



The Impact of Identity: The New Jersey Story

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

**Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel
515 US Highway 1 South
Iselin, NJ 08830**

The 2016 conference will enhance professional knowledge and collaborative partnerships to improve the effectiveness of our Children's System of Care. The conference encompasses our desire to nurture working relationships among families, professionals, and systems in order to support children, youth, and young adults with behavioral health challenges, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and substance use challenges and their families.



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The conference will provide a forum to learn about and discuss current trends in serving children and adolescents. This is a unique opportunity for youth, families, and practitioners to network and better understand the roles of the various disciplines in the NJ Children's System of Care. The conference is planned to include a plenary session and workshops designed to enhance professional development and to further the goals of the NJ Children's System of Care.

Program Schedule

Morning Program

8:30 – 9:30am

Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:30 – 9:45amOpening Remarks

Allison Blake

Commissioner, NJ Department of Children & Families

Elizabeth Manley

NJ DCF Assistant Commissioner

Children’s System of Care

Keynote Address

9:45 – 10:45am

Andrew Solomon, PhD

Far From the Tree:

Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity

10:45 – 11:00am Break

11:00 – 11:30amQ &A with Andrew Solomon

Presentation

15th Anniversary of

The Children’s System of Care

11:30am–12:30pm

Afternoon Program

12:30 – 2:00pm

Seated Luncheon & Networking

1:15-2:00pm Awards Ceremony

2:00-3:30pm Afternoon Workshops

3:30 Collection of Evaluations

Opening Remarks

Keynote Speaker

Department of Children & Families (DCF). Dr. Blake previously served as Director of the Institute for Families at the Rutgers School of Social Work, where she oversaw a portfolio of grants and contracts aimed at strengthening families by building the capacity of the individuals and organizations that serve them. Dr. Blake also served as Vice President of Accreditation Operations at the Council on Accreditation, an international organization. Earlier in her career, she served for 18 years in various roles within the NJ Division of Youth and Family Services.

Elizabeth Manley, LSW is DCF Assistant Commissioner, Children’s System of Care. Elizabeth Manley has over 25 years experience serving children, youth and families with mental and behavioral health challenges, having most recently served for seven years as Chief Executive Officer at Caring Partners of Morris/Sussex, Inc. Ms. Manley has served on many committees and councils, often as the chair, including most recently as president of the NJ System of Care Association.

Andrew Solomon, PhD, is a writer and lecturer on politics, culture and psychology, a Professor of Clinical Psychology at Columbia University Medical Center, and President of PEN American Center. In addition to his position with Columbia University, Dr. Solomon is a Lecturer in Psychiatry at Weill-Cornell Medical College. He is a member of the boards of directors of the University of Michigan Depression Center and Columbia Psychiatry; a member of the Board of Visitors of Columbia Medical School; and a member of the advisory board of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance.

Dr. Solomon’s most recent book, the best-selling *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity* (Scribner, 2012), tells the stories of families raising exceptional children who not only learn to deal with their challenges, but also find profound meaning in doing so.

Dr. Solomon has made numerous appearances on television and radio, and is frequently called upon by the media for commentary on mental health, family, and disability issues. In recognition of his contributions to the field of mental health, he has been awarded the Society of Biological Psychiatry’s Humanitarian Award; the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation’s Productive Lives Award; Yale University’s Research Advocacy Award; the GRASP Friend and Benefactor Award; the Fountain House Humanitarian Award; the Mike Wallace Award of the University of Michigan; the Columbia Psychiatry Gray Matters Award; the Ackerman Institute Partner Award; the Erikson Institute Prize for Excellence in Mental Health Media; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory’s Double Helix Medal; and The Bridge’s Partners in Caring Inspiration Award. He is a member of the Library Council at the New York Public Library; a fellow of Berkeley College at Yale University; and a member of the New York Institute for the Humanities and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Afternoon Workshops

until
3:30pm

1. Current Best Practices for the Assessment and Treatment of Adolescent Youth Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviors

Presenter: **Jim Reynolds, PhD**

This workshop will review the historic approach to working with youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviors and describe current best clinical practices. The presentation will demonstrate how an evidence-based approach following the Risk-Need-Responsivity Principles (RNR) provides the empirical framework for these practices. Lastly, the results of the most recent research regarding re-offense rates will be discussed.

