

48th Annual National Foster Parent Association Education Conference
22nd Annual Florida Foster and Adoptive Family Association Annual Conference

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, June 25th

8:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m. NFPA Strategic Planning Session (closed) --**Grand Sierra A**

TUESDAY, June 26th

8:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m. NFPA Strategic Planning Session (closed) --**Grand Sierra A**

WEDNESDAY, June 27th

8:00 a.m.-- 5:00 p.m. NFPA Council of State Affiliates Meeting – **Grand Sierra A**

THURSDAY, June 28th

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration and Information Desk Open

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **P1 - Pre-Conference Training – This is a FREE pre-conference event for those who are registered to attend the 2018 Annual Education Conference. *Boca I***

Presented by the NFPA's Council of State Affiliate

The Council of State Affiliates is the Advisory Council to the National Foster Parent Association's Board of Directors. The Council is represented by leaders of state foster, adoptive, and kinship care associations who communicate regularly to identify and address issues affecting these families at the state and national level. Come learn from leaders of resource family support organizations across the country. Our expert panel will provide practical information about how to start and more importantly how to be a sustainable foster, adoptive, and/or kinship family support organization.

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibits Open

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Color Guard and the National Anthem - Welcome– *Caribbean Ballroom III, IV and V***

THURSDAY, June 28th

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

A1 - Foster Child is Not a Defining Title – Michael Olivieri – Boca 1

Less than 2%. Those are the odds Michael had to overcome in addition to life experiences with homelessness, poverty, child abuse, foster care placement, parental drug and alcohol addiction, as well as near alcoholism himself. This workshop will share Michael's story of his overcoming adversity and help others see past the "foster child" label that seeks to define others.

A2 - What Foster, Kinship, & Adoptive Parents Need to Succeed (and how they can find it) Dawn Davenport – Boca II

What do foster, kinship and adoptive parents really need once the child is in their home? What do parents and professionals say is the most important elements for success and what does the research show? What topics do they seek information on? Where are the gaps? When is help most needed? What has been shown to help prevent placement disruptions and dissolutions? Most important, where and how can parents and professionals find these resources? Information will come from published research, extensive interviews with parents and professionals, and 2 surveys of over 7000 adoptive and foster parents.

A3 - Life in the FAST Lane – Coleen LaCosta – Boca III

What is the Foster Allegation Team? What does it do? How can you start one in your area? F. A. S. T. (Foster Allegation Support Team)

The Florida State Foster Adoptive Parent Association has developed a resource for foster parents to utilize when an abuse report has been called in on them. Our goal is to provide support to the foster parent when allegations have been or might be brought against them. It is important to keep foster parents informed of the procedures and the process through which an allegation will take them. We provide support without judgment. FAST also tracks trends and advocates for change when changes can be made!

A4 – How to Operate a Successful Foster/Adoptive Parent Assoc With Little or No Money -- Shamele Jenkins – Boca IV

This workshop will do exactly as the title states. Learn how to incorporate, build a board of directors, create membership and hold them. Learn how to create and recruit for workshop presenters, giveaways, fundraisers, strategize for funding and so much more.

A5 – Re-imagine Adoption Matching – Dr. Elizabeth Wynter – Caribbean VI

Imagine a world where children in care could be matched with a forever family based on markers of compatibility. Imagine that this match could be identified more efficiently and effectively, giving families a voice and offering children a stable place to call home.

Learn more about Family-Match, a data driven application designed to promote permanency through compatibility matching. With a compatibility assessment authored by the former lead researchers at eHarmony, this disruptive technology being piloted in VA, TN, and FL will help the child welfare system re-imagine adoption matching.

THURSDAY, June 28th

3:30 p.m.-- 5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

B1 - Disruption: Prevention and Intervention – Donna Petras, PHD, Eileen Mayers Pasztor, DSW, Marcus Stallworth, LMSW, Eshel Williams, PsyD – Boca I

Disruptions between children and their foster families are painful and often traumatic for everyone involved. This is especially true for the children who most often have experienced multiple traumas already. This workshop will present best practices to identify early warning signs of potential disruptions strategies to help prevent disruptions, and when they do occur, interventions that support the children and all members of the family. The implications for birth parents and agency staff are also addressed. The session content is based upon the CWLA PRIDE Model of Practice to Develop and Support Resource Parents as Team Members in Child Protection and Trauma-Informed Care of Children.

