

2025 Family Strengthening and Support Training Institute Agenda

June 9-11, 2025

Monday, June 9, 2025

11:30am-5:00pm

Registration

Location: King Street Courtyard

11:30am-1:00pm

Welcome Break

Location: King Street Courtyard

1:00pm-3:00pm

Welcome and Opening Plenary Session: Parent-Child Interventions as a Buffer Against Toxic Stress

Brenda Jones Harden, PhD

Professor of Child and Family Welfare, School of Social Work, Columbia University

Location: King Street Ballroom

The experience of "toxic stress," or stress that comes from severe life challenges, has long-lasting effects on young children and their families. Young children are more likely to experience the worst form of "toxic stress" – child maltreatment. Early childhood programs that are two-generation and focus on supporting the parent-child relationship can protect children against the negative effects of "toxic stress." This presentation will describe toxic stress and the characteristics of programs that can reduce toxic stress and its outcomes by promoting positive parent-child relationships. In particular, the presentation will focus on strategies that can prevent maltreatment and address the consequences of trauma.

3:00pm-3:30pm

Break

Location: King Street Courtyard

3:30pm-4:45pm

Concurrent Workshops – 100 Series

Workshop 101

Creating Connection and Conflict Resolution

Audience: All

Location: King Street 2

In this workshop we will explore conflict styles which include different ways people respond to conflict. Understanding our own style, its origins, and our comfort level with styles different than our own can help us to gain awareness, change tactics, and gain empathy for styles different than our own. This is important because it can shift conflict dynamics that seem stuck or impossible. Next, we'll explore a framework for active listening called positions, interests, and needs. Understanding this simple yet effective framework can lead to improved listening and trust-building while helping partners and people we work with to feel seen and heard. It is also a powerful self-reflection tool and when used can simplify conflicts, allow you to identify yours and others needs without feeling pulled into an argument. These two tools together are both fun to learn about and eye opening and can expand your skill set for navigating communication and conflict in any relationship.

Objectives:

- Explore conflict styles, learn about ourselves and others, and recognize our areas of comfort and areas of growth

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- Understand positions, interests, and needs as it relates to active listening, conflict management, and understanding others
- Engage, practice, reflect, dive in, explore other perspectives, have fun, and set goals for expanding our conflict skills and our circle of comfort.
- Self/others-awareness leads to growth and this workshop creates space for this purpose

Amy Alfonso

Training Specialist, Mediation Matters

Workshop 102

Expanding Your Program's Reach: Working With Incarcerated Mothers

Audience: HFNY

Location: King Street 8

When you think of the populations that HFNY serves, do mothers behind bars come to mind? In our discussion we will share how we were introduced to the Essex County Correctional Facility as a supporting program. We will share strategies developed along the way as we navigated some challenges as well as the opportunity to build new partnerships for both our program and the family we served.

Objectives:

- How to support the staff who will be providing the services
- Building community relationships and helping bridge gaps
- Understanding how home visiting services could support incarcerated mothers and their babies

Melissa Conners, CLC

Supervisor Healthy Families North Country, BHSN

Rachel Estes, CLC

FSS, BHSN

Workshop 103

Build a Community Advisory Board (CAB) That Works for Your Program

Audience: HF Program Managers

Location: Fort Orange 5

Are you a Program that is struggling to build a CAB? Do you have low attendance to these important quarterly meetings? Are you looking for tips and takeaways on developing a dynamic CAB? Our presentation will help you understand the why and help you move into the how to. I bet that after you leave this session you will have at least one new CAB member to invite to your next meeting.

Objectives:

- Understanding why we need a CAB (BPS and HFNY P&P)
- Identifying new membership
- What do I need to share and how do I keep them engaged?

Holly Kipp, CLC, Car Seat Technician

Team Coordinator, Behavior Health Services North

Esther Piper, MA Ed, IMH-E

Program Manager of HFNY North Country, Behavioral Health Services North

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Workshop 104

Building Stronger Communication and Engagement Between Caregivers and Educators

Audience: All

Location: Fort Orange 7

This workshop helps early childhood educators improve communication with parents and caregivers. Participants will learn to build strong relationships, support children's learning, and use culturally responsive communication. They'll also receive resources, like a communication plan, to use in their classrooms.

