

2024 YOUTH SERVICES CONFERENCE

# GROWING TOGETHER

MAY 7 THROUGH 9, 2024

# BY BUILDING PERSONAL CONNECTIONS



REGISTRATION WILL OPEN  
FEBRUARY 29, 2024  
REGISTRATION FEE  
IS \$100



WILDERNESS RESORT  
511 E ADAMS ST  
WISCONSIN DELLS, WI 53965

## QUESTIONS?



CONTACT KIM EITHUN AT  
KEITHUN@WISC.EDU

Virtual or  
in-person  
attendance

# Conference Information

The 2024 Wisconsin Youth Services Conference, sponsored by the Department of Children and Families, will feature national and local experts providing training, innovations, and evidence-based programs to support youth and their families. The conference will cover a variety of topics including supporting resiliency in youth and families, addressing needs of youth and families, connecting youth and families to resources, and supporting the workforce. Workshops will highlight best practices and provide tools and skill-building exercises. You will be able to attend in person or virtually.

**Tuesday, May 7** 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Wednesday, May 8** 8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
**Thursday, May 9** 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

**Wilderness Resort**  
**511 E. Adams Street**  
**Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965**

## Registration

Registration is available through this link:

<https://btnt.short.gy/2024YSConf>

There is a \$100.00 registration fee. Please indicate any dietary restrictions or special accommodations when you register. Registration closes on May 3, 2024.

There will be a virtual option for the plenary and workshop sessions.

## Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservations can be made at:  
1-800-867-9453. Please state you are with the  
WCWPDS - Youth Services Conference 2024 at  
Glacier Canyon Lodge, Leader #989992.

Please make your hotel reservations by  
**April 6, 2024**, to ensure you receive the  
discounted rate.

Please provide your tax-exempt documentation  
prior to checking in.

## Continuing Education Credits

Continuing Education Hours (CEH) will be offered to attendees. You will receive 1 CEH for each hour attended.

## Conference Materials

Conference materials will be provided to attendees in electronic format only. These materials will be made available prior to the conference in the Whova app. Participants wishing to have hard copies should print the materials prior to arrival.

## Questions

Please contact Kim Eithun at  
[keithun@wisc.edu](mailto:keithun@wisc.edu) or (608)807-6152.



# Agenda at a Glance

## Tuesday, May 7

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm      Pre-Conference Intstitute

1:30 pm - 1:45 pm      BREAK

1:45 pm - 4:00 pm      Pre-conference Institute (con't)

## Wednesday, May 8

8:30 am - 9:00 am      Welcome

9:00 am - 10:00 am      Empowering Youth to Grow - Opening Plenary

10:00 am - 10:15 am      BREAK

10:15 am - 11:30 am      Workshop A

11:45 am - 12:15 pm      Youth Panel

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm      Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm      Workshop B

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm      BREAK

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm      Uplifting Positive Youth Development: The PRO Approach - Closing Plenary

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm      Networking Activity

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm      Networking Activity

# Agenda at a Glance

## Thursday, May 9

7:30 am - 8:30 am Breakfast

8:30 am - 9:30 am The Criminalization of Black Adolescence - Opening Plenary

9:30 am - 10:30 am Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Transformation

10:30 am - 10:45 am BREAK

10:45 am - 12:00 pm Workshop C

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Workshop D

2:30 pm - 2:45 pm BREAK

2:45 pm - 3:45 pm Change the Narrative - Closing Plenary

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm Wrap up





# Pre-Conference Seminars

S - 1

## **Uplifting Positive Youth Development in Programming: The Promote, Raise, and Optimize (PRO) Approach)**

The PRO Approach provides a framework and common language based on fundamental principles and leading practices drawn from the Positive Youth Development field, adolescent brain development research, trauma-informed and healing-centered practice, the science of teaching and learning, and prevention science. This session will provide an overview of The PRO Approach and lead providers through two step-by-step processes to activate skills-based intentionality in their interactions and activities with the young people they serve.

S - 2

## **Ending the Game Supporter Training**

This seminar will foster advanced-level understanding of coercion in sex trafficking, as well as provide a focused look at how to spark and support survivors' resiliency. Topics include domestic sex trafficking facts and statistics, "the game" (trafficking subculture), the breaking process, psychological coercion, dual identity, recidivism, language sensitivity, and how to support a survivors' true self.

S - 3

## **Motivational Interviewing for YASI**

In this highly interactive session, participants will have multiple opportunities to assess the utility of various MI skills for enhancing the quality of the recommendations and case planning completed within the YASI. Building on strengths, an example of an MI enhanced YASI assessment will be used. After participating in didactics, large and small group discussions and introspection, individuals will leave with a clear sense of how MI could fit into their individual practice.

S - 4

## **When Culture Affects Decision Making**

This course examines how one's culture impacts decision making in various treatment settings. Providers are constantly faced with ethical choices resulting in ambiguous outcomes and difficult decisions that may be morally confusing. Understanding cultural concepts enables providers to bridge the difference between themselves and diverse populations. Participants will acquire a better understanding of the ethical decision-making process when cross-cultural conflicts occur while addressing implications of unconscious biases. The workshop will address these issues through a combination of interactive dialogue, focused discussion, applied-practice exercises, and small group work.

