



NJ Statewide Network for Cultural Competence 2015 Annual Conference



Improving Trauma-Informed Care and Services for Diverse Populations: *Best and Promising Practices*

Monday, November 9, 2015

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

NJ DCF Professional Center

30 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ





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Conference



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Acting Commissioner

November 9, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone here today to the New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence's 4th Annual Conference. This year, the Network's focus is on **"Improving Trauma-Informed Care and Services for Diverse Populations: Best and Promising Practices"**.

This is an opportune time to discuss this important and relevant topic as New Jersey and the entire nation endured events such as Superstorm Sandy, the recent school and church shootings, increases in community violence and pervasive use of guns on the streets. Wildfires have devastated parts of Northern California, Washington, Texas and Idaho. There is an ongoing war in Iraq and an exodus of hundreds of migrants into the United States.

There are multiple examples of violence and trauma all around us. These natural disasters and human-induced traumas have caused tremendous losses. Extreme stress can overwhelm a person's ability to cope. Our State strives to address the safety issues in New Jersey among consumers and health providers. We have instituted programs that result in decreased stigma, increased consumer recovery, and enhanced resiliency in families and communities. We are currently evaluating our professional ethics standards in working with diverse communities and seeking to incorporate them into all of our programs here at the Department. All of these are key elements in improving trauma-informed care while developing resiliency and enhancing public safety.

Now more than ever before the issue of improving trauma-informed care for New Jersey's diverse populations is highlighted with more than 43% of the population identifying as a minority group. We know that health indicators such as life expectancy have improved for most, as minority groups tend to be at a higher risk for worse access to trauma centers than others. Social determinants such as access to care continue to influence the availability and quality of care received by minority groups.

The Network has provided a forum for the discussion of these critical issues and has taken steps to disseminate and improve best practices in many of these areas. I applaud the work that the Network has done to improve the quality of care and services in trauma-impacted environments and provide information and resources to develop resiliency among individuals and communities for better outcomes.

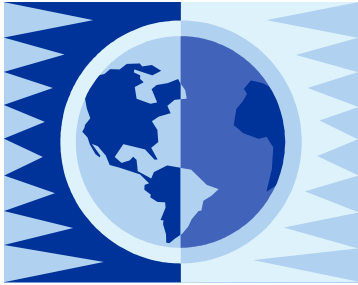
I congratulate all of you for taking part in this important Conference today, and thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm in the Network's mission of promoting and expanding culturally and linguistically appropriate service delivery in New Jersey.

Sincerely,



Arturo Brito, MD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner of Health

New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence



“We believe culturally and linguistically competent practices increase access and improve quality of services”

Mission Statement

To facilitate access to equitable and quality services for individuals, families, and communities through culturally and linguistically appropriate service delivery.

Purpose

- Promote knowledge and skill development, distribution, exchange and application of culturally and linguistically competent practices.
- Demonstrate that culturally and linguistically competent practices increase access, improve quality of care, services, and outcomes, and reduce disparities and foster health equity.
- Expand the existing knowledge base in culturally and linguistically competent service delivery through suggested policy and practice guidelines.
- Collect and compile resource information on programs and services that are culturally and linguistically competent, and share the information in a central location.
- Provide a statewide resource tool/guide for accessing culturally and linguistically competent services to individuals and families with diverse needs.
- Identify key stakeholders and constituencies and opportunities for affiliations and future collaborative activities.

The New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence began in 2002 as an initiative of The New Jersey Department of Health to improve culturally competent policies, procedures and practices through participation in a technical assistance project developed by the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University. Upon completion of the project, participants decided to work together to develop a broad-based network to advance culturally competent practices in New Jersey. Early milestones included the development of a listserv and resource directory in 2003, the launch of a website in 2005, and three statewide conferences in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

The agencies and organizations involved in the Network include more than 130 public/non-profit State, community and private sector agencies engaged in or promoting culturally & linguistically competent service delivery, education, policies, and practices.

The New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence invites individuals and agencies that have roots and experience with diverse populations to actively participate and share their knowledge, skills, and expertise. An inclusive definition of diversity is employed which focuses on the intersection of race, ethnicity, cultural background, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, language, literacy, religion, socioeconomic status, geography, military service, and other factors, and is consistent with the DHHS Office of Minority Health’s National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care.

To learn more, stop by our information table near registration!

Visit our website: www.nj.gov/njsncc

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NJStatewideNetwork

Follow us on Twitter: [#NJSNCC](https://twitter.com/NJSNCC)

Join us on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/7462391/profile





A WELCOME NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR



I would like to welcome you to the fourth Annual Conference of the New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence (NJSNCC). The Network is holding this conference to provide opportunities for participants to learn about trauma-informed approaches to care and service delivery for diverse populations throughout the life span. Trauma-informed approaches have relevance for a wide variety of service settings and organizations.

As defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed: 1) *Realizes* the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; 2) *Recognizes* the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system; 3) *Responds* by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and 4) *Seeks* to actively resist *re-traumatization*." (<http://www.samhsa.gov/nctic/trauma-interventions>)

"Upstream" and "downstream" approaches to addressing various types of trauma (e.g., physical, interpersonal, and sexual abuse, bullying, community-based violence, fire and environmental disasters, terrorism, and war) will be explored during the conference.

As our state and nation becomes increasingly diverse, the importance of fostering cultural and linguistic competency in all of the helping and service professions continues to grow. These efforts need to be guided by hearing the personal stories and experiences of individuals, families, and communities who have been affected by trauma as well as their strengths and resilience in coping with adversity.

Learning about best and promising practices in trauma-informed care and service delivery and the evidence base for what works is extremely important. We hope that you will take away from this conference both inspiration for your work in the future and useful lessons for policy and practice.

My personal thanks goes out to our presenters who have generously given their time, their expertise, and their knowledge to make today's program an informative, educational, and interactive one, and to all the dedicated people who worked so tirelessly to turn this conference from concept to reality, including the members of the Planning Committee, our conference partners, and our sponsors and exhibitors whose financial support made this exciting conference possible.

We hope you find this day to be both enlightening and transformative!

Sincerely,

Robert C. Like, MD, MS

IMPROVING TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE AND SERVICES FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS: BEST AND PROMISING PRACTICES

A conference showcasing innovative and effective policies and practices in cultural and linguistic competency.