Objectives:

- Recognize the importance of effective communication between educators and caregivers in early childhood education
- Learn strategies to build positive relationships with educators and caregivers
- Build cultural awareness within communication

Mariah King

Member Services Coordinator, Early Care and Learning Council

Workshop 105

The Child Care Assistance Program

Audience: All

Location: High Street 24

Over the past few years, the Office of Children and Family Services has made significant changes to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), formerly referred to as Child Care Subsidy. Join staff from the OCFS Division of Child Care Services to learn about how changes to eligibility and other program rules provide increased stability for families and programs.

Objectives:

- Provide an overview on CCAP and how families can access the child care assistance
- Provide initiatives geared towards reducing barriers for families and strengthening our child care system
- Provide a preview of what's coming next as NYS works to come into compliance with new federal rule

Erin Duffy

Children and Family Services Specialist 2, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Rebecca Higgins

Children and Family Services Specialist 2, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Emily Meyer, MPA

Associate Commissioner, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Workshop 106

Data-Driven Storytelling for Family Strengthening and Support Programs

Audience: Prevention Program Managers/Coordinators

Location: High street 26

In this workshop, attendees will learn how to use data to tell the stories of their Family Strengthening and Support programs and the powerful impact they have on families and communities. Designed for program managers and staff, this workshop will highlight strategies to identify, analyze, and present information in ways that will resonate with key audiences.

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Objectives:

- Learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- Describe three strategies for making sense of the information available to them
- Apply these strategies to the data sources they identified during the workshop to develop their own story

Kristen Kirkland, PhD, MSW

Assistant Director, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Performance Analytics, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Workshop 107

Roundtable on the Impact and Effect of Federal Perspectives and Policy Goals

Audience: All

Location: Town Hall

Join this workshop in a closed door discussion that will allow participants to voice their experience of the federal administration's changes on their work, their practice, and their selves. This roundtable will also model different methodologies for difficult conversations and will emphasize trust and safety.

Objectives:

- Participants learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- Provide a feedback loop for OCFS on what programs need in terms of support and resource
- Modeling how we can have these conversations with each other and in professional settings

Angelica Kang, JD

Chief DEIA Officer, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Workshop 108

Understanding Substance Use, and Implementing Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention Strategies

Audience: All

Location: Fort Orange 9

Attendees will learn current trends in overdose deaths, prevention strategies, and harm reduction practices. The workshop will identify how overdose prevention efforts can be implemented in all agencies and challenge personal and systematic biases. This workshop will also explore the science of substance use, the basics of overdose prevention, and naloxone, and implement these skills in daily practice.

Objectives:

- Participants learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- Learn how to recognize and respond to an overdose
- Define how harm reduction strategies can be implemented within daily practice

Jessica Sorbello, LCSW

Director of Overdose Prevention, New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports/Project COPE

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

8:00am – 5:00pm

Registration

Location: King Street Courtyard

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8:00am – 9:00am

Continental Breakfast

Location: King Street Courtyard

9:00am – 10:30am

Plenary Session: Strategies for Reaching Families

Dr. Rahil Briggs, PsyD, ZERO TO THREE

National Director, HealthySteps

Location: King Street Ballroom

Positive parenting and strong family connections help kids grow up healthy and happy. But with families lacking trust in public systems and facing more challenges, how can we adapt to connect them with important tools and aid? Based on research and experience, Dr. Briggs will share strategies to improve engagement with families.

10:30am – 11:00am

Break

Location: King Street Courtyard

11:00am – 12:15pm

Concurrent Workshops – 200 Series

Workshop 201

Child Welfare Protocol Expansion: What to Expect

Audience: HFNY and LDSS Staff

Location: High Street 26

HFNY is gradually implementing Child Welfare Protocol (CWP). We will share key evaluation results from the first year; so far, CWP-enrolled families are remarkably similar to the CPS-involved families already served. Building on this finding, we invite you to share your program's strategies for supporting CPS-involved families and maintaining productive relationships with Local Departments of Social Services.