B2 - Why Can't I get them to Understand Me – Jacquelyn Meyer – Boca II

Foster parents feel frustration over knowing the needs of their child and feel like no one cares or wants to help them. (School, court, church, DHHS). Systems make changes that seem to make things worse. But the opportunity is there with the right words and people. In this workshop we will see why what we are doing does not work. Finally, we will look at practical take home methods (opportunities) to get systems to listen and do things to help our children. It will be interactive and fun.

B3 - Ages of Grief – Vicky Tidman – Boca III

Workshop will provide foster/adoptive parents an opportunity to look at the well understood "stages of grief" but in a new lens of understanding how those stages overlap with the developmental "ages" of this population. The impact of placement changes, abuse, and trauma all result in a child grieving for something that they do not have. These children feel that everyone around them is able to function in a "normal" and happy reality. The anger and depression often define how others perceive them. Participants will learn how they can equip their children to prepare for these feelings and to process their experiences, based on their developmental age.

B4 - Trafficked Survivors in Foster Care: What You Need to Know – Dana Steele – Boca IV

Trafficked kids present unique challenges among our trauma-inflicted children and youth, and most agencies are either just finding out about these children's needs or are scratching the service to get them help.

NFPA Champions Reception —By Invitation Only 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 29th

8:00 a.m. -- 5:00 p.m. Registration and Information Desk Open

8:00 a.m. --5:00 p.m. Exhibits Open

9:00 a.m.--10:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

C1 - There's no place like camp – Cate Hawks – Boca I

This will be an interactive session to assist participants to begin designing a plan for starting and hosting a family respite camp in their community or state. The planning process will include surveying the landscape to determine if families would attend a camp; identifying camp partners; deciding on the activities; raising the money to support camp; cover the legalities (consents, insurance, and more); and recruiting families and agencies to participate.

C2 - NFPA's Annual Kinship Caring and Collaborating: Meeting – Eileen Mayers Pasztor, DSW, Bob Ruble, Donna Petras, PHD – Boca II

The NFPA Board of Directors voted four years ago - at the Orlando conference of 2014 - to create a committee that would help ensure that foster parents would be supportive of kinship caregivers as we all work together in celebration of three important words: for the children. Please come to this traditional and historical Kinship Care Committee Meeting to discuss how to work better together with advocacy strategies and a "model of practice" offered by CWLA to support caring and collaborating for children and all their families. We also want your recommendations on how NFPA can be stronger for our kinship and foster families because we are better together.

C3 - Parenting Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) -- Kathryn Shea – Boca III

Parenting children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) can be the ultimate parenting challenge. These children can exhibit sleep problems, eating difficulties, and sensory processing disorders, creating poor regulation of behavior and emotion. This becomes a vicious cycle of exhausted and frustrated parents and children. This workshop will introduce child specific strategies to help promote executive functioning and self-regulations skills. Parenting interventions will also be introduced that help parents to view this behavior as brain-based and not willful disobedience. Our interactions can either de-escalate the child or further the escalation. All too often, we engage in the latter. When we work with the child and alter expectations, environment, tasks, or interaction styles we can see great progress.

C4 - Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) - Exploring the Empowering, Connecting, and Correcting Principles – Dr. Martie Gillen - Boca IV

This hands-on workshop will provide an overview of Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). TBRI is a holistic approach that is multi-disciplinary, flexible, and attachment-centered, It is an evidence-based, trauma-informed intervention that is specifically designed for children who come from hard places, such as maltreatment, abuse, neglect, multiple home placements, and violence. TBRI® consists of three sets of principles: connecting, empowering, and correcting. We will explore the risk factors that influence the way children think, trust, and connect with others. A discussion of how these risk factors can change children's brain development and brain chemistry will be included. Attendees will receive strategies and tools to help children along the path to healthy connection and functioning.

