



2020 VIRTUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PREVENTION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020
9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

PRESENTED BY THE
MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

Welcome!

The Michigan Children's Trust Fund welcomes you to its first annual Virtual Statewide Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention: Stand Up for Kids! Tuesday, October 27, 2020. This one-day conference features national and Michigan experts who will address a range of topics in the field of child abuse prevention. In addition to featuring esteemed nationally recognized keynote speakers Dr. Melissa Merrick, CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America and the MDHHS Children's Services Administration Director JooYeun Chang, the following presentations topics will be offered by notable experts from around the state: family engagement, kinship care, a child's perspective on sex & trauma, fatherhood engagement, and ACEs during the pandemic.

Our conference goal is for the CTF Direct Services and Local Council child abuse and neglect prevention specialist community to enrich their professional knowledge and apply this crucial information to their important daily work.

The conference will be held on October 27th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EST) and will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. The virtual conference meeting link can be found [HERE](#).

We look forward to a great day of learning together!

CONFERENCE PRESENTED BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



CTF expresses deep appreciation and gratitude to the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) for their dedicated support and assistance in helping to make this conference a success.

Conference Agenda

9:00 A.M.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Suzanne Greenberg, Executive Director – The Children's Trust Fund of Michigan

9:15 A.M.

The Time for Prioritizing Prevention is NOW!

Dr. Melissa Merrick, President & CEO – Prevention Child Abuse America

9:45 A.M.

Addressing the Truth: The Impact that Family and Community Engagement has on a Child's Well-being

Toni Mallett, M.Ed., Family Engagement Specialist – Office of Great Start – Michigan Department of Education

MORNING BREAK

11:00 A.M.

The Future of Michigan's Child Welfare System: Prevention Focused, Safety Driven

Director JooYeun Chang, Senior Deputy Director

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Children's Services Agency

11:35 A.M.

Michigan's Kinship Navigator Program

Beth Lindley, Director – Kinship Care Resource Center

Tracey DeFeyter, Kinship Care Navigator – Kinship Care Resource Center

LUNCH BREAK - 12:30 P.M.

1:00 P.M.

Sexual Health and Wellness as a Means of Prevention: Infancy to Adolescence

Jessica Ross LPC, NCC, CCTP, CST – J.R. Counseling, LLC Sterling Heights, MI

1:50 P.M.

Collaboration Moves at the Speed of Trust: Authentic Father Engagement & Race Equity

Anthony Queen, Parent Practitioner

AFTERNOON BREAK

2:50 P.M.

Understanding and Addressing ACEs During a Pandemic: The Perfect Storm

Jodi Spicer, Adverse Childhood Experiences Consultant – Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

3:45 P.M.

Wrap-Up, Evaluation and Closing Remarks

Keynote Speakers

MELISSA T. MERRICK, PHD

PRESIDENT & CEO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA



Melissa T. Merrick, PhD, is President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America, the nation's oldest nonprofit organization dedicated to the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect. She has nearly 20 years of clinical, research, and leadership experience related to the etiology, course, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Previously, Dr. Merrick was a senior epidemiologist at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in Atlanta, and served on a detail in the Office of the Commissioner at the Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families. In partnership with the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Child Abuse and Neglect, she served as the lead scientist for the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study at CDC for 8 years. Dr. Merrick successfully leverages her clinical and research experiences to communicate and disseminate the critical public health importance of preventing early adversity to key stakeholders with diverse priorities, backgrounds, and knowledge, including legislators, business and civic leaders, and members of the academic and medical communities.

Dr. Merrick received her BA in psychology, magna cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania, and her master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from the San Diego State University/University of California, San Diego, joint doctoral program in clinical psychology, where she served as a program coordinator for the San Diego site of the Longitudinal Studies on Child Abuse and Neglect consortium. Dr. Merrick was a National Institutes of Health-funded postdoctoral fellow at the University of Miami Child Protection Team (CPT), where she was involved in a multi-site program of research that examined child maltreatment risk and protective factors in families evaluated by CPTs across the state of Florida.

Dr. Merrick is married and has two young children who keep her grounded, thankful, and hopeful for a brighter future for all children.



JOOYEUN CHANG

SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AGENCY MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jooyeun Chang is Senior Deputy Director for MDHHS's Children's Services Agency, where she oversees the state's child welfare system, including Children's Protective Services, the foster care system, adoption services and juvenile justice programs.

Prior to joining MDHHS in May 2019, Chang served as Managing Director at Casey Family Programs, the nation's largest operating foundation focused on improving the child welfare system. She has led work to identify, develop and disseminate information about the most promising best practices in child welfare.