# Workshop A

A - 1

## **Activating Intentional Skills-Based Learning through Intentional Moments (AIMS)**

Intentional moments are brief interactions with young that purposefully build or reinforce skills that underlie thriving (e.g., passing youth in the hallway, phone call check-ins). In this interactive session, participants will be guided to use AIMS (Activating Intentional Moments) to structure skills-based learning that occurs in brief interactions with young people.

A - 2

## **Mental Health Services and Protective Factors for Youth**

Dr. Camille Quinn's research focuses on investigating the health and mental health equity of African American adolescents and young adults at the intersections of race, gender, health, crime and system involvement. She will talk about how to identify and address the needs of Black girls and young women involved in the youth justice system to develop and advance effective and proactive prevention and intervention approaches.

A - 3

## **Engaging Non-household Parents to Improve Youth Outcomes**

It is common for a youth involved in youth justice services to have one of their parents not living in their household. Each youth may have different levels of interaction and engagement with that non-household parent ranging from no contact to high engagement. In situations where a youth justice professional is engaging in intake and planning for youth, what should they do to engage the non-household parent? What if the youth states they do not want to contact the non-household parent? What should the YJ professional do if the household parent is potentially creating barriers to engaging the other parent? This workshop will look at some of the most common internal and external barriers to engaging non-household parents (including family dynamics, professionals' perceptions, and environmental factors) and discuss potential engagement solutions for engaging non-household parents so that youth have access to valuable natural supports whenever possible.

# Workshop A

**A - 4**

## **Teen Court**

Teen Court works to create a change in youth behavior and provide life skills for future success. Learn about the opportunity for youth to develop connections and strengthen their resiliency.

**A - 5**

## **Intensive Permanency Services Program**

The Eau Claire County Department of Human Services is working to support youth ages 12 - 18 who are in various levels of out-of-home care without permanency options or connections. Learn more about how they are supporting these youth.

**A - 6**

## **Adulthood and Youth Rights**

In this training, we will explore the concept of adulthood and its effects on young people. Adulthood refers to the power imbalance and discrimination that exists between adults and children. By the end of this training, adults will have a deeper understanding of adulthood and its impact on young people. Youth work professionals will also be equipped with practical strategies to create more equitable and supportive environments for youth.

# Workshop B

**B - 1**

## **Activating Intentional Skills-Based Learning Through Youth Development Activities (AIYDA)**

Intentional activities enable youth to purposefully practice skills that underlie thriving. In this interactive session, participants will be guided to use AIYDA (Activating Intentional Youth Development Approach) to develop intentional youth development activities for their program or transform existing program activities into intentional activities. The step-build process will explain the grounding principles of the approach and how features of AIYDA intentionality transform delivery to produce a learning outcome.

# Workshop B (con't)

## B - 2

### **Growth Focused Case Management**

The Growth-Focused Case Management (GFCM) and supervision approach, which empowers youth to form a positive identity and progress beyond mere cessation of delinquent activity, is laid out in this session. In addition to protecting community safety and respecting victims' rights, the purpose of GFCM is to develop and manage case plans with youth that facilitate forming a positive identity with which offending is no longer compatible.

## B - 3

### **Supporting Boys Who Have Been Exploited**

From survival sex to online extortion to trafficking networks, boys across Wisconsin report sexual exploitation. Drawing on local knowledge and national survey results, find out how boys and young men who've been sexually exploited and trafficked want to be supported. Learn practical ideas and tools to improve your response.

## B - 4

### **CARES Program**

CARES is designed to serve as an additional available resource for behavioral health emergencies that occur in our community. A cornerstone of the initiative is to ensure that medical and behavioral healthcare is integrated at the onset of crisis intervention, increasing family satisfaction while diverting people away from emergency rooms and jails. In addition to responding to emergency calls, the CARES teams spend considerable time building relationships throughout the community at local resource centers, shelters, and mental health care facilities. Between active calls for service, the teams also follow up with families to ensure they have been connected with the services they need.

## B - 5

### **Equitable Youth Professionals**

Participants will learn strategies for engaging youth, developing meaningful activities, understanding different demographics and cultural backgrounds, and structuring programs to meet the diverse needs of participants. They will also discuss how to handle conflict equitably and build a safe environment where everyone can express themselves without fear of judgment or marginalization.

## B - 6

### **Peer Support for LGBTQ+ Youth**

Learn how to support practices that affirm and include LGBTQ+ & BIPOC youth, create space for connection, support and empowerment, and help them navigate the challenges they may face and thrive in their identities.