Friday, June 29th

9:00 a.m.--10:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

C5 - Future Planning with Adult Children with Disabilities – Karen Poteet – *Caribbean VI*

Future planning is crucial for families of adult children with physical, serious behavioral health, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. Planning strategies will be discussed as well as legal options. Financial supports available will also be shared.

C6 - The Impact of Fostering and Adopting on Birth Children (Double Session – Continues with (D6) – Eshel Williams, PsyD - *Caribbean VII*

This **double** workshop addresses the impact of fostering and adopting on birth children of foster and adoptive parents. Presenter will provide insight into the challenges that birth children experience as their family dynamics change. **Part 1** - Presenters will share a personal story as the birth child of kinship, foster, and adoptive parents and integrate that experience with research conducted on birth children's perspectives.

10:45 a.m.--12:15 p.m.

D1 - Be the Change You Want to See – Cate Hawks - *Boca I*

An interactive session to help participants develop their own game plan for their states to advocate for the change they want to see in a particular policy, regulations, or laws. It is recommended, but not required, that at least 3 people from a state register to attend together, so that workgroups can be formed to develop a state plan for making change.

D2 - Resilience: What is it, where does it come from, how do you develop it? – Roxanne Thompson - *Boca II*

Resilience is an important factor in a child's ability to recover from adversity. Connections with just one trusted adult, presentation of positive outcomes, and opportunities to build skills make resilience possible in children who have experience maltreatment. This workshop will explore the science of resilience and provide a parent's guide to developing resilience in foster and adoptive children.

D3 - The Trauma Informed Classroom: Using Emotional Regulatory Healing in the Schools – Denise Rice, MSW, LCSW *Boca III*

Based on an article written by Denise Rice, LCSW in the September 2013 issue of Fostering Families Magazine, this workshop will outline the core principles of Emotional Regulatory Healing and how to incorporate this paradigm into the educational system. Foster, kinship and adoptive parents of children with trauma histories are encouraged to attend and brainstorm practical ways to advocate for their children's needs in the schools, using trauma sensitive language and suggestions.

D4 - Who's Talking to Your Child: What You Need to Know About Internet Safety – Cindy Downey - *Boca IV*

Children involved in child welfare are at increased risk for victimization. This presentation will provide parents/caregivers with a better understanding of the risks children face while online. Practical suggestions will be offered as well as information on specific dangers, sites/apps, and warning signs that your child might be at risk. Warning signs that a child is being groomed will also be discussed.

Friday, June 29th

10:45 a.m.--12:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

D5 - Time Management For You – Shamele Jenkins - *Caribbean VI*

This workshop will teach each parent how to assess their lives and create a new life track so that they can be more on target with their parenting, their work track, home track and still have time to personal enrichment and all the little things that makes us happy.

D6 - The Impact of Fostering and Adopting on Birth Children (Double Session– Continued from (C6) – Eshale Williams, PsyD - *Caribbean VII*

This **double** workshop addresses the impact of fostering and adopting on birth children of foster and adoptive parents. Presenter will provide insight into the challenges that birth children experience as their family dynamics change. **Part 2** (Committee Meeting)- A major focus is how to assess and ensure supports for birth children as their families engage in fostering and/or adopting. There will be opportunity for participants to meet in small groups to share strategies for addressing this challenge.

12:15 p.m.– 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

12:30 p.m.– 5:30 p.m.

Childcare/Tweens/NextGen (for members of FSFAPA ONLY)

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

E1 - Exploring Kinship Care from the Front Lines – Bob Ruble, Ali Caliendo, Cate Hawks – *Boca I*

The kinship care workshop will include a panel of professionals who work with kinship caregivers as well as kinship caregivers themselves. The discussion will explore the special nuances of kinship care and offer resources and guidance for those currently walking the kinship path.

