

# ConnectionsCount!

Family Focus Professional Development Conference



Presented by Family & Youth  
March 13 & 14, 2007



Children's  
Justice Act



# ConnectionsCount!

## Connections Count! Family Focus Professional Development Conference

Two-day conference to build the competency of professionals and practitioners working with individuals, children, youth, and families. Conference provides a forum for learning, networking, and discussing subjects relevant to one's work with individuals and families.

## Conference Tracks

Workshops for the conference are divided into four tracks. All conference participants are welcome to attend workshops of their choosing. Workshops cover four general themes:

- Track 1**—Excellent Professional Practice
- Track 2**—Effective Partnership for Children and Families
- Track 3**—Executive Leadership Development
- Track 4**—Added Value

## L'Auberge du Lac

L'Auberge du Lac Casino and Golf Resort in Lake Charles will be the site of the conference. A block of overnight rooms has been made available for Monday, March 12, and Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at a reduced rate of \$79. Rooms are saved until Feb. 10, 2007, call 337-395-7777 for reservations and use the code SFFP.

**Directions from West of Lake Charles:** I-10 East. Merge right onto the I-210 Loop at Exit #25. Go over the I-210 E bridge. Take the Nelson Road Exit #4. Turn left onto Nelson Road and follow the signs into L'Auberge du Lac.

**Directions from East of Lake Charles:** Take I-10 West to Lake Charles. Merge onto the I-210 Loop. Take Exit #4 at Nelson Road. Turn right onto Nelson Road and follow the signs into L'Auberge du Lac.



## Registration Fee

Registration fee for the Connections Count! Family Focus Professional Development Conference is \$200. Early bird registration fee is \$180, before Feb. 27, 2007. Fee covers two lunches, snacks during breaks, and workshops.

A limited number of partial scholarships are available for Children's Advocacy Center Team Members, CASA volunteers, school counselors, teachers and childcare staff. Participants must call Roxanne Camara at 337-436-9533 to apply for a scholarship before sending in the registration form.

Discount of 20% will be given to Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) members, United Way agency staff members, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families members, and university students.

## Continuing Education Units

Family & Youth is recognized by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) to offer continuing education for licensed counselors. We adhere to NBCC Continuing Education Guidelines. Participants can refer to our website, [www.fyca.org](http://www.fyca.org) for number of CEUs offered at the conference. NBCC certification will be mailed to each participant who submits appropriate documentation.



## Certificates of Attendance

Certificates of attendance for all participants will be available at the conclusion of the conference.



# Conference Highlights

## Tuesday's Keynote Speaker: Sherece West

### Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation

Sherece Y. West is the chief executive officer of the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation (LDRF), established by Governor Blanco in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. LDRF provides resources for relief, recovery and betterment of Louisiana's people and communities. The goal is a better, more equitable Louisiana that offers all people the opportunity to fully participate in its economy and society.



Ms. West holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Maryland. She has a background in affordable housing and community development. She has worked in Washington D.C., New York City, and Baltimore. Formerly of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, she came to Louisiana as president and CEO of the Carrier Foundation in June of 2005. She joined LDRF in February 2006.

## Featured Speaker:

### Allison L. Turkel

#### National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse

Allison L. Turkel is the Senior Attorney/Chief of Training for the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse. Prior to that she served as a prosecutor for eleven years. For nine and a half of those years she was an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. She also was an Assistant State's Attorney in predominantly rural McLean County, Illinois. Prior to becoming a prosecutor, Ms. Turkel was a police officer for eight years in Pennsylvania. She has extensive experience in a variety of criminal justice areas and has trained police officers, prosecutors, social workers, medical personnel, and other professionals. Ms. Turkel's duties at the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse include providing training and assistance to prosecutors and other professionals across the country concerning the investigation and prosecution of child abuse, neglect and exploitation cases.

## Wednesday's Keynote Speaker: Suzy Sonnier

### Tulane University School of Medicine's Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

Suzy Sonnier is a member of the faculty at the Tulane University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. Through her work with Tulane she is focused on promoting sound children's policy and efforts in humanitarian recovery and emotional well-being.