Objectives:

- Know more about the families enrolling in HFNY through CWP
- Have an opportunity to discuss how they engage with and support families involved in child welfare services and how they maintain relationships with LDSS

Susan Ehrhard-Dietzel, PhD

Senior Research Scientist, Center for Human Services Research (CHSR), University of Albany

Moir Riley, PhD

Senior Research Scientist, Center for Human Services Research (CHSR), University of Albany

Workshop 202

Calm In the Storm: Practical De-Escalation Strategies for Family Engagement

Audience: All

Location: King Street 8

Are you a program that is struggling to navigate crisis scenarios or challenges with families displaying responses due to historical experiences? Are you curious about ways to better assist home visitors with navigating challenging behavior due to mental and/or behavior health concerns? Do you wish to know more about how to integrate de-escalation techniques with informed trauma care?

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Objectives:

- Learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- Identify key de-escalation techniques to assist families with building self-sufficiency with regulatory skills
- Learn how to implement TCIS strategies into escalated scenarios that will decrease maladaptive behaviors and increase rapport between FRSS and family

Dr. Keiley Pfeiffer, Doctorate of Education, Certified TCIS Trainer, C.A.G.S in Applied Behavior Analysis

Healthy Families Montgomery-Schoharie County Program Manager, ICAN

Workshop 203

Family Engagement

Audience: HFNY

Location: Fort Orange 7

This presentation will discuss engagement tools and approaches used in our program, from the first conversation to engagement visits, enrollment and the FROG conversation, and overall relationship building and retention for the duration that the family partners with the program. We will touch on how each of the program's "players" impacts the engagement process.

Objectives:

- Share guidance and tips on how to have effective conversations with families
- Ways to encourage initial engagement leading to a long term partnership
- Recognize how consistent, active engagement impacts long term outcomes on family well being

Stephanie Gillette, CLC, Car Seat Technician

Supervisor, Healthy Families Jefferson/Lewis/St. Lawrence

Workshop 204

HFNY Relationship Skills Laboratory #3: Digging Deeper Using the FROG Scale Within HFNY

Audience: HF Direct Service Staff

Location: Fort Orange 5

In this workshop, we offer a refresher of HFNY relationship-focused skills and approaches taught in HFNY Core and other trainings. After this brief didactic portion of the workshop, participants will spend their time using these skills while the trainer provides coaching and feedback. There will be an opportunity to share and debrief their successes and challenges. A resource "toolkit" will be provided.

Objectives:

- Participants learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- To provide opportunities to practice using these skills and approaches with peers, and to receive real-time feedback from trainers
- To learn from and share experiences with peers in their same role

Manouska Archer

Training and Staff Development, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

Ali Haufe

Training and Staff Development, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

Workshop 205

Effective Outreach and Program Marketing: Leveraging Digital Tools for Success

Audience: Program Prevention Managers

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Location: Fort Orange 9

In today's digital world, effective marketing, outreach, and social media strategies are crucial for organizations to thrive and engage with families. Whether you're just dabbling or looking to refine your approach, this session will empower you with the skills and knowledge to drive engagement, enhance visibility, and grow your audience.

Objectives:

- Develop Digital Marketing Strategies: Equip participants with the skills to create and implement effective marketing campaigns using tools like social media, email marketing, and content creation to reach and engage target audiences for outreach programs
- Enhance Audience Engagement and Community Building: Teach participants how to foster meaningful interactions with their audience through digital platforms, building an online community and increasing program visibility through targeted content and engagement
- Increase program referral rates as a result of the development of digital marketing strategies and online engagement

Ashley Greene, Certified NY START Coordinator

Director of Niagara County Programs, EPIC-Every Person Influences Children

Workshop 206

Roundtable on the Impact and Effect of Federal Perspectives and Policy Goals

Audience: All

Location: Town Hall

Join this workshop in a closed door discussion that will allow participants to voice their experience of the federal administration's changes on their work, their practice, and their selves. This roundtable will also model different methodologies for difficult conversations and will emphasize trust and safety.