Conference Details

Participants will learn about:

- Various forms of trauma (environmental, physical, psychological, social and moral) that are experienced by individuals, families, and communities
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate approaches for providing trauma-informed care
- Strategies that are being used to address stigma, foster resilience, and promote healing and recovery
- The need for multi-sectoral action and collaborative interdisciplinary team-based approaches that are developed in partnership with communities

NJSNCC is thankful for the support of our conference sponsors & exhibitors.
Please be sure to visit the exhibit tables located in Auditorium 2.

Presenter's handouts will be uploaded to the NJSNCC'S website: www.nj.gov/njsncc following the conference. PDF files of presenters' handouts will be available for download.

The conference will conclude at the end of the Session II workshops.

Submit your conference evaluation at the registration desk to receive your certificate of attendance.

Conference Planning Committee

Diana Autin, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

JoAnn Baxter, Department of Human Services

Shellyann Dacres, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Hank Dallmann, Rutgers RWJ School of Medicine

La Shonine Gandy-Smith, Family Service Association of South Jersey

Carolyn Hayer, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

Robert Like, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Shakira Linzey, CJFHS/ Mid-Jersey CARES REIC

Nicholas Montalto, Diversity Dynamics, LLC

Celia Murnock, Our House, Inc.

Andrea O'Neal, New Jersey Department of Children and Families

Nancy Scotto Rosato, New Jersey Department of Health

Zenaida Steinhauer, New Jersey Department of Health

Aviva Wooo, WellCare Health Plans



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IMPROVING TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE AND SERVICES FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS: BEST AND PROMISING PRACTICES

A conference showcasing innovative and effective policies and practices in cultural and linguistic competency.

Monday, November 9, 2015 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

NJ DCF Office of Training and Professional Development | 30 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Conference Schedule

8:00 – 9:00	Continental Breakfast and Registration	<i>Outside Auditorium 2</i>
9:00 – 9:15	Opening Remarks: Dr. Robert C. Like, MD, MS, Chair, NJSNCC & Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School	<i>Auditorium 2</i>
9:15 – 10:15	Keynote Address: Building Culturally Competent & Trauma-Informed Services Sandra Bennett-Pagan, US DHHS/NYC HRSA Region II	<i>Auditorium 2</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 12:00	Plenary Panel: Biopsychosocial Perspectives on Trauma, Recovery, and Resilience in Diverse Populations	<i>Auditorium 1</i>
	Panelists:	
	▪ Diana Autin, Esq. <i>“Family Stressors & the Role of Cultural Reciprocity in Building Resilience to Minimize their Impact”</i>	
	▪ George Lambert, MD <i>“Importance of Cultural Difference in Environmental Medicine and Toxicology, and Effects on Human Organ Maturation, Reproduction, Development and Neurobehavioral Function”</i>	
	▪ Melissa D. Elliott, LCW, CGP, CSSW & Denise Hajjar, MS, AADP <i>“Full Service Community School Health Centers/School Based Health Clinics”</i>	
	▪ Rev. Darrell Armstrong, DD, M.Div., Ed.S. <i>“The Effects of Trauma and Gun Violence on Individuals and Communities”</i>	
	Moderator:	
	▪ Celia Grace Murnock, MS – Our House, Inc.	
12:00 – 1:00	Networking Lunch – <i>please visit the Exhibit Tables</i>	<i>Auditorium 2</i>
1:00 – 2:30	Concurrent Workshop Sessions A1, B1, C1, D1, E1, F1 – <i>please select one</i>	
2:30 – 2:45	Break	
2:45 – 4:15	Concurrent Workshop Sessions A2, B2, C2, D2, E2, F2 – <i>please select one</i>	
4:15 – 4:30	Evaluation & Closing – <i>The conference will conclude at the end of the session 2 workshops. Kindly submit your conference evaluations at the registration table before leaving.</i>	

Conference Tracks

Track A – Interpreting for Trauma Survivors – Room 102

Track B – Disasters and Environmental Trauma – Room 138

Track C – Lifespan Trauma in Culturally Diverse and Immigrant Families – Room 103

Track D – Sexual Trauma and Violence – Room 139

Track E – War and Fire Trauma – Room 140

Track F – Violence in the Community – Room 141

Meet our Keynote Speaker

Building Culturally Competent & Trauma-Informed Services



Sandra Bennett-Pagan, US DHHS NYC HRSA Region II, has a Master's degree in Social Work from Columbia University and a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the Catholic University of Puerto Rico. Ms. Bennett-Pagan has extensive experience in health care planning and administration in a variety of settings. She has served as Program Policy Analyst in the Office for Women's Health at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, as Program Officer covering the areas of health care services and services to people with disabilities at the New York Community Trust, and was the Founding Executive Director of the Latino Commission on AIDS, an AIDS advocacy organization in New York City.

As the Regional Women's Health Consultant, Ms. Bennett-Pagan works with federal, state, and local departments of health, community-based organizations, and professional associations in Region II (consisting of New York, New Jersey, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Territory of the Virgin Islands) to stimulate and support women's health initiatives across the life cycles. Accomplishments include: leading the Region II Work Group on Women's Health; providing support for community-based women's health programs; collaboration with the National Women's Health Centers of Excellence; co-sponsoring an East Coast Young Women's Health Summit; organizing a Bi-Regional Conference on Women, Diversity and Health Disparities; planning and implementing a Region II Summit on Mental Health, Children and Adolescents; and launching a Region-wide Initiative entitled "Violence Against Women and Girls: Building a Public Health Response."

Ms. Bennett-Pagan is a recipient of the 2000 US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps' Juan Carlos Finlay Award for her leadership in the implementation of activities that significantly improve access to health care for Hispanics. Ms. Bennett-Pagan received the 2002 Community Service Award from the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families for her work in providing post-trauma counseling to immigrant families affected by 9/11. She has been recognized by the US Department of Health and Human Services for exemplary service in responding to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City.

