



NEWS RELEASE

Family & Youth Hosts 14th Annual Connections Count! Professional Development Conference

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Family & Youth Counseling Agency (Family & Youth) is proud to host the 14th annual *Connections Count! Professional Development Conference* on Feb. 16 and 17, 2012, at L'Auberge Casino Resort in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

The goal of the conference is for professionals and practitioners from all over Louisiana to connect as they expand, enhance, and share knowledge, expertise, and "know how" about state of the art services for children, youth, and families.

Registration is now available online at www.fyca.org. Continuing education credits are available for professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, addiction specialists, and social workers.

The Keynote Speaker is Jody Levison-Johnson, MSW. She is the Director of the Coordinated System of Care for the State of Louisiana, where she is leading the statewide effort to advance system of care values and practices across child-serving systems. Jonathan J. Orr, Ph.D., a Clinical Assistant Professor at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, will also share his passion and expertise in group work on Day Two of the conference.

Event sponsors are the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, the Louisiana Children's Justice Act and L'Auberge Casino Resort.

Other featured speakers include Dan Sosnowski, M.S., a Senior Instructor for Stan Walters & Associates who specializes in Practical Kinesic Interview & Interrogation; Harrell W. Woodson, Ph.D., Director of the HOPE Adult Program at the Menninger Clinic and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Baylor College of Medicine; Doris Monterroso, M.A., training coordinator for Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) in Los Angeles, California; James M. Anderson, M.D. board certified in psychiatry and forensic psychiatry; and Gary G. Gintner, Ph.D., LPC, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator for the counseling program at Louisiana State University.



Some of the workshop topics are grief, autism, post-traumatic stress disorder, counseling ethics, couple counseling, interviewing techniques, human trafficking and more.

Family & Youth, a United Way Agency, believes that all individuals possess the ability to solve their own challenges and live full and healthy lives when support is available. It is the mission of Family & Youth to provide affordable and professional support through programs and services dedicated to the advocacy, counseling, and education for the people of Southwest Louisiana. Our effort and commitment to building family values will guarantee a stable and stronger community. For more information about Family & Youth visit www.fyca.org, call 337 436-9533, or like Family & Youth on Facebook.

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