Objectives:

- Participants learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- Provide a feedback loop for OCFS on what programs need in terms of support and resource
- Modeling how we can have these conversations with each other and in professional settings

Angelica Kang, JD

Chief DEIA Officer, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Workshop 207

Writing Strong Staff and Family Surveys: Best Practices, Field Examples, and Guided Application

Audience: All

Location: High Street 24

Staff and family surveys are an important part of program practice. We will discuss effective question writing, open-end response improvement, accessibility, distribution, and meaningful data use, through examples from the field. Attendees will put these ideas into practice by collectively workshopping items. We also invite you to bring your own surveys for small-group review and support!

Objectives:

- Understand the principles of effective survey development and design
- Apply these ideas in a review of example survey items
- Create clear and meaningful survey items that will inform program practice

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Nora Engelhard, MPH, CLC

Director of Family Programs, Dutchess County Healthy Families and PCHC of Ulster and Dutchess Counties, The Institute for Family Health

Amanda Rózsavölgyi, MS Ed

Research Scientist, Center for Human Services Research, University At Albany

Workshop 208

Why Creating Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) is a Strategy to Prevent ACEs

Audience: All

Location: King Street 2

Research on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) highlights their effects on well-being, but familial strengths that can mitigate ACEs are often neglected. Positive childhood experiences (PCEs) foster belonging and are linked to improved health in adulthood, acting as a buffer against ACEs. This presentation will focus on enhancing skills to promote PCEs and actions staff can take to support them.

Objectives:

- Participants will leave this presentation with skills to support children and families and promote positive childhood experiences and actions we can take to promote PCEs for children
- We will use quantitative and qualitative data to help explain the relationship between ACEs/PCEs and increase the knowledge of PCEs. The data will be presented inclusively so that the audience feels empowered and informed regardless of education level
- A component of PCEs is fostering environments and relationships where one feels empowered to celebrate one's culture openly. We must constantly examine our implicit and explicit biases around working families who may not be from our culture

Jessica Tanguay, MPH

Managing Director, Community Mobilization, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

12:15pm – 1:45pm

Lunch Buffet

Location: King Street Ballroom and King Street Courtyard

2:00pm – 3:15pm

Concurrent Workshops – 300 Series

Workshop 301

Help Me Grow Strengthens Young Children and Their Families Through Linkages and Systems Change

Audience: All

Location: Town Hall

Join us to gain an understanding of the Help Me Grow (HMG) in NY and how to partner to support families with young children (0-5) and strengthen early childhood systems. Learn how HMG aligns with the 5 Protective Factors. A panel presentation with representatives of the 5 HMG systems in NY will share successes, effectiveness data, and challenges as well as expansion plans to make HMG statewide.

Objectives:

- Learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- Learn how Help Me Grow can be essential partners with Healthy Families New York (HFNY) home visiting programs

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- Learn how Help Me Grow can assist obtaining age – appropriate developmental and social emotional screenings for young children

Elizabeth Isakson, MD, FAAP

Executive Director, Docs for Tots

Workshop 302

Supporting New American Families in New York State

Audience: All

Location: Fort Orange 7

Did you know 1 in 4 New Yorkers are new Americans? Join this workshop to learn about multilingual new Americans and how they contribute to NYS. Understand how to refer new American families to the NYS Office for New Americans (ONA) free programs including legal support, multilingual mental health counseling, and support for new Americans with disabilities through ONA's Ramirez June Initiative.