Morning Plenary Panel
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Auditorium 1

***Biopsychosocial Perspectives on
Trauma, Recovery, and Resilience in Diverse Populations***

Moderator: *Celia Grace Murnock, MS, Our House Inc.*

Family Stressors & the Role of Cultural Reciprocity in Building Resilience to Minimize their Impact

Diana Autin, Esq., Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

Autin will provide an overview of traumas faced by New Jersey's most underserved families and the impact of that trauma on their health and mental health. She will also discuss effective strategies to help families deal with and work through trauma and build resilience.

Importance of Cultural Difference in Environmental Medicine & Toxicology and Effects on Human Organ Maturation, Reproduction, Development & Neurobehavioral Function

George Lambert, MD

Dr. Lambert will discuss the importance of cultural difference in environmental medicine and environmental toxicology and how those cultural differences have to be assessed and discussed with the family and their medical team.

Full Service Community School Health Centers/School-Based Health Clinics

Melissa D. Elliott, LCS, CGP, CSSW

Denise Hajjar, MS, AADP

School-Based Health Clinics promote a healthy alliance between schools and home by practicing prevention, early intervention and support, and education for families. Information on this unique and necessary program will be provided.

The Effects of Trauma & Gun Violence on Individuals and Communities

Rev. Darrell Armstrong, DD, M.Div., ED.S.

Using the latest neuroscience research on trauma such as the A.C.E. Study (Adverse Childhood Experiences), the latest social-science research on well-being, such as the W.A.V.E. Study out of John Hopkins School of Public Health, and the latest findings on resilience and hope research from the University of Alberta, the Rev. Dr. Armstrong will explore how individuals and communities can overcome the adverse effects of gun violence and other terrorist acts. Attention will be given to the recent massacre of nine-African-descended Americans at the Emmanuel AME church in Charleston, SC. He will conclude with how individuals and communities can build up their bio-medical and psycho-social resistance and resilience to prevent these adverse effects.

OVERVIEW OF AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Session I 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Track A – Interpreting for Trauma Survivors

- Workshop **A1** – Room 102

Interpreting Compassion: Working with Interpreters and Trauma Survivors

Marjory A. Bancroft, MA – Director, Cross-Cultural Communications

(Moderator: Hank Dallman, MA, CMI – Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School)

Track B – Disasters and Environmental Trauma

- Workshop **B1** – Room 138

Trauma Informed Care for Victims of Superstorm Sandy

Steven Kairys, MD, MS, FAAP – Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, Jersey Shore Medical Center; Professor – Department of Pediatrics, Rutgers RWJ Medical School

Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS, FAAP – Asst. Professor – Department of Pediatrics & Family Medicine & Community Health, Rutgers RWJ Medical School

Robb Kruse, MD – Resident, Rutgers RWJ Medical School, Community Health at CentraState

Nicole Pratt, MA – Parent Advocate, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

Marcia M. Sass, ScD – Program Director, Pediatric Partnership Initiative, AAPNJ

(Facilitator: Stephanie Paneca-Navarro, MSW – Amerigroup)

Track C – Lifespan Trauma in Culturally Diverse and Immigrant Families

- Workshop **C1** – Auditorium 103

Promoting Resilience through Trauma-Informed Care: Promising Practices for Immigrants and Refugees

Lyn Morland – Center for Immigration and Child Welfare; Refugee Resettlement

Tarima Levine – Bank Street College of Education

(Moderator: Nicholas Montalto, PhD – Diversity Dynamics, LLC)

Track D – Sexual Trauma and Violence

- Workshop **D1** – Room 139

Becoming a More Trauma-Informed Organization to Serve Diverse Women and Families

Diana Autin – Executive Co-Director, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

(Moderator: Shakira Linzey, MPH – Central Jersey Family Health Consortia)

Track E – War and Fire Trauma

- Workshop **E1** – Room 140

Caring for Warriors, Veterans, and Their Families with PTSD/TBI

Teresa McArthur, LCSW, MPH, BCD – Certified Traumatologist; Veterans' Administration

(Moderator: Zenaida D. Steinhauer, RN, BSN, MPA – NJ Department of Health)

Track F – Youth and Violence in the Community

- Workshop **F1** – Room 141

Bullying & Trauma:

Brief Overview of Bullying-Related Harm on Diverse Populations: Evidence & Implications

Aaron Potenza, MA – Director of Programs, Garden State Equality

Stuart Green, DMH, LCSW – Director, NJ Coalition for Bullying Awareness & Prevention

Kim Rivers – Technical Assistance Specialist, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)

(Moderator: Dawn Monaco, BA – REACH Project Director, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN))

OVERVIEW OF AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Session II 2:45 – 4:15 PM

Track A – Interpreting for Trauma Survivors

- Workshop **A2**– Room 102

Breaking Silence: Interpreting for Victim Services

Marjory A. Bancroft, MA – Director, Cross-Cultural Communications

(Moderator: Hank Dallman, MA, CMI – Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School)

Track B – Disasters and Environmental Trauma

- Workshop **B2** – Room 138

Building Resiliency in Diverse Families of Children with Special Healthcare Needs Impacted by Superstorm Sandy (learnings from SPAN's NJ DOH-funded project, the Superstorm Sandy Resiliency Project (SSRP))

Maria Flores, SPAN Superstorm Sandy Resiliency Project Family Resource Specialist

Lola Sims, Family Support Organization of Bergen County, former SSRP Family Resource Specialist

Tatsiana DaGrosa, SPAN START Parent Group Specialist, former SSRP Family Resource Specialist

Lenora Faulkner, Parent of a child with special healthcare needs impacted by Superstorm Sandy

(Moderator: Aviva Woog – WellCare Health Plans of New Jersey)

Track C – Lifespan Trauma in Culturally Diverse and Immigrant Families

- Workshop **C2** – Room 103

Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health)

Gerard Costa, PhD – New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence Coordinating Center Montclair State University

Karen Benjamin, BS, MPH – Essex Pregnancy and Parenting Connection

Rhonda Littleton-Johnson, BA, MDiv. – Programs for Parents/Essex County Council for Young Children

Krista Zuccheri, LPC, ACS, SPHC – Family Connections, Inc.

Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS, FAAP – Asst. Professor – Department of Pediatrics & Family Medicine & Community Health, Rutgers RWJ Medical School

Andrea O'Neal, BA – Project LAUNCH Young Child Wellness Expert, Dept. of Children and Families (Moderator)

Track D – Sexual Trauma and Violence

- Workshop **D2**– Room 139

Predatory Drugs Used for Sexual Assault: How Drugging Is a Unique Form of Trauma

Ellen Bloom-Rau, MSW, LSW – Trauma Counselor/Sexual Violence Specialist – The Community YMCA Family Counseling Center & Bloom Associates, LLC

(Moderator: Helen Dao, BA, MHA – Dao Consulting Services, LLC)

Track E – War and Fire Trauma

- Workshop **E2** – Room 140

Serving Multicultural Communities: A Holistic Approach to the Delivery of Fire and Emergency Services

Michael Allora, Deputy Fire Chief, Clifton Fire Department

(Moderator: JoAnn Baxter, RN – NJ Department of Human Services)

Track F – Youth and Violence in the Community

- Workshop **F2** – Room 141

Responding to the Cycle of Violence, Trauma and Incarceration with Diverse Individuals, Families and Communities

Tina Maschi, PhD, LCSW, ACSW – Associate Professor, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services

(Moderator: Nancy Scotto-Rosato, PhD – NJ Department of Health)

Track A: Interpreting for Trauma Survivors

Session I: 1:00 – 2:30 PM Session II: 2:45 – 4:15

Room 102

Session A1: *Interpreting Compassion: Working with Interpreters and Trauma Survivors*

Presenter: Marjory A. Bancroft, MA – Cross-Cultural Communications

Moderator: Hank Dallman, MA, CMI – Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Abstract:

This workshop focuses on how to work effectively with interpreters and survivors of major trauma. The session focuses on refugee interpreting. Through real-life stories, demonstrations and learning activities, the workshop brings together knowledge gleaned from research and practice as well as national surveys, needs assessment and specialized training conducted by The Voice of Love, a nonprofit organization that supports quality interpreting for survivors of torture, war trauma and sexual violence.

(1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Assess the impact of survivor trauma on the interpreted encounter
- Evaluate strategies for providers to prevent or reduce the impact of interpreter vicarious trauma on the encounter

Session A2: *Breaking Silence: Interpreting for Victim Services*

Presenter: Marjory A. Bancroft, MA – Cross-Cultural Communications

Moderator: Hank Dallman, MA, CMI – Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Abstract:

This interactive 1.5 hour workshop will focus on traumainformed interpreting for victim services, with a special focus on Limited English Proficient (LEP) survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse (SA/DV/CA). The workshop addresses specific techniques that support direct communication and communicative autonomy for survivors.

(1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss three major concerns when working with interpreters and survivors of SA/DV/CA: interpreting traumatic content; respecting role boundaries; and managing one's emotions.
- Analyze effective culturally and linguistically appropriate techniques for providing trauma informed care when working with interpreters and trauma survivors, including building trust, professional introductions, positioning, supporting the therapeutic alliance, maintaining accuracy and addressing cultural misunderstandings.

Track B: **Disasters and Environmental Trauma**

Session I: 1:00 – 2:30 PM Session II: 2:45 – 4:15

Room 138

Session B1: *Trauma Informed Care for Victims of Superstorm Sandy*

Presenters: **Steven Kairys, MD, MS, FAAP** – Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, Jersey Shore Medical Center; Professor – Department of Pediatrics, Rutgers RWJ Medical School

Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS, FAAP – Asst. Professor – Department of Pediatrics & Family Medicine & Community Health, Rutgers RWJ Medical School

Robb Kruse, MD – Resident, Rutgers RWJ Medical School, Community Health at CentraState

Nicole Pratt, MAT– Parent Advocate, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

Marcia M. Sass, ScD – Program Director, Pediatric Partnership Initiative, AAPNJ

Facilitator: Stephanie Paneca-Navarro, MSW, – Amerigroup

Abstract:

Today's workshop describes how environmental disasters such as Superstorm Sandy can trigger or worsen toxic stress that, without interventions, can lead to longer term brain disruption and morbidities and mortality later in life. How to identify and intervene to build resilience and reduce longer term damage will be a focus. (1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Implement strategies for building resilience and protective factors in children and families that can ameliorate impacts of toxic stress.
- Apply communication techniques and screening tools that can assist with recognizing distress in children that may result following a disaster.
- State the rationale for implementing Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives can assist with identification of children at risk for toxic stress, strengthen medical home practices, and support longer term management of higher risk families.

Session B2: *Building Resiliency in Diverse Families of Children with Special Healthcare Needs Impacted by Superstorm Sandy*

Presenters: **Maria Flores**, SPAN Superstorm Sandy Resiliency Project Family Resource Specialist
Lola Sims, FSO of Bergen County, former SSRP Family Resource Specialist
Tatsiana DaGrosa, SPAN START PGS, former SSRP Family Resource Specialist
Lenora Faulkner, Parent of child with special healthcare need impacted by Superstorm Sandy

Moderator: Aviva Woog – WellCare Health Plans of New Jersey

Abstract:

The panel will summarize the traumatic impact of Superstorm Sandy and its aftermath on diverse families of children with special healthcare needs, as well as the strategies used by SPAN Family Resource Specialists, trained parents of children with special healthcare needs, to help diverse families address that trauma and enhance resiliency via SPAN's Superstorm Sandy Resiliency Project. (1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will learn the disproportionate impact of Superstorm Sandy on families of children with special healthcare needs, especially immigrant families, limited English proficient families, families of color, and low income families.
- Participants will understand effective strategies (supports and interventions) that can help address the trauma caused by Superstorm Sandy on diverse families of children with special healthcare needs

Track C: Lifespan Trauma in Culturally Diverse and Immigrant Families

Session I: 1:00 – 2:30 PM Session II: 2:45 – 4:15

Room 103

Session C1: *Promoting Resilience through Trauma-Informed Care:*

Promising Practices for Immigrants and Refugees

Presenter: **Lyn Morland** – Center for Immigration and Child Welfare; Refugee Resettlement

Tarima Levine – Bank Street College of Education

Moderator: Nicholas Montalto, PhD – Diversity Dynamics, LLC

Abstract:

After providing an overview of the different types of trauma and stresses experienced by many immigrants and refugees, this workshop will focus on identifying and implementing key strategies for discovering strengths and promoting resilience. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss application of these strategies in their own practice settings.

