

## Sunday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>

**Welcoming Address** 12:15p - 1:00p

**Concurrent Sessions** 1:15 - 2:45p

**A. Dept. Of Education Homeless Program** – Laveme Dunn

**Overview:** This session will familiarize the audience with important homeless education concepts by describing programs and activities that links children, youth and families experiencing homelessness to essential services.

**B. “What’s Good About Foster Care?”** – Carmen Spooner

**Overview:** Young adults that aged out of the foster care system share their experiences, and the positive impact being a part of the system had on their lives and their current successes. This discussion will be facilitated by a departmental professional and advocate for older youth in foster care.

**C. “Fostering Hope”**- Diana LaSalla

**Overview:** Following the simple childhood motto of “See a need, Fill a need”, this group of foster/adoptive parents share their vision of community activism and passion for the plight of other foster/adoptive parents and the lack of resources available to them in these economic times. FPX is a newly founded non-profit organization whose goal is to assist foster/adoptive parents and the children placed in their homes through additional training and supportive services.

**Concurrent Sessions** 3:00 - 4:30p

**D. Advocacy 101** – David Sharp, NFPA Policy Chair

**Overview:** This session will take you on a fun trip down Advocacy Avenue with a fellow foster parent. David Sharp has been there and back, and is already planning his next trip. You will learn the ABCs of Training on Advocacy at the local level with a snapshot at what is going on at the National level.

**E. What’s Cultural Got to Do with it?** - Patsy Johnson, LCSW

**Overview:** This presentation will focus on promoting cultural insight, and finding ways to broaden your knowledge, enhance your skills and help you view diversity as strength.

**F. LAAB Presentation** – Patrick Morris, Catholic Charities

**Overview:** LA Adoption Advisory Board will explore CHANGES through the eyes of triad members; adult adopted people, a birth parent, and an adoptive parent.

## “DINNER ON YOUR OWN”

Free Breakfast for registered hotel guests each day of the conference-----6:00 – 8:00 am

## Monday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

**Concurrent Sessions** 8:15a - 9:45a

**G. Coordinated Systems of Care** – Jody Levison-Johnson

**Overview:** Systems of care work is about collaboration to facilitate the change necessary to that all systems, services and people who work on behalf of children and families are committed to a common set of values and are actively engaged in activities that move their policies, procedures and actions into alignment with them.

**H. National Alliance on Mental Illness** - Shari Rich

**Overview**– Understanding NAMI services and supports to foster parents.

**I. IEP Boot Camp Part 1** – Mary Jacob & Cindy Arceneaux

**Overview:** If your child qualifies for special education, you need Boot Camp! Why? IEP Boot Camp is a place where everybody gets the same basic instruction and information. You will learn to be a part of developing your child’s educational program, know what services to ask for, and learn how to ask with confidence for the services your children need.

**Concurrent Sessions** 10:00 - 11:30a

**J. Psychopharmacology, The Good, Bad & Ugly in the Foster Care System** – Dr Victoria Witt, Ph.D., MD

**Overview:** A review of medications, interactions, diagnoses, and the critical importance of psychotherapy/counseling in conjunction with treatment by medication and its impact on children and youth in the foster care system.

**K. Dynamics of Poverty** – Dick Stonich & Janet Simmons

**Overview:** Understanding the impact of poverty on individuals, families and society.

**L. IEP Boot Camp Part 2** – Mary Jacob & Cindy Arceneaux

**Overview:** Part 2 of session H

**LUNCH** 12:00 – 1:15p

Rob Carlise, LPC Keynote Speaker

**Concurrent Sessions** 1:30 - 3:00p

**M. NAMI: Changing Minds. Changing Lives Part 1**

Teri Brister, PhD, LPC & Colleen Falconer

**Overview** – NAMI Basics is a “mental illness 101” for parents and caregivers of a youth and adolescents diagnosed with a mental illness or behavioral issues. The session will explore symptoms, medications, and communication strategies in accessing mental and behavioral health services for children and youth. A question/answer period is included.

**N. Educational Laws & Rights** – Melissa Losch

**Overview** – Information about educational laws & rights affecting children with disabilities in school with an emphasis on discipline and educational matters that are unique to children in the foster care system.

**Concurrent Sessions (cont’d)** 1:30p-3:00p

**O. Darkness to Light Pt 1** – Debbie Richardson

**Overview:** A revolutionary sexual abuse prevention training that educates adults to prevent, recognizes, and react responsibly to child abuse.

**Concurrent Sessions** 3:15p - 4:45p

**P. “Bullying”** – Darryl W. Bruno, LCSW, ACSW, BACS

**Overview:** Bullying flourishes when we do nothing – Don’t be a part of the Silent Majority. Participants will gain a better insight into the world of Bullying by looking at the different types of bullying, roles people play in bullying and how to intervene in bullying.

**Q. NAMI: Changing Minds. Changing Lives Part 2**

**Overview:** Refer to “M”. - Teri Brister, Ph.D., LPC & Colleen Falconer

**R. Darkness to Light Part 2: Overview:** Refer to “O”.

Debbie Richardson

**Awards Banquet-----6:00p - 9:00p**

Sen. Mary Landrieu

Invited Keynote

Kent Gonsoulin

Cajun Comedian

Tramaine Lee-Lewis

A Tribute to Nancy Miller

(Gospel Recording Artist)

## Tuesday Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>

Annual Membership Meeting-----8:15a - 11:00a

DCFS State of the State---Evelyn Jenkins, Child Welfare Administrator

**Last Sessions** 11:15a - 12:45p

**S. Foster Parents & the Courts** – Mark Harris

**Overview:** A forum for foster parents to voice their concerns and have their voices heard by a representative of the LA Supreme Court.

**T. Defensive Parenting** – Peggy Kirby/Carrie Hicks

**Overview:** Foster parenting and Adoption can be a wonderful experience, but sometimes you need a little help. Be prepared for an investigation by understanding the policies and procedures of the agency.

**U. What you don’t know about LGBTQ-** Jacqueline Wilson & Dennis Lomonaco

**Overview:** This training will provide resources and tools to understanding the special needs of LGBTQ youth.

Class Schedule subject to change without notice.