Ms. Sonnier is the former Director of Service Coordination for the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps. She has also served as the Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet and the Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission within the Office of the Governor. As an advisor to the governor she worked on issues such as early childhood systems development, access to primary and behavioral healthcare, education accountability, and juvenile justice reform.

Ms. Sonnier received a Bachelor of the Arts in Communications from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Louisiana State University.

*"Excellent presentations, excellent professionalism, and great networking."*

*"Very informative and fast-moving...Well put together programs."*

*"Great speakers and a great variety of topics."*

*"Excellent professional development opportunity. Thank you very much!"*

— participant comments,  
2006 Family Focus Conference

**Tuesday, March 13, 2007**

## **REGISTRATION**

8:15 a.m.

## **WELCOME**

8:30 to 8:45 a.m.

## **SESSION I**

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

### **Maternal Depression: The Impact on Children—Track 1**

**Jean Valliere, LCSW, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center**

This presentation will cover the latest research on maternal depression, with an emphasis on the impact of maternal depression on infants and children. **NBCC approved.**

### **Prosecuting Cases With Developmentally Delayed Victims or Witnesses—Track 2**

**Allison L. Turkel, Senior Attorney/Chief of Training, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse**

People who are developmentally delayed have a 5 times greater risk of being sexually victimized. There are many misconceptions and fallacies about people with developmental delays. These myths will be shattered as we discuss the actual developmental and linguistic characteristics of people with mental retardation. Strategies for properly investigating and prosecuting cases with these victims and witnesses will be addressed. **NBCC approved.**

### **Managing for Success: Seven Strategies That Matter Most—Track 3**

**Candis Carr, EdD, LPC, CEAP  
Associate Executive Director, Family & Youth**

Recall the best manager you ever worked for. Chances are he or she excelled at turning your talent into performance. Do you know the best ways to create that result? Join Candis as she zeroes in on seven strategies that guarantee great managing and peak performance every time they are applied. Whether you are an employee, manager, or CEO, this presentation is for you. **NBCC approved.**

### **Making the Connection: What is Sensory Integration Dysfunction and How Does it Drive a Client's Behavior—Track 4**

**Freddie Ann Regan, Physical Therapist,  
Partners in Physical Therapy**

The more you understand about a problem, the easier it is to solve. Understanding the principles of sensory processing will open a window to new understanding of why some clients react without thinking, can't seem to organize themselves to complete a task, have difficulty attending, and become aggressive or "zone out." No matter what the diagnosis, sensory processing disorder can significantly impact behavior. This session will also give you resources and practical activities to help client's control arousal levels.

## **BREAK**

10:30 to 10:45 a.m.

## **SESSION II**

10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

### **Breakthroughs & Innovations: Translating Cutting Edge Research into Cutting Edge Results—Track 1**

**Shelly Visconte, MA, LPC, LMFT, Clinical Research Assistant at LSU Shreveport Psychopharmacology and Neurocognitive Research Clinic**

Great for professionals wanting to stay abreast of the latest research developments in their field and learn to better utilize research findings. **NBCC approved.**

### **Juvenile Sex Offenders—Track 2**

**Allison L. Turkel, Senior Attorney/Chief of Training, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse**

When the sex offender is a child, the system and society have difficulty sorting out the complex issues involved. Due to these complexities and the fluid ever changing nature of the juvenile justice system, there is usually a lack of consensus on how to adequately handle juvenile sex offenders. As result, police and prosecutors have difficulty deciding how to appropriately investigate and prosecute these offenders. Investigation and legal issues particular to juvenile offenders will be addressed in this workshop. Prosecutorial and investigative tactics will be offered that reflect the unique nature of juvenile sex offending. **NBCC approved.**

### **Transformational Giving: A Conversation—Track 3**

**Robert Piper, Executive Administrator  
Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, *Invited*  
Rev. John H. Vaughn, Program Director,  
The Twenty-First Century Foundation, *Invited***

Transformational giving changes lives, institutions and communities. This session will explore the basics of transformational giving to support long term impact of the nonprofit sector and mission driven work. See website, [www.fyca.org](http://www.fyca.org), for additional information.