E2 - Understanding Autism: Acquiring Information to Create a Safe and Supportive Home – Anjali Van Drie – *Boca II*

The Centers for Disease Control report that 1 in 68 children in the United States is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This number has risen steadily over the past 20 years and represents an emerging segment of our youth population. Individuals with ASD are impacted in the domains of communication, behavior, and social interaction, often exhibiting unique responses, particularly in unfamiliar or stressful environments. Foster and adoptive families unfamiliar with the possible behaviors and characteristics of individuals on the autism spectrum may experience difficulty with the placement and with finding support. This presentation will provide information on Autism as well best practice in helping support a child on the spectrum.

E3 - Understanding Individual Roles Within the Big Picture – Gordy Pyper, Molly Clore – *Boca III*

The child welfare system can be confusing and overwhelming, with lots of players whose roles aren't always clear. Though all tend to have the best interest of the child as a goal, their methods and views will often differ. This workshop will provide an overview of the people you may encounter and give insight into their role and function. Various system processes will be discussed to give insight into how decisions are made, and privatization will be discussed briefly for its impact on caregivers and local practice. Finally, suggestions will be given for successfully engaging the system when advocating for yourself and the kids in your care. The workshop will provide opportunity for questions and discussion.

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

E4 - Put the Oxygen Mask on You First – Jacquelyn Meyer – Boca IV

The flight attendant tells us to put the oxygen mask on us before we help someone else. We know it is important to take care of us first for everything. But we don't. We say we are too busy or even feel it is wrong to spend time doing things for us. Through an experiential presentation participants will learn why it is so important to take care of us and not wrong, will learn simple stress reducing techniques that take little time, and learn ways to get us to actually take care of ourselves. Participants will have fun.

E5 - Advocacy 101 – Josh Kroll – Caribbean I

In this session you will learn the tools to advocate for your child and for all children. The session will start with problem identification, move on to laws or rules that cover the problem, and how to find a solution. Those concepts will then be expanded to class advocacy, advocating for all children.

E6 - Calling All Trainers – Donna Petras, PHD, Denise Gibson, MA, Eileen Mayers Pasztor, DSW – Caribbean II

In the 1970s and 1980s, foster parent trainers from across the country met at annual NFPA conferences to network, share resources, and advocate for the quality of training and trainer supports. The group lost contact through the 1990s and beyond. However, in 2013, CWLA began hosting a reconvening of the group. This year, CWLA joins with the Children's Alliance of Kansas in hosting the meeting. This meeting is open to everyone interested in training: public and private agencies, local and state foster parent associations, foster parents who are trainers, and everyone who wants an excellent opportunity to reconnect and share expertise.

E7 - Facing Challenges and Reaping Rewards – Dr. John DeGarmo – Caribbean V

This keynote will focus on the many different and distinct challenges that foster parents face on an everyday level while caring for children in their homes and examine the many rewards that come with being a foster parent.

E8 - Medications in the Foster Care System – Dr. William Holmes – Caribbean VI

Over the last decade there have been increasing concerns related to the use of psychiatric medications with children and youth in the foster care system. This workshop will explore the reasons for these concerns. Attendees will be introduced to a framework for understanding the appropriate use of medications, including ways to communicate questions and concerns to providers. Audience questions and interaction will be encouraged.

E9 - Problem Sexual Behaviors of Children; Evidence Proven Approaches – Roy Van Tassell – Caribbean VII

Exposure to violence, abuse and maltreatment can lead to a range of problem behaviors for children. Among those causing the greatest distress for caregivers, case workers and clinicians as well as disruption in the lives of children are problem sexual behaviors (PSB). This breakout session provides information on PSB, typical sexual behaviors and guidance from treatment evidence on what helps to reduce these behaviors

E10 - FSFAPA President's Council – Boca V

Join FSFAPA Executive Board leaders and FAPA President's from around the state to share resources, news, and events. We'll discuss the barriers and successes encountered from region to region. This will be a great opportunity to network with your colleagues from around the state.

Friday, June 29th

3:15 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Plenary Session

**What Foster Parents Need to Know About Social Media and Emotional Well-Being –
Marcus Stallworth, LMSW - *Caribbean Ballroom III, IV and V***

An examination of the impact of social media and technology on today's society, including its influence on youths' perceptions of reality reveals significant risks for the unaware. This plenary provides realistic, cost-effective strategies to identify vulnerabilities and protect youth that can be immediately implemented by foster, kinship and adoptive parents as well as social workers and educators. Risk factors associated with social media and technology will be identified and reasonable alternative that can lessen children's overexposure to these outlets will be provided.