Objectives:

- Learn about new Americans and their contributions to New York State
- Know how to refer families to free services provided by the NYS Office for New Americans
- Learn strategies to provide support to multilingual and multicultural new American families

Cynthia Stewart, MS in Mental Health Counseling

Senior Program Manager – ONA Ramirez June Initiative, NYS Office for New Americans

Workshop 303

Increasing a Family-Centered Focus and Parent Engagement in Support and Service Programs – The NYS Early Intervention Program

Audience: All

Location: High Street 24

This workshop will give participants a short overview of the Early Intervention Program and focus on the New York State Bureau of Early Intervention's activities and efforts which have had success in increasing the level and frequency of family engagement and participation in the Program. Many of these activities are practical, low in cost to implement, and could be adapted and utilized by other service based and home visiting programs to increase family-centeredness, improve family engagement, and gather valuable input and feedback from the families served.

Objectives:

- Learn about the New York State Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers, Birth to their third birthday, and their families
- Learn how the New York State Early Intervention Program has focused on increasing the Program's family-centeredness and parent engagement
- Learn practical strategies for increasing family focused programming, which can be adapted and used by service delivery systems and home visiting programs to increase outreach and family engagement in their program

Karen Dwyer, MS in Speech Language Pathology

Technical Assistance and State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Unit Manager, New York State Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention

Workshop 304

Linking Children, Youth, and Families to Needed Resources

Audience: All

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Location: Fort Orange 9

OCFS invests in innovative practices to support families and youth who come in contact with the child welfare system. This presentation will inform participants on three initiatives; CarePortal, HEARS Family Line, and Bravehearts Heartline.

Objectives:

- Gain knowledge on CarePortal
- Gain knowledge on the HEARS Family Line
- Gain knowledge on Bravehearts Heartline

Tina Calacone

HEARS Manager, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Tonisha Fields

Case Supervisor A, Albany County Department for Children Youth and Families

Jessica Grimm

Director of Bravehearts Services, Bravehearts Move New York

Jeri Guidry

HEARS Manager, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Tenisha Hope

Program Manager, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Carolyn May

Family Policy Advisor, CWCS, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Molly McHale

Youth Local Assistance Program Specialist, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Steve Poissant

New York's Area Director, CarePortal

Kevin Young

Braveheart Heart Line Supervisor, Bravehearts Move New York

Workshop 305

HFNY Relationship Skills Laboratory #3: Digging Deeper Using the FROG Scale Within HFNY

Audience: HF Direct Service Staff

Location: Fort Orange 5

In this workshop, we offer a refresher of HFNY relationship-focused skills and approaches taught in HFNY Core and other trainings. After this brief didactic portion of the workshop, participants will spend their time using these skills while the trainer provides coaching and feedback. There will be an opportunity to share and debrief their successes and challenges. A resource "toolkit" will be provided.

Objectives:

- Learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support.

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- Provide opportunities to practice using these skills and approaches with peers, and to receive real-time feedback from trainers.
- Learn from and share experiences with peers in their same role.

Manouska Archer

Training and Staff Development, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

Ali Haufe

Training and Staff Development, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

Workshop 306

Supporting Your Team Through Reflective Practice

Audience: All

Location: High Street 26

This training is intended for supervisors interested in learning about the basics of reflective practice for professionals who work in the infant and early childhood field. This session will provide an overview of reflective practice in connection to reflective supervision/consultation, the benefits to professionals, and the development of reflective supervisory relationships.

Objectives:

- Learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- Learn practical ways that you can become more reflective in your supervisory relationships and practices
- Explore how the endorsement credential builds capacity for reflective supervision/consultation

Samantha Colson, MSW, MS, IMH-E

Executive Director, New York State Organization for Infant Mental Health

Workshop 307

Diving Into the Continuous Quality Improvement Process and Making Your Goals Bite-Sized

Audience: All

Location: King Street 8

The aim of this workshop is to review and prioritize the major elements of the CQI process so attendees know when they have successfully completed each step in the process. The workshop will then transition to a working project where attendees will be given dedicated time to select a large-scale issue they would like to address and break their goal down into small manageable CQI projects.