### **Rita Recovery 2007—Track 4**

**Bill Williams, MA, LPC, LMFT, Family & Youth**

Participants will discuss and learn more about the status of recovery in Southwest Louisiana, including as it relates to mental health and case management. Information about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other emotional/mental health issues will be addressed. For those most affected, how will we know when life is really better? Join us to learn more. **NBCC approved.**

## **LUNCH**

12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

**Keynote Speaker: Sherece West, CEO of Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation. NBCC approved.**

## **SESSION III**

1:15 to 2:45 p.m.

### **Being Ethical Involves More Than Behaviors: A Wholistic Conceptualization, Part I—Track 1**

**Wm. Eddie Parish, Jr., PhD, LMFT, LPC,  
Parish Hermitage, Inc.**

We live and work in a culture that draws linear distinctions and then punctuates these distinctions. These distinctions then become the point of emphasis in the ethical and therapeutic realm. As psychotherapists in contemplating ethical concerns we need to consider how and why of making distinctions and then follow through to the realm of punctuating the distinctions. **NBCC approved.**

## Defending Against Memory and Suggestibility and Other Attacks—Track 2

**Allison L. Turkel, Senior Attorney/Chief of Training, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse**

The basis of the defense case is often that the child has been improperly interviewed. These “experts” regularly cite research studies that support their theory that a child is not worthy of being believed because of his or her age or the quality of the interview. Participants at this lecture will be introduced to both historical and current studies in the area of child memory and suggestibility. Participants at this lecture will learn how to defend against such baseless allegations. Prosecutors, investigators, forensic interviewers, or any professional involved in the child abuse case will benefit from gaining an understanding of memory and suggestibility research. **NBCC approved.**

## A Legislative Forecast—Track 3

**Michelle Bellinger, MA, Political Management, President, Prism Solutions, LLC**

**Lynda Gavioli, Executive Director of the Children’s Coalition of North East Louisiana**

**Steven P. Thibodeaux, Contracts Consultant, Office of Community Services**

Discuss upcoming legislative session. Senator Willie Mount and Representative Chuck Kleckley have been invited to join the session.

## The Connection Challenge—Track 4

**Helen Page, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Dev.**

**Jimmy Meaux, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Dev.**

**Lanette Hebert, Regional Coordinator, 4-H Youth Dev.**

**Shannan Waits, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Dev.**

**Hilton Waits, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Dev.**

Building interpersonal relationships within groups can be challenging for group leaders. This seminar will give participants tools they can use when working with groups to build interpersonal relationship skills, communication and decision making skills, and teamwork.

### **BREAK**

2:45 to 3:00 p.m.

### **SESSION IV**

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

## Being Ethical Involves More Than Behaviors: A Wholistic Conceptualization, Part II—Track 1

**Wm. Eddie Parish, Jr., PhD, LMFT, LPC, Parish Hermitage, Inc.**

We live and work in a culture that draws linear distinctions and then punctuates these distinctions. These distinctions then become the point of emphasis in the ethical and therapeutic realm. As psychotherapists in contemplating ethical concerns we need to consider how and why of making distinctions and then follow through to the realm of punctuating the distinctions. **NBCC approved.**

## Investigating and Prosecuting Authority Figure Cases—Track 2

**Allison L. Turkel, Senior Attorney/Chief of Training, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse**

When children are sexually abused they are often hesitant to disclose for numerous and complex reasons. However, when the abuser is a respected, well known and/or powerful member of the community the pressures on these children are magnified. In this session we will discuss the dynamics of some of these abusers and cover some strategies for investigating and prosecuting these nefarious offenders. **NBCC approved.**

## Mission-Based Marketing for Public Recognition—Track 3

**Kerry Andersen, Manager of Community & Public Relations, L’Auberge du Lac**

**Carol Collins, Director of Public Relations, ConocoPhillips**

**David Martin, Owner, Video Creations and Productions**

Learn from the experts about public relations and marketing, and the tools to get it all accomplished.

## Introduction to the Most Commonly Abused Drugs—Track 4

**Sgt. Detective Robert Broussard, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff’s Office**

Learn about the most commonly used and abused drugs in the area, and how to identify and recognize the drugs and their effects on abusers.