Walk Me Home' Evening Event 6:30 p.m.

Family Movie Night by the Pool 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 30th

8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Registration and Information Desk Open

8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Exhibits Open

7:30 a.m.- 5:15 p.m. **Childcare/Tweens/NextGen (for members of FSFAPA ONLY)**

8:00 a.m.--9:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast Plenary --- NFPA Annual Meeting and FSPAPA
Annual Meeting - *Caribbean Ballroom III, IV and V***

Saturday, June 30th

9:15 a.m.--10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

F1 - Preparing Your Family Before an Emergency – Megan Ryan, Lisa Johnson - *Boca I*

This is an introduction to the basics for disaster preparedness. Disasters can happen anytime and anywhere, and chaos can ensue. Add to this having to follow the rules of your foster care agency it becomes even more difficult. Though emergency situations can be unpredictable steps can be taken to help your family survive and persevere the immediate danger.

F2 - Birth Parent & Foster Parent Collaboration – Amanda Williams, Corey Best - *Boca II*

Amanda and Corey will discuss and challenge current norms of birth parent and foster parent engagement. They will share stories from personal experience, Birth Parent National Network and Quality Parenting Initiative. Exploration of national norms, challenges and success stories will be shared in a motivational and interactive way. Corey and Amanda have presented together for the Capacity Building Center for States and the Birth Parent National Network. They bring a unique dynamic that is engaging and fun to watch.

F3 - Beneath the Surface: Attachment & Trauma's Relationship to Human Trafficking – Dr. Chad Sedam, Paula Lupton – *Boca III*

This training will offer an opportunity to better understand the connection between child welfare and sexual exploitation. What makes children involved in child welfare more vulnerable? How does poor attachment actually increase risk and the trauma bond? As caregivers, how can we help children heal from the trauma of trafficking? Participants will be able to: 1) Define human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and domestic minor sex trafficking; 2) Gain a better understanding of who is vulnerable to trafficking and why; 3) Gain a better understanding of the trauma bond and what needs a survivor may have; 4) Know what evidence-based treatment works for survivors and gain ideas for other techniques to help survivors heal.

F4 - Is Compassion Fatiguing? Reducing Secondary Trauma with CE-CERT – Roy Van Tassell – *Boca IV*

Many of us involved in the lives of children who have experienced maltreatment and removal also know first-hand the stress, fatigue and secondary trauma that can come with the territory. Regrettably the advice often is: -improve our “self-care” and strive for work/life balance! Yet simply surviving in our roles is insufficient – sustaining ourselves while helping those with trauma requires that we learn how to make our efforts not just tolerable, but meaningful – and often enjoyable! A new evidence-informed model: Components for Enhancing Clinician Experience and Reducing Trauma (CE-CERT) is a skills-based approach for helpers in all fields to go beyond self-care using specific tools to strengthen how we can emotionally connect and thrive in our helping.

F5 - Adoption Subsidy and Federal Adoption Tax Credit (Double Session – Continues with (G5) – Josh Kroll – *Caribbean I*

Part 1 - In this session, you will learn the basics of adoption assistance for children adopted from foster care. Topics include eligibility, benefits, taxes, and more. Participants will receive state specific information and will come away with concrete information and strategies to better advocate for foster and adopted children with special needs. There will also be an overview of the Federal Adoption Tax Credit.

F6 - Alternatives to Medication for Mental Health - ADHD, Anxiety, Autism, Depression and Bi-Polar – Jim West – *Caribbean II*

NPR released information on a study March 12, 2011, in the Lancet, indicating 64% of the students that exhibited ADHD symptoms actually had a hypersensitivity to some foods.” What’s interesting is Jim West has been treating kids with ADHD, ODD, Depression, Anxiety and Mood disorder the same way since 2003. Around 85% of students do not need medication for these issues as often changing diet, adding over the counter vitamins, supplements, and increasing exercise or activity levels can do the trick.