Objectives:

- Learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- Experience using Key Driver Diagrams to deconstruct large goals into small, manageable CQI project
- Have a set of small CQI projects that can be readily implemented

Walter Shelley, PhD

Research Scientist II, NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Workshop 308

From Fatigue to Compassion: Building Resilience With the Mental Health Mamas

Audience: All

Location: King Street 2

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While you may be quite familiar with the concept of Compassion Fatigue, have you considered the idea of Compassion Resilience? Compassion Resilience is the power to return to a position of empathy, strength and hope after the daily experience of whatever challenges we may face. This workshop is designed for any human being who is caring for others, personally or professionally.

Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of the Cycle of Compassion Fatigue
- Walk away with concrete wellness strategies to help with Compassion Fatigue and begin to build a Compassion Resilience toolbox
- Learn the benefits of a strength-based approach and positive partnership as they relate to overall wellness in the workplace as well as in their personal spaces

Tina Hallock, BA

Mental Health Mamas, LLC; University of Richmond

Serena Ward, MHM, EBE, MLE

Mental Health Mamas, Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County

3:15pm – 3:30pm

Break

Location: King Street Courtyard

3:30pm - 4:45pm

Plenary Session: Parent-Child Interaction through the Lens of Play and Generational Shifts in Parenting

Kimberly Kopko, PhD

Senior Extension Associate, Cornell University

Location: King Street Ballroom

Join this keynote and learn how beliefs about play, parenting styles, and generational changes influence parent-child interactions, toy selection, and child learning. You'll hear about related research, and how this can inform work to enhance family strengths.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

8:00am – 12:30pm

Registration

Location: King Street Courtyard

8:00am – 8:30am

Continental Breakfast

Location: King Street Courtyard

8:30am – 9:45am

Concurrent Workshops – 400 Series

Workshop 401

Empowering Ownership

Audience: All

Location: King Street 8

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This workshop emphasizes the importance of engaging families and youth as stakeholders. Key concepts include access, voice, ownership, and equal access. Participants will have an opportunity to engage in activities, discuss engagement strategies, and conduct readiness assessments. The goal is to ensure service effectiveness and transparency by incorporating families' unique perspectives.

Objectives:

- Learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- Identify and address unique needs of diverse families
- Learn how access, voice, and ownership assist in equitable solutions for better outcomes for families

Daphne Brown

Deputy Director, Families Together in New York State

Kim Kaiser, FPA-C

Director of Equity and Community Engagement, Families Together in New York State

Aqueelah Sumpter, FPA-C

Family Policy Advisor, Families Together in New York State

Kristen Viscardi, FPA-C

Family Policy Advisor, Families Together in New York State

Workshop 402

NYS Education Department: Resources from NYS Libraries, Public Broadcasting, and Early Learning

Audience: All

Location: High Street 24

This presentation from the New York State Education Department will provide information on free universal prekindergarten (for all eligible 4-year-olds), NYS public library and family resources, and state and national Public Broadcasting resources, such as shows and content. The presenters from this workshop are from the NYS Education Department's Office of Early Learning and Office of Cultural Education.

Objectives:

- Share public library resources for families
- Explain and share universal prekindergarten resources
- Share NYS and national Public Broadcasting resources

Lauren Moore

New York State Librarian, New York State Library

Jaqueline Stapleton

Director of Public Broadcasting, Office of Cultural Education (OCE) at the New York State Education Department

Erik Sweet, MA-Education

Executive Director Office of Early Learning, NYS Education Department

Workshop 403

HFNY Relationship Skills Laboratory #2: Keeping the Child at the Center of HFNY Visits and Using Reflective Strategies

Audience: HF Direct Service Staff

Location: King Street 4/6

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In this workshop, we offer a refresher of HFNY relationship-focused skills and approaches taught in HFNY Core and other trainings. After this brief didactic portion of the workshop, participants will spend their time using these skills while the trainer provides coaching and feedback. There will be an opportunity to share and debrief their successes and challenges. A resource "toolkit" will be provided.

Objectives:

- Learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- Provide opportunities to practice using these skills and approaches with peers, and to receive real-time feedback from trainers
- Learn from and share experiences with peers in their same role

Lisa Galatio

Training and Staff Development, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

Brigette Grant

Training and Staff Development, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

Workshop 404

HF MIS Review and Q&A

Audience: All

Location: Town Hall

HFNY MIS Users and the MIS Tech Support team will discuss the HF MIS application. The users of the MIS will share what works and what doesn't work for their team.