For conference updates, visit

[www.fyc a.org](http://www.fyc a.org)

## Quick Overview of Conference Schedule

### **Tuesday, March 13, 2007**

**Registration** 8:15 a.m.

**Welcome** 8:30 to 8:45 a.m.

**Session I** 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

**Break** 10:30 to 10:45 a.m.

**Session II** 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

**Lunch** 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

**Session III** 1:15 to 2:45 p.m.

**Break** 2:45 to 3:00 p.m.

**Session IV** 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, March 14, 2007**

**Registration** 8:15 to 8:45 a.m.

**Session I** 8:45 to 10:15 a.m.

**Break** 10:15 to 10:30 a.m.

**Session II** 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Lunch** 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

**Session III** 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

## REGISTRATION

8:15 to 8:45 a.m.

## SESSION I

8:45 to 10:15 a.m.

### Emotional Freedom Techniques—Track 1

**Jim Boudreaux, LCSW, Private Practitioner**

An introduction to Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT), including the "discovery," philosophy, uses and benefits of this method. The experiential nature of the workshop allows for active participation of attendees. Speaker presents EFT as particularly useful in addressing addictions, phobias, and PTSD, and reports benefits to clients without their having to relive previous traumas. **NBCC approved.**

### Effective Treatment of Sex Offenders...Does it Exist?—Track 2

**Sam Armer, MSW, Professional Counseling Specialties, Inc., Owner**

Discuss different treatment models for sex offenders and what research states is most effective. The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) standards will be presented. Discuss societal concerns and the new C.R.O.W. program. **NBCC approved.**

### Trends and Developments in Louisiana Law that Affect the Family—Track 4

**James D. Cain, Jr., Attorney, Loftin, Cain, Gabb & LeBlanc**

Overview of legal trends and developments in Louisiana relating to community property, marriage contracts, prenuptial agreements and Louisiana's new covenant marriage laws. An overview of wills, including living wills, as well as a discussion of Louisiana forced heirship law. Will also discuss rules dealing with entitlement to alimony and reimbursement for educational expenses. **NBCC approved.**

## BREAK

10:15 to 10:30 a.m.

## SESSION II

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### How to Dodge the Bullet in Court — Track 1

**Terri Theaux, EdS, LPC, The Psychology Clinic**

How to prepare to testify as an expert witness including strategies for bullet proofing yourself as well as your "expert" opinion. Specific guidelines for presenting yourself as an "expert witness" will also be explored. **NBCC approved.**

### Internet Safety: A Guide for Parents, Grandparents, & Teachers—Track 2

**Toby J. Aguillard, Assistant Attorney General with Louisiana Department of Justice**

This program will introduce the audience to the dangers the Internet poses to Louisiana's children.

### Building Customer Relations through Emotional Intelligence—Track 4

**Mike Gootee, MA, LPC, LMFT, Private Practitioner in New Orleans and Lafayette**

"Emotional Intelligence" is the awareness of one's emotions, the emotions of others, and their impact on relationships. Attention to the emotional dimensions of interactions help create positive relational experiences.

Tools for developing positive emotional experiences will be discussed, including understanding complaints as "Gifts from our customers." **NBCC approved.**

## LUNCH

12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

**Keynote Speaker: Suzy Sonnier, Tulane University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health**

## SESSION III

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

### Body Blues: A Weighty Epidemic—Track 1

**Danielle R. Caraway, MA, LPC, LMFT, Family & Youth**

Tired of being told what is beautiful, handsome, or attractive? Maybe it's time to define your own reality! Today's fast-paced lifestyle makes it easy to choose unhealthy foods. At the same time, images in magazines, movies, and television promote an unrealistic, perfect body shape. To add to the problem, childhood obesity is consistently on the rise. How does one wade through all the conflicting messages? Begin to see yourself and your world differently! Join us for an innovative and interactive seminar that explores options and alternatives for healthier living. **NBCC approved.**

