

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

2024

**3rd Annual
Child
Abuse
Prevention
Conference**



**SPONSORED BY
LOUISIANA CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND**

APRIL 22, 2024

CAJUNDOME

LAFAYETTE, LA

www.louisianactf.org

Welcome from Jolie Williamson



On behalf of the Louisiana Children's Cabinet and the entire organizing committee, it is my distinct pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you for the 3rd Annual Louisiana Children's Trust Fund Child Abuse Prevention Conference.

As the Director of Children's Programs and Executive Director of the Louisiana Children's Cabinet, I am deeply honored to convene this important gathering dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and the promotion of child well-being in our great state.

This conference serves as a vital platform for professionals, advocates, policymakers, and community members to come together, share knowledge, and collaborate on strategies to protect our children and strengthen families across Louisiana. With your participation and expertise, I am confident that we will advance meaningful dialogue and innovative solutions to address the complex challenges facing our children and families.

Throughout the conference, you will have the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking workshops, interactive discussions, and networking sessions aimed at enhancing our collective efforts in child abuse prevention. Additionally, our lineup of esteemed speakers and panelists will provide valuable insights and inspiration to guide our work moving forward.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the conference program and to actively contribute your perspectives and experiences to our shared mission of ensuring the safety and well-being of every child in Louisiana.

Once again, welcome to the 3rd Annual Louisiana Children's Trust Fund Child Abuse Prevention Conference. Thank you for your dedication to this critical cause, and I look forward to our collaborative endeavors over the coming days.

Warm regards,
Jolie V. Williamson
Director of Children's Programs
Executive Director, Louisiana Children's Cabinet

Welcome from Franchesca Hamilton Acker, JD



Greetings,

Welcome to the 3rd Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference. We are excited about your participation and thank you for attending. April is designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and efforts are maximized to recognize and raise awareness about the importance of child welfare stakeholders working together to help strengthen families in an effort to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund continues to strive to meet its most important objective in aiding to significantly help prevent child abuse and neglect in the state of Louisiana. We recognize the important relationship with you, our partners and community collaborators, who work to provide prevention efforts to protect children, strengthen family well-being, and educate the public about the importance of focusing on children's safety. Through these collaborations, prevention services and supports help to protect children and produce healthy and thriving families.

We hope that you enjoy this year's conference and look forward to continuing to work together.

Best Regards,

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, JD
Board Chair
Louisiana Children's Trust Fund

Welcome from Ursula Anderson



Greetings,

Welcome to Louisiana Children's Trust Fund 3rd Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference. We are honored to have you join us in this crucial endeavor to safeguard the well-being of our children.

At the heart of our mission lies a profound commitment to the well-being and safety of every child in our great state. Through collaborative efforts and innovative strategies, we strive to create a nurturing environment where children can thrive free from the scourge of abuse and neglect. Your presence underscores a shared commitment to creating a safer and healthier environment for every child in our community. I am grateful for your dedication and I look forward to our ongoing collaboration.

Warm Regards,

Ursula Anderson
Executive Director
Louisiana Children's Trust Fund



Board Members

Ms. Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, JD, Chairman
Representing the Louisiana State Bar Association

Mr. Carnell Washington, Vice-Chairman
Representing the NAACP

Ms. Angela J. Bridgewater
Representing the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice

Ms. Amanda Brunson
Representing the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services

Judge Ree Casey-Jones
Representing the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Ms. Brittney Cochran
Representing the Department of Education

Mrs. Tamara Foster-Montgomery
Representing the University Community

Ms. Christie Hitchens
Representing the National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana Chapter

Dr. Alicia Kober
Representing the Louisiana State Medical Society

Rev. Mary Moss
Representing the Religious Community

Ms. Yolanda Motley
Representing the Early Childhood Community

Dr. Kimberly Sherman
Representing the Louisiana Psychological Association

Jolie V. Williamson
Representing the Louisiana Children's Cabinet



Keynote Speakers



RESILIENCE - VICTORY BY DESIGN

D.J. EAGLE BEAR VANAS, NATIVE DISCOVERY

Victory is not born from waiting for a better economy, a new administration, the perfect moment, or the exact mix of resources – it's about using what we have right now, around us and within us, to create success. Your clients, customers and coworkers deserve the best service you can provide them – regardless of circumstances – and this program will empower and inspire you to do just that. You'll learn how to use warrior spirit principles to leverage your precious supplies of time and energy into results, creating clarity to get more done, adopt a resilient mindset that is fiercely focused on solutions, and to understand that the business of warriors can make us warriors in business. The program is created to be engaging, motivating, and entertaining but most importantly, it's created to show your people that victory in what they do does not depend on luck, chance, or hope. Victory is by design!