**F7 - NFPA's Code of Ethics: An Advocacy Strategy to Strengthen Family Foster Policies and Practices – Eileen Mayers Pasztor, DSW, Peggy Kirby, Eshale Williams. PsyD
*Caribbean V***

When parents cannot keep their children safe and kinship care is not an option, child protective services “outsources” the care of these children to foster parents. The loss and trauma experiences of these children require special parenting skills, while foster parents need system supports. The National Foster Parent Association’s mission is to support foster parents in achieving safety, well-being, and permanency for children in their care. Using a Code of Ethics for foster parents is an advocacy strategy that can strengthen skills and supports. This workshop demonstrates how to use the Code of Ethics to make a difference locally or statewide, individually or through a state association.

Saturday, June 30th

9:15 a.m.--10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

F8 - Social Media and Foster and Adopted Teens: Pros, Cons, and Risks – Pat Rhoads – Caribbean VI

Social media is everywhere, and while it can be a great tool, there are some risks as well. Those risks can take on greater significance when it comes to teens in or adopted from foster care. In this session, Pat Rhoads, Social Media Manager for AdoptUSKids, will talk about the pros and cons of social media usage by teens, and will address risks that may be specific to foster and adopted teens. Finally, he will share some tips on how to mitigate those risks, while giving parents tools to help them teach teens about making good decisions with their social media usage.

F9 – InstruMENTal: A workshop Calling All Dads – Marcus Stallworth, LMSW – Caribbean VII

This workshop is specifically dedicated to males attending this year's conference! Birth Fathers, Foster and Adoptive Dads, Male Kinship Caregivers, and male child welfare workers are invited to share their successes and challenges as members of the child welfare team. We will discuss ways and strategies to promote Fatherhood Engagement with child welfare staff, and develop a nationwide network of Fathers for networking, advocacy, and support.

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

G1 - Kinship Navigation - Promising Practices Supporting Relative/Non-Relative Caregivers - Larry Cooper, Tena Randecker, Paula Davis– Boca I

This exciting workshop will share innovative practices to support relative and non-relative (fictive kin) through Kinship Navigator services. Kinship caregivers and their children present with many complex and dynamics needs throughout the United States. There are over 2.6 million children being raised by relatives in both informally and formally. This workshop will provide a broad overview of the issues and current best practices in the field of kinship care.

G2 - QPI & Co- Parenting?.... How to Walk That Talk – David Brown, Jamie G. Averett – Boca II

Research indicates co-parenting is best practice and one of the core tenants of the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI). With ongoing training beginning at pre-service and continuing at the in-service level, the act of successful co-parenting is unique to each family. Creating and maintaining a positive relationship between birth families and foster/kinship caregivers begins at the Child Protective Investigator's first interaction with each family and continues on through the life of the case. While this can be a daunting task, it has been done with success in numerous areas throughout several state, and with a variety of families. This workshop will highlight best practice used in specific sites and share successes of birth families, foster families, and child welfare professionals.

G3 - Raising a Child to Thrive – Thomas Rector - Boca III

Understanding the development of the brain and dynamics of memory formation gives parents the tools to be teachers. The role of parent is to teach the fundamentals of how to be a productive, self-sufficient adult. This approach is unique, easily understood, and works with children that have experienced one placement or five or more placements. "Biosocial Cognition," is a paradigm shifting viewpoint for the day to day interactions that guide children through their life's challenges. This paradigm shift can be applied by those of us parenting, or advocating, directly, or indirectly, to effect family and team to achieve positive outcomes for children.

Saturday, June 30th

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

G4 - Cultivating Knowledge and Advocates through the NFPA-United HealthCare partnership – Karen Poteet, Keith Mason – *Boca IV*

United HealthCare and NFPA are working to raise awareness and improve the system for children and families. UHC's collaboration with NFPA allows UHC to have a better and more realistic understanding of the experiences, needs, opportunities and journey of the individuals parenting children in kinship, foster care and adoptive families. This understanding enhances the capacity of the nation's largest commercial health insurance company to better provide for the children and youth in their families as the partnership give insights and resource to serve members and families better.