Objectives:

- Present an open forum to MIS users
- Provide clarification on various features of the MIS
- Continue to support and promote open communication between the MIS tech team and MIS users

Corinne Noble, BA, MA

Research Scientist, Center for Human Services Research (CHSR), University at Albany

Cori Robohn, AA

Technical Support Manager, Center for Human Services Research (CHSR), University at Albany

Ben Simmons, BS

Senior Programmer/Analyst, Center for Human Services Research

Workshop 405

Infant Mental Health is Everyone's Business

Audience: All

Location: King Street 2

Infant Mental Health involves promoting emotional and social wellbeing in young children from the prenatal period to five years of age through culturally responsive and relationship-based care. This care can include caregiver-child intervention or treatment to nurture the child's healthy development. The training deepens participants understanding of the theory and practice of Infant Mental Health.

Objectives:

- Learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support

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- Understand the impact early relationships have on healthy development
- Explore how early experiences shape brain development

Samantha Colson, MSW, MS, IMH-E

Executive Director, New York State Organization for Infant Mental Health

Workshop 406

Utilizing Children's Film to Propel Identification, Conversation, and Action Steps to Address Stress in Families

Audience: All

Location: High Street 26

Explore the use of children's films with home visitation professionals and program families. Clips from children's films will be shown with guided small group discussion to model how film can be used. The experience of using film will be examined as a group and connected to concepts such as parallel process, reframing strategies, difficult conversations, trauma processing, and parenting education.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate use of children's film as a tool to process trauma with children and families
- Encourage program leaders to use film for training/professional development purposes
- Encourage home visitation staff to use examples from films and/or film clips with parents/caregivers to model having conversation with their children about difficult situations
- Emphasize the parallel process that occurs

Leah Klehr, BSW, CASAC-T

Program Manager of Home Visitation Services, Society for the Protection and Care of Children

9:45am – 10:00am

Break

Location: King Street Courtyard

Concurrent Workshops – 500 Series

10:00am – 11:15am

Workshop 501

Building Affirming Practices for LGBTQIA+ Youth: Tools for Rural and Suburban Practitioners

Audience: All

Location: High Street 24

This workshop will equip rural and suburban practitioners with practical tools to affirm and support LGBTQIA+ youth. Learn evidence-based strategies to foster resilience and improve mental health outcomes.

Objectives:

- Develop empathy through discussion built to better understand the experiences of growing up LGBTQIA+
- Identify specific affirming and rejecting behaviors and their impacts using evidence from the Family Acceptance Project
- Understand the mental health and systemic effects of rejection versus affirmation for LGBTQIA+ youth, with a focus on non-urban environments

Nathaniel Gray, MSW

Executive Director, Pride Center of the Capital Region

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Workshop 502

HFNY Relationship Skills Laboratory #2: Keeping the Child at the Center of HFNY Visits and Using Reflective Strategies

Audience: HF Direct Service Staff

Location: King Street 4/6

In this workshop, we offer a refresher of HFNY relationship-focused skills and approaches taught in HFNY Core and other trainings. After this brief didactic portion of the workshop, participants will spend their time using these skills while the trainer provides coaching and feedback. There will be an opportunity to share and debrief their successes and challenges. A resource "toolkit" will be provided.

Objectives:

- Participants learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- To provide opportunities to practice using these skills and approaches with peers, and to receive real-time feedback from trainers
- To learn from and share experiences with peers in their same role

Lisa Galatio

Training and Staff Development, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

Brigette Grant

Training and Staff Development, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

Workshop 503

HFNY Relationship Skills Laboratory #1: Supporting Supervision of HFNY Staff

Audience: HF Program Supervisors

Location: King Street 8

In this workshop, we offer a refresher of HFNY relationship-focused skills and approaches taught in HFNY Core and other trainings. After this brief didactic portion of the workshop, participants will spend their time using these skills while the trainer provides coaching and feedback. There will be an opportunity to share and debrief their successes and challenges. A resource "toolkit" will be provided.