(1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- To be familiar with the different types of trauma and stresses experienced by many immigrants and refugees.
- To learn key strategies for identifying strengths and supporting resilience in practice with immigrants and refugees.
- To be able to apply resilience-informed strategies when serving immigrants and refugees.

Session C2: *Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health)*

Presenters: **Gerard Costa**, PhD, DIR[®]-C, IMH-E[®] IV - Clinical Mentor, Director and Senior Lecturer

Human
Coordinating Center
Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health College of Education and
Services Principal Investigator, New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence
Montclair State University

Karen Benjamin, BS, MPH – Essex Pregnancy and Parenting Connection

Young
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Rhonda Littleton-Johnson, BA, MDiv. – Programs for Parents/Essex County Council for
Children

Krista Zuccheri, LPC, ACS, SPHC – Family Connections, Inc.

Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS, FAAP – Asst. Professor – Department of Pediatrics & Family
Medicine & Community Health, Rutgers RWJ Medical School

Andrea O'Neal, BA, IMH-E[®] I: Infant Family Associate – Project LAUNCH Young Child
Wellness Expert, Department of Children and Families (**Moderator**)

Abstract:

This presentation will provide an overview of the mission of Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health). Participants will learn about some of the culturally competent, evidence-based programs that address the physical, social, emotional, behavioral and cognitive well-being of children that are available in Essex County. Panel presenters will discuss how Project LAUNCH and local partners are addressing lifespan trauma of culturally diverse and immigrant families in Essex County to reduce health and ethnic disparities.

(1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will learn how Project LAUNCH and local partners are addressing lifespan trauma in culturally diverse and immigrant families in Essex County through promotion and prevention efforts.
- Participants will understand how we are coordinating partners to develop an effective feedback loop with direct service providers in Essex County. Integration of systems and high quality services in order to decrease disparities and increase access to care will be addressed.
- Participants will learn about the services and supports that are available in Essex County.

Track D: Sexual Trauma and Violence

Session I: 1:00 – 2:30 PM Session II: 2:45 – 4:15

Room 139

Session D1: *Becoming a More Trauma-Informed Organization to Serve Diverse Women and Families*

Presenter: **Diana Autin** Esq. – Executive Co-Director, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)

Moderator: Shakira Linzey, MPH – Central Jersey Family Health Consortia

Abstract:

This workshop will provide an overview of the public health approach to trauma-informed care for women curriculum developed by the US Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health. The curriculum provides information, usable tools, and strategies that can be used to train staff at community-based agencies on how to recognize and facilitate healing from trauma.

(1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will understand how to address violence and trauma at the individual, system, and community level
- Participants will increase their knowledge base and skills in the area of trauma-informed care practices
- Participants will learn how to find and use resources to support individual and organization self-assessments and development and implementation of action plans designed to help them become more-trauma-informed individuals and organizations.

Session D2: *Predatory Drugs Used for Sexual Assault: How Drugging Is a Unique Form of Trauma*

Presenters: **Ellen Bloom-Rau**, MSW, LSW – Trauma Counselor/Sexual Violence Specialist – The Community YMCA Family Counseling Center & Bloom Associates, LLC

Moderator: Helen Dao, BA, MHA – Dao Consulting Services, LLC

Abstract:

Drugging and sexually assaulting a victim is a unique form of trauma. Many of the difficulties rape victims face in the aftermath of a drug facilitated sexual assault are often due to the effects of the drugs given by offenders. The surreptitious drugging of a victim is, in and of itself, a cruel and criminal violation of the person. Some victims describe this aspect of the trauma as “mind and body rape”. As a result of their inability to remember what happened, trauma is often experienced very differently. Current measures do not reveal how wide spread it is, but research makes it clear the risks are real.

(1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will understand the drugs used and the dynamics of drug facilitated sexual assault.
- Participants will understand the most effective crisis response for a victim of drug facilitated sexual assault.
- Participants will understand useful medical, legal and psychological interventions, including cultural considerations when providing services and community resources.

Track E: War and Fire Trauma

Session I: 1:00 – 2:30 PM Session II: 2:45 – 4:15

Room 140

Session E1: *Caring for Warriors, Veterans, and Their Families with PTSD/TBI*

Presenter: **Teresa McArthur**, LCSW, MPH, BCD – Certified Traumatologist; Veterans' Administration

Moderator: **Zenaida D. Steinhauer**, RN, BSN, MPA – NJ Department of Health

Abstract:

Veterans returning from a combat theatre experience many types of physiological and psychological traumas. Signature problems of the current wars include PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury). Symptoms often co-occur and overlap. It is especially important for providers, clinicians, caregivers, and family members to understand the experiences of our veterans returning from deployments (some 2-5 or more deployments). This workshop will provide both understanding and insight into how these illnesses impact the veteran, as well as those who have the honor of serving and supporting these veterans.

(1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will be able to identify symptoms of PTS
- Participants will be able to identify symptoms of TBI
- Participants will possess an understanding of how to best support and care for veterans with PTSD and/or TBI.

Session E2: *Serving Multicultural Communities: A Holistic Approach to the Delivery of Fire and Emergency Services*

Presenter: **Michael Allora**, Deputy Fire Chief, Clifton Fire Department

Moderator: **JoAnn Baxter**, RN – NJ Department of Human Services

Abstract:

In addition to immediate needs of shelter and food, fire victims experience physical, mental and emotional issues that negatively impact their recovery process. Long-term recovery is dependent on assistance from social services agencies and their own support system. Fire and emergency services agencies need to understand and address these challenges.

(1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Illustrate the needs of diverse populations as it pertains to the provision of fire and emergency services
- Illustrate the short-term and long-term needs of displaced occupants, especially those from diverse communities
- Demonstrate the current and desired future state of the fire and emergency services as it pertains to cultural competence

Track F: Youth and Violence in the Community

Session I: 1:00 – 2:30 PM Session II: 2:45 – 4:15

Room 141

Session F1: ***Bullying & Trauma: Brief Overview of Bullying-Related Harm on Diverse Populations: Evidence & Implications***

Presenters: **Aaron Potenza**, MA –Director of Programs, Garden State Equality
Stuart Green, DMH, LCSW – Director, NJ Coalition for Bullying Awareness & Prevention
Kim Rivers – Technical Assistance Specialist, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)
Moderator: Dawn Monaco, BA – Project Director, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

Abstract:

A continuing stream of evidence has convincingly documented the lifelong serious and traumatic harm that this common type of physical and emotional behavior produces. The disproportionate use of bullying to target children and youth based on race, ethnicity, disability, and sexual orientation is clear. The evidence will be briefly reviewed, and its implications discussed.