She previously served as head of the Children's Bureau in the Administration of Children and Families; the Children's Bureau is the first federal agency to focus exclusively on improving the lives of children and families. There, she administered more than \$7 billion in federal programming to support national child protection, foster care, guardianship and adoption programs.

Chang earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from North Carolina State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Miami School of Law.

Presentation Descriptions

THE TIME FOR PRIORITIZING PREVENTION IS NOW!

DR. MELISSA MERRICK

PRESIDENT & CEO – PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA

This session will focus on the prevention of child abuse and neglect in the current times. Topics will include advocacy, research, community partners and resources, along with the comprehensive public health approach to the issue.

ADDRESSING THE TRUTH: THE IMPACT THAT FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HAS ON A CHILD'S WELL-BEING

TONI MALLETT

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST – OFFICE OF GREAT START
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Family and Community Engagement is the key to removing and reducing the likelihood of childhood abuse and neglect. Family and Community Engagement is the ultimate support to empowering children and families throughout the early childhood system. Through these supports, families will develop parental resilience, build social connections, concrete supports, and increase the impact of social and emotional competence in children. During this presentation, we will explore the best practices for preventing child abuse and neglect through the impactful, intentional, and effective use of Family & Community Engagement in education.

THE FUTURE OF MICHIGAN'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM: PREVENTION FOCUSED, SAFETY DRIVEN

JOOYEUN CHANG

**SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR – CHILDREN'S SERVICES AGENCY
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Director Chang will provide an overview of critical efforts intended to improve our child welfare system to bring hope to Michigan families. These efforts will cultivate solutions rooted in prevention and permanency with a lens of racial equity.

MICHIGAN'S KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

BETH LINDLEY, DIRECTOR – KINSHIP CARE RESOURCE CENTER

TRACEY DEFEYTER, KINSHIP CARE NAVIGATOR – KINSHIP CARE RESOURCE CENTER

This presentation will provide an overview of the Kinship Care Resource Center through the School of Social Work at Michigan State University. Participants will learn about the Kinship Care Navigator Program and the services provided. They will have an increased awareness of the needs and challenges that kinship families experience. Participants will leave the presentation with information on how to support kinship families and connect them to resources that will strengthen their ability to meet the needs of the children in their care.

Presentation Descriptions

SEXUAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS AS A MEANS OF PREVENTION: INFANCY TO ADOLESCENCE

JESSICA ROSS LPC, NCC, CCTP, CST
J.R. COUNSELING – LLC STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

This training will provide participants with a more nuanced and detailed understanding of the ways sexual health and abuse impact a child's emotional, psychological, and physical wellbeing and recovery. Participants will also learn how providers can best support those that experience sexual abuse and sexual health concerns by using an integrative biopsychosocial approach.

COLLABORATION MOVES AT THE SPEED OF TRUST: AUTHENTIC FATHER ENGAGEMENT & RACE EQUITY

ANTHONY QUEEN
PARENT PRACTITIONER

For early childhood systems to engage and empower fathers there must be a transformation at how systems recruit and retain fathers. Systems must take a hard look at agency policies, procedures, staffing and cultures for authentic male engagement. Racism and implicit bias play a major role in shaping and reinforcing inequitable outcomes for children and families. For race equity to occur, fathers must be included in their children's learning and development, and be seen as true partners, advocates, and leaders. Numerous studies indicate that father involvement lessen the risk of child abuse.

UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING ACEs DURING A PANDEMIC: THE PERFECT STORM

JODI SPICER
ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES CONSULTANT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Understanding and addressing ACEs are difficult for most (if not all) of us on any given day. Managing these traumatic experiences during a pandemic make it even more challenging. This session will discuss the intersection of individual trauma (ACEs) and collective trauma, and explore strategies for addressing ACEs in the context of a global pandemic. The importance of personal and provider self-care will also be discussed.



Presenters



TONI MALLET, M.Ed. **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST**

Antoinette "Toni" Mallett is an accomplished family and community engagement professional, serving as the Family Engagement Specialist for the Office of Great Start with Michigan's Department of Education. She is an outstanding performer in project management and community outreach within education. She has proven success in leadership, operational excellence, and organizational development, keenly understanding the elements of igniting family and community engagement in education. Toni is recognized for inspiring team members to excel in and encourages creative work environments.

As the family engagement manager with a locally and nationally known nonprofit early childhood agency, Toni managed family coaches and served families throughout Grand Rapids, MI. She was also employed with Grand Rapids Public Schools as a Family Support Specialist for children and families grades k-12. In addition to these roles, she was the site coordinator for T.E.A.M. 21's after school and summer program within the city of Wyoming, MI.