G5 - Adoption Subsidy and Federal Adoption Tax Credit (Double Session - Continued from (F5)–Josh Kroll - *Caribbean I*

Part 2 - In this session, you will learn the basics of adoption assistance for children adopted from foster care. Topics include eligibility, benefits, taxes, and more. Participants will receive state specific information and will come away with concrete information and strategies to better advocate for foster and adopted children with special needs. There will also be an overview of the Federal Adoption Tax Credit.

G6 - ADHD Tips for Home, School and Alternative Treatments Jim West - *Caribbean II*

ADHD is a chronic disorder that affects 1-2 children in each classroom. There are new and exciting developments in accommodating ADHD students in the private school. ADHD, untreated, can lead to depression, oppositional defiance, anxiety, poor self-esteem, etc., but with warm, loving, empathetic, teachers and parents these students can thrive. Additionally, there are significant positive aspects to ADHD which will be presented throughout these seminars. Finally, protein diets and vitamin supplements (over the counter vitamins) have successfully treated ADHD symptoms, in many cases, without medication. This seminar is in three 1-hour parts: 1- ADHD Defined, 2-Accommodating ADHD in the Classroom & 3-Accommodations (continued) & Treatment Alternatives to Medication for ADHD.

G7 - Life Hacks for Large Families #controlthechaos – Ashley Pepe, Audra Rogers *Caribbean V*

Saying YES to fostering and adoption can expand your family quickly and running a large household can feel like being a CEO of a small business! Except in this case, your employees are tiny people that need you 24/7 and you don't get any vacation days! Learn to embrace and love the chaos that comes from a big family and know that you are not alone on this crazy train! We will teach you, LIFE HACKS FOR LARGE FAMILIES...including home organization, meal planning, chores, saving money, discipline, medical tips, laundry schedules, homeschooling, finding support, and how to LOVE this life you are living and the children you've been blessed with! P.S. 2 mom presenters have 23 kids between them.

G8 - The Assessment and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder – Dr. William Holmes – *Caribbean VI*

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has become much more well known to the public in recent years. At times, there is confusion about the best way to understand and work with children who have this diagnosis. This workshop will provide an overview of the symptoms, assessment, and potential treatments for ASD. Audience participation and interaction will be expected and encouraged.

Saturday, June 30th

12:45 p.m.- 3:00p.m.

Lunch Plenary Session – NFPA Bucket Raffle at End

**Live the dream and become a Foster or Adoptive Parent today! - Michael Rogers -
*Caribbean Ballroom III, IV and V***

WARNING SIDE EFFECTS MAY INCLUDE...increased contact with tiny people bodily fluids, watching people count your children as you walk by, crunching the numbers to see if driving an uber to work will let you afford a housekeeper, a working knowledge of the legal system equivalent to a law degree, evaluating the laundry pile and wondering if there are other people living in your home that you haven't met yet, slowly watching your former friendships fade away, a fading memory of the inside of a restaurant with cloth napkins, driving a vehicle frequently mistaken for public transit, "camping" in the back yard to avoid the packing ritual, that feeling like you're a zoo animal on display every time you leave the house, eye-rolls when people at the grocery call you a "saint," countless bedtime hugs and kisses, becoming a voice for the voiceless, introducing the concept of unconditional love for the very first time, the immense satisfaction that you are living your life on purpose and doing the most good you possibly can. Michael is transparent and fearless in the telling of his journey of loving kids in hard places. Laugh and be encouraged by the truth of this purpose and calling we have that is bigger than ourselves.

Saturday, June 30th

3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.

**H1 - Utilizing WRAP for Self-Care (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) – Crystal Lilly, Cathedra
Winston – *Boca I***

This workshop will provide basic information on WRAP and how this tool can help families and youth maintain wellness. This interactive workshop will help attendees think about how to fill their toolbox to handle the day to day stress of family, work and school.

