.

"You Can't Make Me Go!" Assessment & Treatment of School Avoidance in Children and Adolescents

One of the most significant predictors of school refusal is non-attendance. In these unprecedented times, students returning from pandemic-related disruptions are at particular risk for school avoidance or refusal. Understanding the factors which contribute to and perpetuate school avoidance will be crucial in facilitating and supporting the return to in-person learning. This presentation, designed for parents and educators, provides a comprehensive overview of the facts around school refusal, as well as practical strategies and tips for addressing patterns of non-attendance.



MAILE MUNSON, L.I.C.S.W.

Introduction to Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS)

Maile's presentation provides an overview of the Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS) model, including the key themes, use of the assessment instrument, and collaborative problem solving. CPS, a non-punitive, non-adversarial and trauma-informed model of care, was first developed by Dr. Ross Greene and is described in his books, including *The Explosive Child*, *Lost at School*, *Lost & Found*, and *Raising Human Beings*.



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**JUDY GIOVANGELO, Founder and President
of “Ben Speaks”**

The Power of Choice

The Power of Choice presentation delivers an inspirational message of hope and positivity, combined with practical strategies and tools to reduce stress and increase resiliency. Her approach to wellness is holistic, incorporating positive channels of expression, empowerment, education and mindfulness.



**AMY WEINSTOCK, Director, Autism
Insurance Resource Center,
University of Massachusetts Medical
School**

*Insurance Coverage for Behavioral
Services*

This workshop will focus on insurance coverage for behavioral services, and will provide specifics around navigating systems for benefits. Specific topics to be covered include: the new Behavioral Health for Children & Adolescents (BHCA) program; determination of eligibility and coverage; effects of BHCA on Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative and educational services; and how MassHealth can support children in families covered by private insurance.



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CHRISTOPHER BELLONCI, M.D.

What do you want from a post-pandemic world for children with behavioral health needs? Now is the time for ACTION!

This presentation will focus on the widespread effects of the pandemic on children with behavioral health needs. Dr. Bellonci will review and discuss the current data, its implications, and emerging trends, and discuss how to mobilize a collective movement toward a culture which meets the needs of children and families.



ROBERT KINSCHERFF, Ph. D., J.D.

When Behavior & Law Meet: Guidance for Youth and Families Encountering the Juvenile Justice System

Youth with behavioral health challenges are at statistically elevated risk of interaction with law enforcement. As a consequence, they can become entangled in the juvenile justice system, which is frequently ill equipped to address behavioral health conditions. This presentation describes a “sequential intercept” model, identifying points where youth may be diverted from unwarranted juvenile justice system involvement. Tactical guidance and knowledge will be offered for each “intercept point,” to include expectations of the juvenile justice process, and opportunities and strategies to avoid criminalization of actions resulting from behavioral health conditions.



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LIZA HIRSCH, J.D.

Making the Leap: Legal protections for students with emotional and behavioral needs returning to school "in-person."

This workshop will supply information on the rights of students with behavioral and emotional needs when returning to school "in person", based upon current special education law, as well as regulations and guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The presentation will cover basic special education and school discipline rights in the context of COVID-19, and will include tips and strategies to assist parents in navigating their child's return to "in person" learning.



CHRISTINE MARIE FREY

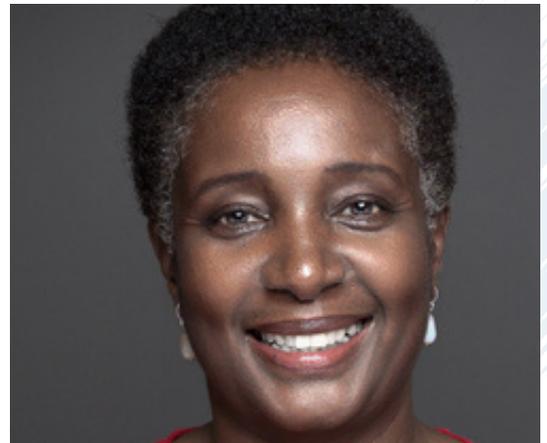
Brain XP' s System of H.O.P.E

Christine will share a young person's journey through mental health challenges, and the experience of overcoming existing stigmas and attitudes of peers and administrators. Christine teaches Brain XP's System of H.O.P.E. throughout this journey, which results in a unique approach to surviving the daily trials of being a young person in today's world. Brain XP creates an optimistic route to a calmer mind, well-being, and may lessen risk of suicide.

DR. GLENDA CLARE

Adversity is NOT Destiny: Intergenerational Grandfamily Peer Support

This workshop will educate the audience about the grandfamily and its roots, causes and needs. Almost 3,000,000 children in America live with a grandparent. Adversity is not destiny; when grandfamilies are supported, children can thrive.



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SAMANTHA SAMUELS, B.S., C.L.C.

Getting Rid of Mental Health Stigma in the Caribbean Community

Stigma around mental illness is prevalent in the Caribbean community, resulting in individuals remaining undiagnosed and untreated. This workshop will provide solutions to overcome stigma and to support the mental health needs of Caribbean children and families.



DEBORAH REIDY, M. ED.

Having Awkward Conversations with Ease

This practical workshop addresses the challenge of having difficult conversations. Identifying just what makes the conversation awkward, and its importance are the first steps! Deborah will share a proven approach to prepare for the discussion, and will walk the audience through the steps.