Toni has also served as a long-term substitute teacher and at-risk paraprofessional while attending her undergrad studies at Western Michigan University (W.M.U.). She obtained a bachelor of arts degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Social Work. Toni has also earned a master's art degree from Ashford University, specializing in Family and Community Services.

Currently, she is attending Abilene Christian University, where she is obtaining a doctor of education degree in Organizational Leadership, with a concentration in Positive Leadership. She is the Program Director & Facilitator for Ladies of Standard, providing mentorship and support to young adults. Toni is also the Vice-Chair of the board of Meaning in Colors, a nonprofit that serves individuals & families experiencing homelessness. Toni is a member of You Beautiful Black Women (Y.B.B.W.), with the W.M.U. Chapter. She is the mother of one son who is a freshman in college.



BETH LINDLEY **DIRECTOR – KINSHIP CARE RESOURCE CENTER**

Beth Lindley, MSW, has worked in the field of Aging for over 25 years and as a social work professional for the last 18 years, serving communities along the north shore of Chicago. Her interests have included advocating for adults as they age, understanding the systems that impact that process, and collaborating across systems with a goal of leveraging better supports for adults and community members. Beth views the Kinship Care Resource Center as an exciting opportunity to collaborate across systems in support of permanency and enhanced stability for children and their families.

From 2007 through August of 2020, Beth worked for the Village of Skokie Human Services Division as a Social Worker and in recent years served as director for the division. Beth and her team provided social service programming, advocacy and support for members of the community across the lifespan continuum.

Beth earned her Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan as a John A. Hartford Fellow. In recent years, Beth studied as a post-graduate with the Center for Family Consultation in Evanston to integrate Bowen Family Systems Theory into her leadership practice. She is interested in the way self-management has an impact on connection, change, adaptation and health for individuals, their families, relationships and the organizations they work with.

Beth and her husband Tory have raised three children into young adulthood. Her personal interests include family of origin research, creating mosaic art, reading, yoga and mindfulness.

Presenters



TRACEY DEFEYTER

KINSHIP CARE NAVIGATOR – KINSHIP CARE RESOURCE CENTER

Tracey DeFeyter is a Kinship Care Navigator for the Kinship Care Resource Center through the School of Social Work at Michigan State University. Tracey is a kinship caregiver and both a foster and adoptive parent. She is a direct descendant from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and spent nine years working in child welfare for her Tribe. She brings a wealth of knowledge and the hands-on experience of parenting children that have been impacted by trauma. Tracey is an advanced trainer in the Nurtured Heart Approach® and has taught this transformative, relationship-focused methodology throughout Michigan. Tracey is a strong promoter of kinship care and she understands the challenges that kinship families face.



JESSICA ROSS, LPC, NCC, CCTP, CST

J.R. COUNSELING, LLC – STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

Jessica Ross is a trained psychotherapist specializing in sexual functioning and trauma. She is a clinical consultant and limited license supervisor focusing on client engagement, clinical conceptualization, psychoeducation, and professional training. Jessica has over a decade of experience working with mental health across diverse populations and in various capacities in social service. For the past five years Jessica has been committed to community education, specifically targeting sexual health throughout the lifespan, human trafficking, long-term trauma implications in adulthood, attachment narratives, and coping in mental health. Currently she operates an integrated practice in Sterling Heights, MI, teaches locally, and presents at events across the country. Jessica is an advocate and proponent of making mental health care and sex education practical, accessible and accurate.



ANTHONY QUEEN

PARENT PRACTITIONER

Anthony Queen is dedicated to promoting the health and well being of African American and Latinx families from pregnancy through early childhood, and to eliminating racial disparities in birth outcomes. He is trained in Strengthening Families, Adaptive School Foundation, Inside/Out Dad's Initiative, Parent Ambassador Program and QI processes. He is a certified Parents Partnering for Change trainer. Mr. Queen specializes in going into underserved communities connecting parents (emphasis on Fathers) with services and supports that they don't even know exist, and improving those services through his learned experiences. He is a parent representative with three national organizations; CSSP - Center for the Study of Social Policy, CBCAP - Community Based Child Abuse Prevention, and ERH-Early Relational Health and has been a keynote and break-out speaker in the Early Childhood Continuum.



JODI SPICER

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACEs) CONSULTANT MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Jodi Spicer is the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Consultant in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Control. In that capacity, Jodi works with state and community partners to understand the linkages between ACEs and chronic disease, and provides support for programming that addresses ACEs and promotes resiliency. Prior to working at MDHHS, Jodi coordinated the Ingham Healthy Families Program at the Ingham Intermediate School District and the Building Strong Families Program at MSU Extension. Jodi brings over 25 years of experience in working with young children and families in Michigan. She earned her Bachelor's of Science degree in Psychology and Master's Degree in Child Development from Michigan State University.