2. Transforming Children's Residential Services with the Nurtured Heart Approach

Presenter: **Alastair Gardiner, Managing Director, Nurtured Heart Approach UK**

In the United Kingdom, implementation of the Nurtured Heart Approach is credited with reducing episodes of violence, aggression, restraints, missing from home reports, referrals for self-harm and child sexual exploitation for youth in out-of-home care. We also see significant improvements in staff retention, reduction in use of sick time, and a positive increase in staff morale. Learn key strategies, policies and procedures to create environments where youth and staff can flourish.

3. Understanding and Addressing the Impact of Race and Social Class on Mental Health Outcomes for Youth

Presenters:

Susan Cohen Esquilin, PhD, ABPP;
Lolalyn Clarke, PsyD; and
Aida Ismael-Lennon, PsyD

Race and social class play major roles in mental health outcomes for youth, particularly through differential experiences with trauma. Learn through an experiential process to recognize and address the racial and social class challenges faced by helping professionals.

4. Mindfulness and the Nurtured Heart Approach: Perfect Together

Presenters:

Frank Picone, LCSW and **Ken Verni, PsyD**

How does Mindfulness set the stage to more effectively embrace and deliver the 3 Stands of the Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA)? New Jersey's Children's System of Care has enthusiastically embraced the Nurtured Heart Approach. This approach strives to transform how our youth see themselves by changing the lens through which we see them. Modifying our lens and our approach to youth is difficult. The presenters will provide a brief overview of how Mindfulness practice and concepts enable parents and staff to more effectively embrace and deliver the 3 Stands of the NHA.

5. Future Healthcare Trends and Their Impact on Children and Youth

Presenter: **Jake Bowling, MSW**

An overview of current healthcare policy and financing trends, and the opportunities these changes provide to increase the quality of and access to integrated services for children and youth. From Medicaid programs like EPSDT to movement toward value-based purchasing, the evolution of how healthcare is designed and paid for can spur widespread experimentation and innovation that benefits children and families. Mr. Bowling will also highlight the case for integration, and how taking hold of these changes in the healthcare landscape can improve care, outcomes, and client experience of children and their families.

\$90.00 CONFERENCE FEE INCLUDES CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & A SEATED LUNCHEON

To register, go to: <https://ce-catalog.rutgers.edu/coursedisplay.cfm?schID=63228>

- Registration will be confirmed on a space available basis following receipt of payment via check or credit card.
- We are unfortunately unable to accept payment by purchase order for this conference.
- For questions regarding registration or to discuss possible provisions for any special physical (ADA) or dietary needs, please contact Dr. Kathleen Finnerty at 732-235-9346 or Kathleen.Finnerty@rutgers.edu
- **No refunds will be issued. If you are unable to attend you may send someone in your place. Advance written notice of substitutions is requested.**

For GPS Directions Enter this address:

401 Gill Lane, Iselin, NJ 08830

The Hotel is at the corner of US Hwy 1 South & Gill Lane

Directions

From Garden State Parkway:

Traveling South: Take exit 130 to Route 1 North. Continue 1/2 mile, the Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel is on the left. Make a U-turn using the jug handle for Gill Lane.

Traveling North: Take Exit 131A for Wood Avenue. At the fourth traffic light, make a right on Thornall Street/Middlesex Essex Turnpike. At the third traffic light, make a right on Gill Lane. The Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel is located 1-1/2 miles on the right.

From the New Jersey Turnpike North or South:

Take Exit 11 off the N.J. Turnpike to Garden State Parkway North. Take Exit 131A for Wood Avenue. At the fourth traffic light, make a right on Thornall Street/Middlesex Essex Turnpike. At the third traffic light, make a right on Gill Lane. The Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel is located 1-1/2 miles on the right.

From Route 287 North or South:

Take the exit for Route 1 North. Continue approximately 3 miles. The hotel is on the left. Make a U-turn using the jug handle for Gill Lane.