

2/16/10

Upcoming child welfare, residential treatment conference offers expert keynote speakers

Presentations to cover youth development, behavioral challenges, and redefined treatment



(Alliance E-News Service) —

During the first-ever joint conference between the Alliance's National Leadership Conference on Child Welfare Issues (NLCCWI) and the American Association of Children's Residential Centers (AACRC), attendees will have the opportunity to hear from child development experts during three exceptional keynote presentations.

The joint conference, Celebrating Our Roots, Nurturing Our Future, will take place April 27-30 in the greater Boston area.

Trauma, Brain Development, and Self-Regulation

Wednesday, April 28 from 8:30 a.m.-noon

World-renowned expert in the field of traumatic stress, Bessel Van der Kolk, medical director and founder of The Trauma Center at Justice Resource Institute, will explore how chronic early trauma impacts child development on cognitive, psychological, interpersonal, and somatic levels. He will discuss how trauma can disrupt regulatory rhythms and shift the ways in which the brain processes and integrates information. Van der Kolk will also focus on the impact of developmental trauma and clinical implications for youth in care.

The Building Bridges Initiative: Advancing Partnerships between Youth, Families, and Residential and Community-based Providers

Thursday, April 29 from 8:30-11:45 a.m.

The Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) provides a framework to achieve positive outcomes for youth and families served in residential and community programs. BBI emphasizes collaboration and coordination between providers, families, youth, advocates, and policy makers. AACRC has been an integral partner in the creation and development of the initiative, which expressly identifies the importance of redefined residential treatment for youth who require out-of-home placement, as well as their families.

Register and Save

Registration specials are available for the joint conference between the Alliance's National Leadership Conference on Child Welfare Issues (NLCCWI) and the American Association of Children's Residential Centers ([AACRC](#)).

[Register](#) by April 1 to save \$35 with the early bird registration rate.

[Celebrating Our Roots, Nurturing Our Future](#) will take place April 27-30 in the greater Boston area.

Contact [Hillary Hanson](#), meeting planner at the Alliance, at 800-221-3726, ext. 6551, with questions.

During this session, Gary Blau, chief of the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and Beth Caldwell, chief consultant at Caldwell Management Associates; along with youth and family presenters, will provide an overview of BBI, including examples of its national implementation and BBI documents that highlight established and emerging best practices.

Treating Explosive Kids: The Collaborative Problem Solving Approach

Friday, April 30 from 8:30 a.m.-noon

J. Stuart Ablon, director of Think:Kids of the Department of Psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital, will describe the difficulties faced by children and adolescents—particularly those linked to behavioral challenges—as a byproduct of a lack of cognitive skills in the domains of flexibility or adaptability, frustration tolerance, and problem-solving. Ablon will also provide an overview of the innovative, evidenced-based approach discussed in the book, *Treating Explosive Kids: The Collaborative Problem Solving Approach*. He will focus on how the approach can be applied to residential treatment settings.

Questions?

Contact Hillary Hanson, meeting planner at the Alliance, at 800-221-3726, ext. 6551.