(1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will learn the impact of bullying on children and youth.
- Participants will learn the disproportionate use of bullying to target diverse populations.
- Participants will understand the supports and interventions that can help address the trauma caused by bullying.

Session F2: ***Responding to the Cycle of Violence, Trauma and Incarceration with Diverse Individuals, Families and Communities***

Presenter: **Tina Maschi**, PhD, LCSW, ACSW – Associate Professor, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services
Moderator: Nancy Scotto-Rosato, PhD – NJ Department of Health

Abstract:

This workshop applies a human rights perspective to explore the relationship between violence, trauma, and incarceration. It reviews promising and evidence-based practices with diverse individual, family, and community restorative interventions.

(1.5 CEUs available for this session)

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will be able to articulate theories and practice model that explain the etiology of violence and its impact on individuals, families and communities.
- Participants will be able to demonstrate assessment skills in assessing violence and trauma, including with the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated.
- Participants will demonstrate their abilities to engage in practices that increase public awareness for violence prevention and restorative practices.

IMPROVING TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE AND SERVICES FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS: BEST AND PROMISING PRACTICES

Presenter Bios

Michael Allora is a highly motivated career chief officer who effectively demonstrates sustained superior performance in both professional and educational environments. Committed to continuous professional and personal self-development as well as the development of others. Consistently demonstrates a commitment to improving service delivery to multicultural communities. Recognized for professional research in the area of cultural competence at the local, regional, and national level.

Rev. Darrell Armstrong, DD, M.Div., Ed.S is an internationally and nationally acclaimed teacher, preacher, motivational speaker, writer, workshop facilitator, grassroots community organizer, and child welfare/family strengthening advocate. He particularly focuses on issues of foster care and kinship legal guardianship. He and his three younger brothers were all foster children in Los Angeles, which is what fuels his passion for this work. Together they are co-writing a book entitled, "Black Family Life: Black Male Perspectives on America's Foster Care System." He is a former member of the NJ Governor's Cabinet for Children (2002-2005) and co-chaired the Child Welfare Transition Team for NJ Governor Jon Corzine (12/05-01/06). He is the founder and board president of the National Association of Foster Children, Inc., a national child welfare/family strengthening agency.

Diana Autin, Esq. is the Co-Director of the NJ Statewide Parent Advocacy Network. SPAN works to educate, empower, and engage families with children at risk due to poverty, disability, discrimination, or other special circumstances. Ms. Autin is the Alliance Parent Fellow on Urban Education and co-directs the Region I Parent TA Center. She has numerous awards for her advocacy efforts on behalf of families. She is the parent of four adopted children, one of whom has been involved in the juvenile justice system.

Marjory Bancroft, MA is the Director of Cross-Cultural Communications, the only national training agency for community interpreting. Ms. Bancroft's work has been published in multiple books, articles and journals. She has over 35 years of experience presenting workshops and conferences on cultural competence, language access, outreach to immigrants, how to work with interpreters, services to aging immigrants and refugees, and victim services for culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Ms. Bancroft holds a BA in French Linguistics and a MA in Linguistics.

Karen Benjamin, BS, MPH has been with Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey (PCANJ) for 9 years, working on initiatives related to prevention of shaken baby syndrome and child sexual abuse, a public health approach to trauma, and systems building. She earned a Master of Public Health degree from UMDNJ School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Science degree from Richard Stockton College of NJ. She is a Certified Master Health Education Specialist (MCHES), a past president of the NJ Society for Public Health Education (NJ SOPHE), and she currently serves on the boards of the NJ Association for Infant Mental Health and FamilyLink Regional Early Intervention Collaborative. Karen oversees the Essex Pregnancy and Parenting Connection (Essex Central Intake) and Project LAUNCH in Essex County.

Ellen Bloom-Rau, MSW, LSW During her 15 years in the mental health industry, Ms Bloom-Rau provided advocacy, crisis intervention, counseling, testimony, trainings and consultation related to sexual violence against women, children, men and families across the country. She has testified before the NJ General Assembly's Committee on Women on the topic of predatory drugs used for sexual assault and was awarded Monmouth University's 2012 International Advocate of the Year Award. Ms. Bloom-Rau graduated Summa Cum Laude 2010 from Georgian Court University where she majored in Psychology, and in 2012 she completed her Master's degree in Clinical Social Work at Monmouth University. She continues academic pursuits with a focus on Trauma Counseling & Forensic Social Work.

IMPROVING TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE AND SERVICES FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS: BEST AND PROMISING PRACTICES

Presenter Bios

Gerard Costa, PhD, is a licensed developmental psychologist and founding director of the *Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health* at Montclair State University. He holds certificates in the Brazelton Touchpoints model, DIR-C, and Infant Mental Health. He was appointed by Governor Corzine to the NJ Council for Young Children and is the Principal Investigator of the NJ Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) Coordinating Center at Montclair State University. He has presented on autism, infant mental health and human development throughout the United States and other countries, and has published papers and book chapters in these areas.

Tatsiana DaGrosa is a START Parent Support Group Specialist for the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN). She formerly served as a Superstorm Sandy Resiliency Project Family Resource Specialist, helping families of children with special healthcare needs impacted by Superstorm Sandy. She is also a parent.

Melissa D. Elliott, LCW, CGP, CSSW is a clinical social worker in Psychotherapy Practice and the Director of Behavioral Health at the Full Service Health Center located within the Paterson Public School System (FSCS Health Center). She is also a board member of the Christopher Barron Live Life Foundation. Ms. Elliott holds a bachelors degree in Social Work from Rutgers University and a masters degree in Clinical Social Work from Simmons College School of Social work.