H2 - Educational Parenting for Foster Parents – Gwen Bass - *Boca II*

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the skills that foster parents can apply to improve educational outcomes for youth in care. The workshop is based on extensive research integrating effective parenting practices for at-risk youth, common educational issues affecting foster youth, and foster parents' reported challenges and needs, which led to the development of the Educational Parenting Inventory for Foster Parents. This interactive session will include opportunities for participants to share their ideas about how to ensure that foster parents are trained to support foster youth in the school context as well as an introduction to practical educational parenting tools and strategies for foster carers.

**H3 - Oh the Places You Will Go: How to Stay Centered on Your Journey as a Foster Parent
Leslie Serena, Gary Yates – *Boca III***

Fostering is a journey that can make you feel like "A Fish Out of Water"! This interactive and fun workshop will provide an opportunity to learn, share and rejuvenate so that you can be the best foster parents possible. We will learn the basics of managing stress effectively and utilize creative strategies to enhance your fostering experience.

Saturday, June 30th

3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

H4 - Strategic Storytelling – Heather Rosenberg – Boca IV

Nothing engages an audience like the power of a personal story told well. When used properly, the powerful stories our children in care have experienced can actually mobilize decision makers to take action to benefit the needs of the children in the child welfare system.

H5 - Brains, Behavior and Regulation – Denise Rice, MSW, LCSW - Caribbean 1

Our experiences and relationships have all laid a foundation to how we react and respond to a variety of situations and experiences. When trauma is woven into these experiences and interactions, our behaviors may become inappropriate or "maladaptive." Parenting is stressful enough, but when you add a child or youth to the mix with a trauma history, the day to day life can be downright exhausting. This session will take a more in depth look at the trauma behind the behaviors, uncover the function of these behaviors (there is a function to every behavior!) and how caregivers can begin the process of responding to our children from a trauma sensitive perspective!

H6 - Just a Feeling: Helping Children Understand Emotions – Stan Waddell, Graham Perkovich – Caribbean II

While the child welfare system has historically focused on the physical and safety needs of children, emerging practice within agencies across the country is to now take into account the emotional needs of children as well. This workshop will identify basic emotions that individuals experience, as well as exploring ways to help children understand emotions.

H7 - Fostering Futures–Sonia Valladares, Jennifer Layton–Caribbean VI

The Fostering Futures Workshop focuses on improving outcomes for foster youth in care ages 14 and over, in order to change the course of negative outcomes for older youth in care. This workshop includes evidenced-based mentoring practices and has demonstrated a history of effectively addressing foster youth at-risk factors and supporting youth in their efforts to achieve positive outcomes.

Saturday, June 30th

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

J1 - Training and Development for Foster/Adoptive Parents and Kinship Caregivers. (closed) Boca I

This is a closed session to obtain feedback on what a comprehensive training and development curriculum for kinship/foster/adoptive parents should include. A brief overview will be provided of a Children's Bureau grant that will create a national state of the art training program that includes intensive preparation and development components for foster and adoptive parents. Once developed, the curriculum will be a free resource available across the nation. This session will provide an opportunity for foster, adoptive and kinship caregiver to provide feedback on the themes that are proposed for the curriculum. Feedback obtained will be used to help draft the curriculum. Light refreshments will be provided.

SUNDAY, JULY 1st

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Childcare/Tweens/NextGen (for members of FSFAPA ONLY) –**

SUNDAY, JULY 1st

9:00 a.m.--11:00 a.m. **Breakfast/Closing Plenary**

**The Power of being Good Enough - Filling the Gap--The Adaptive Way!! – Corey Best -
*Caribbean Ballroom III, IV and V***

Corey will enlighten guests as he explores his view of partnering with parents, youth, young adults and the adaptive value of investing in HOPE. Co-creating safe, strong and supported communities is achieved through mutual respect, cultural/racial humility, shifts in practices and the fundamental belief that all voices embody the collective experiences that will ensure we live up to the vision we have for child and community welfare. During the conversation with you, Corey will uncover meaningful examples of what it takes to live the value of social equality, self-awareness and reciprocity. He believes that the protective factors are magical ingredients that help foster parents, systems and families work as partners. Throughout this experience, you will witness the joy of authenticity and the transformative power of what occurs when we focus on what's strong and invest in HOPE!