# Workshop C

## C - 1

### **SPARK**

Ashland County Health & Human Services is implementing the evidence based “Planet Youth Prevention Model”. This model engages the broader community to explore data regarding teen substance use with the purpose of assisting the community to implement prevention strategies. One grade (typically 9th or 10th) is surveyed with an instrument similar to the YRBS. The data from the survey is shared broadly with the community and focuses specifically on highlighting the risk and protective factors that correlate to increased or decreased substance use. Armed with this data the community can collaborate to make data informed decisions regarding prevention strategies. One significant intervention that has been implemented is an after-school and summer program for teens called SPARK (Student Pathways to Adventure, Resilience and Knowledge). The goal of the programming is to prevent youth ages 12-18 from using substances by fostering positive youth/adult relationships and youth development and creating positive outlets for expression and energy both in school and via after-school programs. SPARK includes activities such as art, skateboarding, music, video games, cooking, sports, mountain biking, snowboarding etc.

## C - 2

### **Briarpatch Street Outreach Program**

The Street Outreach Program was created to address the increasing number of vulnerable youth living on the streets and engaging in potentially self-destructive behaviors. The program utilizes paid staff and trained volunteers to contact youth living on the street and connect them with resources they need to be safe and healthy. Youth are provided with personal care items, hygiene kits, STI prevention information and supplies, informational counseling, referrals to meal sites, referrals to shelter services and referrals for counseling and medical care as appropriate.

## C -3

### **See Something, Say Something**

In this workshop, Kristin Henning examines racial bias as a real and lived experience for Black and brown people involved in the juvenile and criminal legal systems. She teaches systems’ actors to recognize their own biases and develop strategies to counter them. Her workshops identify dehumanizing language and attitudes that drive the criminal system and give participants concrete skills to interrupt bias as it occurs.

## Workshop C (con't)

**C - 4**

### **The Biology of Traumatic Stress**

Wisconsin has been developing a system of trauma-informed care for many years. One of the important things on the healing journey is the ability to unpack emotional triggers. As professionals, we need to be able to sit with feelings and emotions of both the families we work with and our own to understand where they are coming from. This will provide us with a greater understanding of how our mind works and how we react to situations, a first step in changing those reactions. Come explore resources to support families and yourself.

**C - 5**

### **Pathfinders Program**

Pathfinders offers a variety of inclusive, welcoming services to ensure youth's immediate safety and promote their long-term stability, healing, empowerment, and thriving. There are several programs to support youth. A core value of Pathfinders is listening to youth and incorporating their expertise in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs.

**C - 6**

### **Homelessness Among Youth - School Services**

This presentation will provide an overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the supports that exist in public schools for students experiencing homelessness. McKinney-Vento and IDEA are both federal laws that work side by side for students with disabilities who also don't have permanent housing. Participants will learn strategies to support students experiencing homelessness and how to utilize funding streams to meet student's needs.

## Workshop D

**D - 1**

### **Prevention Innovation Ideas**

Come learn from counties and tribes about their initiatives to support youth and their families. These projects engage community partners to maximize resources and work together to meet the needs of the youth living there.

**D - 2**

### **Lived Experience Panel**

This session will explore how to be a supportive adult through a panel including youth and mentorship professionals. This will occur by providing tangible examples garnered from professionals and youth and participants will leave with actionable ideas across many sectors.

# Workshop D (con't)

**D - 3**

## **Culture is Prevention, Culture is Connection**

Join Rachel Fernandez of the Menominee Nation, founder and Executive Director of Maeqtekauhkihiw Metaemohsak, Woodland Women, as she explores the importance of culture in supporting youth development.

**D - 4**

## **Credible Messengers**

The Credible Messengers approach seeks to build trust and inspire change from within communities so the youth can feel positive about their possibilities rather than facing a future of frustration. The mentoring program is a transformative process through which individuals from similar backgrounds engage youth in structured and intentional relationships and activities, and provide a positive platform for youth engagement and community voice.

**D - 5**

## **Mental Health in Schools**

Youth mental health needs are on the rise, and families, schools, and communities are struggling to meet the need. Many schools in Wisconsin are utilizing grant funding to establish a new position within their districts: Mental Health Coordinators/Navigators. Join this session to see how a school in Wisconsin is focusing on mindfulness, community support, systematic support for staff and students, and a move toward creating a trauma-sensitive school.

**D - 6**

## **YASI Refresher**

This session will count for WI Child Welfare Professionals who are in need of their annual YASI Booster/Refresher requirement. You must attend the whole session to gain credit for the annual booster requirement. This session is intended for professionals who have already completed YASI CCW (1 & 2), VILT YASI Booster 1, and VILT YASI Booster 2 through WCWPDS. If you have not completed these trainings, this will NOT count as your annual booster/refresher requirement. Anyone interested in listening to this refresher is welcome to join the session, regardless of needing the training credit, however the information may be difficult to follow without the previous training information and background.

This YASI Refresher is intended to assist Child Welfare professionals in quality assurance and valid use of the YASI assessment tool and case planning feature. Standard topics to be covered during refresher may include: brief YASI Assessment item scoring review, YASI ABCD screen and family/youth feedback, YASI priority and target selection overview, YASI Case Planning – Goals and Action Steps, YASI CaseWorks software.