Maria Flores is a Family Resource Specialist and START Parent Support Group Specialist for the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN). She formerly served as a Superstorm Sandy Resiliency Project Family Resource Specialist, helping families of children with special healthcare needs impacted by Superstorm Sandy. She is also a parent.

Stuart Green, DMH, LCSW, MA is founder and director of *NJ Coalition for Bullying Awareness and Prevention* (www.njbullying.org), and an expert witness and advisor for lawyers advocating for families of bullied children. Dr. Green chaired the NJ Commission on Bullying in Schools, co-authoring its report, *No Time to Lose*, which became the basis for the NJ Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. Dr. Green is also Associate Director of Overlook Family Medicine Residency Program, a training program for Family Physicians at Overlook Medical Center in Summit, NJ. His publications include articles about how schools should prevent and respond to incidents of bullying.

Denise Hajjar, M.S. is President of Health N Wellness Services, LLC. She holds a Master of Holistic Nutrition and is a Health and Wellness Educator. She is contracted with the Board of Education in Paterson to operate Health Centers in 5 Full Service Community Schools for the past four years and recently opened a Health Clinic at the Oakwood Avenue School in Orange, NJ.

Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS, FAAP is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Family Medicine & Community Health at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and a Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician at Children's Specialized Hospital. He obtained his medical degree from Rutgers University- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and completed his residency at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Dr. Jimenez was a Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation Public Policy fellow in the office of U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen where he worked on health and disability issues during the health reform debate. Most recently, Dr. Jimenez completed a combined fellowship between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Pennsylvania and Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia earning a Master of Science degree in Health Policy Research. Broadly, Dr. Jimenez's interests focus on making the health system more responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations. His research has focused on identifying barriers to early intervention service receipt among young children identified with developmental concerns, identifying factors associated with completed early intervention referrals, and overcoming barriers to early intervention service receipt by promoting shared decision making. His work has been supported by a 2011 Academic Pediatric Association (APA) Young Investigator Award (YIA) for Child Development and Preventive Care Service for Children, Ages 0-5, supported by The Commonwealth Fund, and was recognized with a Fellow Research Award at the 2012 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Boston.

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Presenter Bios

Steven Kairys, MD,MS, FAAP is Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Medical Director of the K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital in Neptune, New Jersey. He is also Professor of Pediatrics at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He is a general pediatrician with sub-boards in adolescent medicine and child abuse, and has special interests in international medicine, health policy, quality of care and medical management. Dr. Kairys is the medical director and chairman of the board of the AAP NJ Pediatric Council on Research and Education, the chairperson of the NJ Council of Children's Hospitals, and the medical director of the national AAP Quality Improvement and Innovation Networks (QuIIN). He also serves on the board of the National Institute for Child Health Quality (NICHQ). Dr. Kairys came to NJ in 1998 after 20 years of Pediatrics in New Hampshire. During his time in New Hampshire, he was chapter chairman for 8 years and was the founder and first president of the New Hampshire Alliance for Children and Youth, a state wide advocacy organization. In NJ, he has been the medical director and chairman of the board for NJAAP for over 12 years. During that time he has been the medical champion for medical home, child abuse and neglect, mental health, developmental screening, and the Trenton Children's Futures program. He has become a national leader in pediatric quality improvement and in the prevention of child abuse.

Robb Kruse, MD is a third year resident at Rutgers, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold, New Jersey. In addition to his many accomplishments, Dr. Kruse took on the leadership role for implementing a quality improvement initiative for sustaining M-CHAT screening of 18 and 24 month olds at CentraState healthcare clinics.

George Lambert, MD is a recently retired Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/U.S.EPA funded Center for Childhood Neurotoxicology and Exposure Assessment, and Director of the Center for Child and Reproductive Environmental Health at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/ University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He holds a M.D. degree from the University of Illinois and has had post graduate training in: Clinical Research in Neonatology, a Pediatric Intern and Resident at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD. He was a Pharmacology Fellow at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, PA, and a research associate in molecular pharmacology at the NIH. Dr. Lambert is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics; Neonatal/ Perinatal Medicine, and an Instructor, Neonatal Resuscitation. He is also a member of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey at RWJ Medical School. Dr. Lambert has served as a consulting expert to a number of professional and governmental organizations including: the Neuropharmacology Division of the FDA, the U.S. Congress, Toxic Substances Control Act Interagency Testing Committee, Department of Energy, Oakridge National Laboratory, Div of Chemical Assessment, Office of Orphan Products Development, FDA; National Institute of Child Health and Human Development's (NICHD) National Neonatal Collaborative Project, the CDC, WHO, NASA and the National Academy of Sciences.

Rhonda Littleton-Johnson, BA, Mdiv. holds a BA in Anthropology from Fordham University, a Mdiv from Drew Theological Seminary and a Certificate in Family Development from the Rutgers School of Social Work. Formally, Rhonda was the program director of the Workforce Literacy Development Program at St. James Social Service Corporation where she not only taught basic adult literacy, she created and developed programs to help those educationally disadvantaged. She was a partner in a prestigious marketing and business development firm based in New York City where she assisted in marketing pension products to major public fund organizations. In addition, she was the Secretary and a member of the planning committee for the New York Chapter of the National Association of Securities Professionals where she played a pivotal role in putting together the annual Trustee Education Seminars. Currently, R.C. Littleton-Johnson is the project coordinator for the Essex County Council for Young Children. She is a member of the National Council for Negro Women. In addition, R.C Littleton-Johnson is a former board member of the Mississippi Women's Financial Educational Foundation Advisory Council. She is the proud mother of one son who has graciously blessed her with five amazing and beautiful granddaughters. She is a published author.

IMPROVING TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE AND SERVICES FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS: BEST AND PROMISING PRACTICES

Presenter Bios

Tina Mashi, PhD, LCSW, ACSW is an associate professor at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service in New York City. She is a 2010 recipient of the competitive Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholars Program Award, which is funded by the Hartford Foundation and the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). She is the principal investigator for the research project, "Trauma, coping resources and well-being among older adults in prison." She also has received intramural research grants and fellowships for her research. Dr. Maschi also is a 2009 recipient of the Council on Social Work Education's Faculty Scholar's Award for the research project for Promising Practices in Social Work Research Education. Dr. Maschi also has over 15 years of clinical social work and research experience in juvenile and criminal justice settings and community mental health settings. She also is a professional musician and integrates the use of creative arts interventions for improving well-being and feelings of community and empowerment among diverse populations, including youth, older adults, women and professionals in high stress positions. She is currently coordinator of the Human Rights and Social Justice Course Sequence. She teaches research, practice, and the foundation human rights and social justice course at the Lincoln Center and Westchester Campuses at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service.