Objectives:

- Participants learn strategies to engage families, build trust, and create sustainable networks of support
- To provide opportunities to practice using these skills and approaches with peers, and to receive real-time feedback from trainers
- To learn from and share experiences with peers in their same role

Isabel DaSilva

Training and Staff Development, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

Samantha Fields

Training and Staff Development, Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCA-NY)

Workshop 504

Using MIS Reports to Enhance Supervision

Audience: HF Program Supervisors

Location: Town Hall

CHSR and some HFNY supervisors will discuss the use of different MIS reports that can assist in preparing for supervision. CHSR will provide information on how reports work, and how data can be used to tell a story. HFNY Supervisors will lead a discussion on favorite reports they use when preparing for supervision with staff and how they use the data to enhance their practice and support home visitors.

2025 Family Strengthening and Support Training Institute Agenda

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Objectives:

- Assist supervisors in the use of MIS reports that can improve everyday practice
- Review reports that might be infrequently used and create a graph to share
- Continue to provide support and promote open communication between the MIS tech team and MIS users

Stephanie Gillette, BS

Program Supervisor, Healthy Families Jefferson/Lewis/St. Lawrence

Corinne Noble, BA, MA

Research Scientist, Center for Human Services Research (CHSR), University at Albany

Cori Robohn, AA

Technical Support Manager, Center for Human Services Research (CHSR), University at Albany

Marlene Shiloh, AAS

Program Supervisor, Healthy Families Steuben/Livingston

Workshop 505

Healthy Families New York Time Study

Audience: HFNY

Location: High Street 26

To better understand the activities that take up home visitors' time and determine appropriate workloads, researchers undertook an HFNY time study with about 100 worker-participants. This session will review both the process and results of the study, and capture participant feedback on the results and their implications for program practice.

Objectives:

- Understand the background and purpose of the HFNY Time Study
- Understand the results of the Time Study
- Articulate how the results of the Time Study impact their work

Erin Berical, MS Ed

Assistant Director, Center for Human Services Research (CHSR), University at Albany

Moir Riley, PhD

Senior Research Scientist, Center for Human Services Research (CHSR), University at Albany

Workshop 506

Play Changes the Brain!

Audience: All

Location: King Street 2

This workshop is designed for professionals working with families experiencing or having a history of substance use disorder. It focuses on the crucial role of secure attachment in a child's development and how play rebuilds neuro pathways for adults and creates new ones for children. Walk away with strategies to cultivate joyful interactions through play while nurturing secure attachments!

Objectives:

- Understand the impact of secure and insecure attachment relationships on children's emotional and social development, particularly in the context of families affected by substance use disorder
- Equip professionals with the knowledge of how play rebuilds neuro pathways for adults and creates new ones for children, including recognizing protective factors

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- Explore attachment theory as a lifelong process and provide strategies for professionals to help families strengthen their attachment connections with their children through joyful interactions during play

Toree Peters, Certified Great Kids Trainer

Certified Great Kids Trainer, Great Kids, Inc.

11:15am – 11:30am

Break

Location: King Street Courtyard

11:30am – 12:30pm

Closing Plenary: Fathering Through Pain

Dr. Clinton Boyd, Jr., PhD

President and CEO, Passion Driven Solutions

Location: King Street Ballroom

Fathers carry their pain in silence, yet their strength speaks volumes. In this electrifying keynote, Dr. Clinton Boyd, Jr. unearths the untold stories of fathers who transform struggle into resilience, hardship into wisdom, and pain into purpose. With powerful storytelling and unapologetic truth, he dismantles misleading narratives, revealing fatherhood as a pathway to healing, self-transformation, and spiritual renewal. This keynote will challenge perspectives, stir the soul, and inspire a renewed commitment to empowering fathers to lead their families with clarity, conviction, and purpose.

12:30pm

Boxed Lunch

Location: King Street Courtyard