### Guess What Happened at School Today: A look at Extreme School Violence—Track 2

**Ron Wells, PhD, Professor at Louisiana State University**

Extreme school violence has shaken the hearts and souls of the American public for the last two decades. However, few scholars or researchers have looked at the offenders as victims of a changing social structure. This presentation is presented as a forum for considering the basic human needs and desires that may be absent from offenders who attempt or complete Columbine-type events. **NBCC approved.**

### Wellness Experience—Track 4

**GiGi Teeter, Director, GiGi's Fitness Center**

**Samantha Rider, LDN, RD, CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital**

Confused about exercise and nutrition? You will come away with the motivation you need to become a better you. Start with a straight forward guide to healthy nutrition from vitamins and minerals to salt and fat. Learn what the recommendations are for each and how to incorporate it into your daily life. Also discover the facts about exercise and nutrition. All the answers are within you!

# Registration Form

Pre-registration with Payment Required

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (Registrations will be confirmed by e-mail only.)

**Registration Fee for the Conference is \$200.** Limited number of *partial* scholarships are available for school counselors, teachers, and childcare staff. Please call Roxanne at 337-436-9533 to qualify for a scholarship. Make checks payable to: Family & Youth.

I have enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 for registration  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$180 for Early bird registration before Feb. 27, 2007  
\_\_\_\_\_ Discounted registration  
\_\_\_\_\_ Discounted Early bird registration before Feb. 27, 2007

I qualify for a scholarship. \_\_\_\_\_

I qualify for a 20% discount:

\_\_\_\_\_ LANO member \_\_\_\_\_ United Way agency staff member  
\_\_\_\_\_ Louisiana Partnership member \_\_\_\_\_ University Student

## Please check which workshops you plan to attend:

(For scheduling purposes; does not guarantee availability)

### Tuesday, March 13, 2007

#### **SESSION I (Choose One) 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maternal Depression: The Impact on Children— Track 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prosecuting Cases with Developmentally Delayed Victims or Witnesses— Track 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ Managing for Success: Seven Strategies That Matter Most—Track 3
- \_\_\_\_\_ Making the Connection: What is Sensory Integration Dysfunction and How Does it Drive a Clients Behavior— Track 4

#### **SESSION II (Choose One) 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Breakthroughs & Innovations: Translating Cutting Edge Research into Cutting Edge Results— Tracks 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Juvenile Sex Offenders— Track 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transformational Giving: A Conversation—Track 3
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rita Recovery 2007—Track 4

#### **SESSION III (Choose One) 1:15 to 2:45 p.m.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Being Ethical Involves More Than Behaviors: A Wholistic Conceptualization, Part I — Track 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Defending Against Memory and Suggestibility and Other Attacks— Track 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ A Legislative Forecast—Track 3
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Connection Challenge — Track 4

#### **SESSION IV (Choose One) 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Being Ethical Involves More Than Behaviors: A Wholistic Conceptualization, Part II — Track 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Investigating and Prosecuting Authority Figure Cases— Track 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mission-Based Marketing for Public Recognition—Track 3
- \_\_\_\_\_ Introduction to the Most Commonly Abused Drugs — Track 4

### Wednesday, March 14, 2007

#### **SESSION I (Choose One) 8:45 to 10:15 a.m.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Emotional Freedom Techniques— Track 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Treatment of Sex Offenders...Does it Exist?— Track 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trends and Developments in Louisiana Law that Affect the Family— Track 4

#### **SESSION II (Choose One) 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ How to Dodge the Bullet in Court— Track 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Internet Safety: A Guide for Parents, Grandparents, & Teachers— Track 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ Building Customer Relations through Emotional Intelligence—Track 4

#### **SESSION III (Choose One) 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Body Blues: A *Weighty* Epidemic— Track 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Guess What Happened at School Today: A look at Extreme School Violence— Track 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wellness Experience — Track 4

### **For more information**

[www.fyca.org](http://www.fyca.org)

Roxanne Camara at 337-436-9533,  
e-mail [roxanne@fyca.org](mailto:roxanne@fyca.org).

### **Conference Director:**

Candis J. Carr, EdD, LPC, LMFT, CEAP,  
e-mail [candis@fyca.org](mailto:candis@fyca.org).



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