Teresa McArthur, LCSW, MPH received a Master of Social Work and a Master of Public Health at the University of South Florida. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, a Board Certified Diplomate through the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work, and a Certified Traumatologist through the Charles Figley Traumatology Institute. She has provided individual, couple, family, and group psychotherapy since 2001. After working at Family Service Association of Greater Tampa through June 2003, she entered private practice with specialization of treatment for those experiencing traumatic events. In January 2009, she began working as a clinician serving veterans at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital's PTSD Specialty Clinic from January 2009 - November 2013, and began serving veterans at the Trenton Vet Center in December 2013.

Lyn Morland An Anthropologist and Social Worker, Ms. Morland has devoted her career to building the capacity of organizations to serve immigrants and refugees. She has directed community clinics for Central Americans; a national initiative addressing the mental health needs of refugees, asylees, and survivors of torture; an intervention for youth from Sierra Leone; and for the past ten years, Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS), providing training and coaching to those serving refugee and immigrant children and families. She is currently Senior Consultant to the Center on Immigration and Child Welfare and Bank College's Center on Culturally Responsive Practice.

Andrea O'Neal is a professional with analytical and leadership abilities in financial services and philanthropy. She is the Young Child Wellness Coordinator for Project LAUNCH NJ (PLNJ) in the Department of Children & Families (DCF). Project LAUNCH NJ is a public health approach that promotes a comprehensive, coordinated health system that addresses the physical, emotional, social, behavioral and cognitive aspects of child wellness from pregnancy to age eight. Andrea is currently attending Rutgers University working to obtain an Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA). She graduated from Rider University with a Bachelor's degree in Humanities, Social Science and Psychology, a mini-MBA in Marketing and Social Media from Rutgers University Business School. She received a certificate in non-profit management from Rutgers University Center for Nonprofit & Philanthropic Leadership. She currently serves on the Leadership Council of the Statewide Network for Cultural Competence, Pyramid Model Leadership Team, Infant Child Mental Health State Leadership Team, Home Visiting COIIN State Leadership Team, and the Infant Child Health Committee of the NJ Council for Young Children.

Aaron Potenza, MA is the Director of Programs for Garden State Equality and has taught at Yale University and Trinity College in Hartford. He has a background in LGBT history and studies, and is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in American Studies at Yale.

IMPROVING TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE AND SERVICES FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS: BEST AND PROMISING PRACTICES

Presenter Bios

Nicole Pratt, MAT, BS is a single working mom of two children, a daughter 20 and son 15 years old, who both have special health care needs. Nicole is a strong advocate for both her children and for other families who struggle to obtain appropriate education supports along with healthcare services for their children. Nicole sits on several New Jersey State, national and local parent leader advisory committees/ boards that support/empower families and children. Nicole works for The Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, (SPAN) in two capacities: she is Parent Professional Development Trainer, educating parents and professionals, which include teachers, administration, and community organizations on an array of education and health topics across New Jersey. Nicole is also the Coordinator on the Office of Prevention of Developmental Disabilities, coordinating trainings for professionals and support for women around healthcare messaging. Nicole has a BS in Psychology, Masters in Teaching and she is now working on her PhD in Psychology studying the topic of how trauma affects behavior and what kinds of clinical/ natural supports can be used to stabilize.

Kim Rivers is a Technical Assistance Specialist at the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, New Jersey's one-stop for families of children birth to 26. She provides direct assistance to families whose children are being bullied due to disability, race or ethnicity, body size, or other characteristics. She connects families to resources to address/prevent bullying as well as to resources to deal with the emotional/traumatic and physical impacts of bullying on their children. She is a parent whose child has faced bullying & harassment.

Marcia Sass, SCD served as Program Director of the Pediatric Partnership Initiative (PPI) as a consultant through Rutgers School of Public Health from December 1, 2013 through July 31, 2015 when the program officially ended. Dr. Sass has more than 30 years of experience in program development and evaluation at the national, state and local levels. In her years of service at NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Dr. Sass held positions as an administrator and manager as well as an evaluator of health service/public health projects. Common to all of these positions, she had major responsibilities for the dissemination of information on health data and outcomes. From 1991 to 1994 she was responsible for implementing, providing technical assistance, building capacity, managing and developing evaluative mechanisms for the State's six Local Advisory Boards (Regional Health Planning Agencies covering all 21 counties) and Competitive initiatives Program grants. Moving to the Division of HIV/AIDS Services, she then served as NJDHSS' representative to national groups developing evaluation guidelines for CDC-funded HIV prevention programs. From 2002 through July 2015, Dr. Sass was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Systems and Policy at Rutgers School of Public Health. In addition to teaching topics related to health services research and evaluation and public health policy and practice, she collaborated on community health assessment projects with other Rutgers faculty & students.

Lola Sims is a Parent Support Partner at the Bergen County Family Support Organization. She formerly served as a Superstorm Sandy Resiliency Project Family Resource Specialist, helping families of children with special healthcare needs impacted by Superstorm Sandy. She is also a parent.

Krista Zuccheri, LPC, ACS, SPHC is Chief Operating Officer at Family Connections, a not-for-profit community based counseling and family service agency. Family Connections delivers research-based therapeutic services in-office, in-schools, and in-homes, primarily in Essex County. Krista has been directly involved in Family Connections' implementation of Project Launch evidence-based programming and Parents as Teachers home visiting. She also led Family Connections' team in representing NJ Department of Children and Families in a national quality improvement project, HVCollN (Home Visiting Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network), sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Krista has worked at Family Connections' for 11 years, in director, management, and clinical direct service roles. She holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Counseling and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. Krista has participated in two international trainings on psychosocial interventions for populations impacted by violence and natural disaster through Columbia University. She completed Seton Hall University's Non-Profit Financial Management Training, and is certified in Clinical Supervision and Human Resources.



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