EMPOWERING FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS: UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA AND APPROACHES TO CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

ELIZABETH POWER, M.ED., EPOWER & ASSOCIATES

Join us for the closing keynote session of the La Children's Trust Fund Child Abuse Prevention Conference, where Elizabeth Power will delve into the critical intersection of trauma and prevention strategies in the context of child abuse. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of trauma-informed practices and how they can be effectively utilized as tools for preventing child abuse. From recognizing the signs of trauma to implementing trauma-sensitive interventions, this session will equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to create safer environments for children and families.



Discover Your Path!



SCHEDULE



7:30 - 10:00 am	Check-in Desk Opens
8:30 - 9:00 am	Welcome and Greetings
9:00 - 10:00 am	Keynote 1: Resilience - Victory By Design - D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas
10:15 - 11:15 am	Breakouts - 4 Sessions Available
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch and Networking
12:45 - 1:45 pm	Breakouts - 4 Sessions Available
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Breakouts - 4 Sessions Available
3:15 - 4:30 pm	Keynote 2 and Closing Comments: Empowering Families and Caregivers: Understanding Trauma and Approaches to Child Abuse Prevention Closing Comments and Door Prizes



Breakouts



8:30 am – 9 am Greeting, Welcome, & Introductions

Exhibit Hall A

- **Ursula Anderson, Executive Director of Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund**
- **Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, JD, Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund Board Chair**
- **Jolie V. Williamson, Office of the Governor Director of Children’s Programs and Executive Director of Children’s Cabinet**

9 am – 10 am

Exhibit Hall A

Opening Keynote - Resilience: Victory by Design

D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas, Native Discovery

Victory is not born from waiting for a better economy, a new administration, the perfect moment, or the exact mix of resources – it’s about using what we have right now, around us and within us, to create success. Your clients, customers and coworkers deserve the best service you can provide them – regardless of circumstances – and this program will empower and inspire you to do just that. You’ll learn how to use warrior spirit principles to leverage your precious supplies of time and energy into results, creating clarity to get more done, adopt a resilient mindset that is fiercely focused on solutions, and to understand that the business of warriors can make us warriors in business. The program is created to be engaging, motivating, and entertaining but most importantly, it’s created to show your people that victory in what they do does not depend on luck, chance, or hope. Victory is by design!

10:15 am to 11:15 am Breakout 100 Series Sessions

Session 101 - Understanding Brain Architecture and Trauma

Corie Hebert, Ph.D., Southeast Louisiana University

Cajun Room

This engaging and interactive session will introduce participants to the concept of brain architecture and its relationship to trauma using the Brain Architecture Game. Participants will explore how early childhood experiences, including trauma, can shape brain development and lifelong health. Through game play and discussion, attendees will gain valuable insights into the impact of trauma on brain development and the importance of trauma-informed approaches.

Session 102 - : Unveiling the Shadows: Understanding and Combating Child Trafficking

Holly Tupper, Unbound Now, La CSEY Advocacy Program Director

Gospel Room

In this session, participants will delve into the dark reality of child trafficking and its intersections with child abuse prevention efforts. Through a comprehensive exploration of the dynamics and prevalence of trafficking, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the vulnerabilities that make children susceptible to exploitation. Expert speakers will discuss the signs and indicators of trafficking, as well as strategies for prevention, intervention, and support for victims.

Breakouts



Session 102 (continued) By shedding light on this critical issue, this session aims to empower attendees with the knowledge and tools needed to combat child trafficking and protect vulnerable children from exploitation and abuse.

Session 103 - Perspective Taking

Rob Carlisle, LPC-S, LMFT, Child Advocacy Services

Jazz Room

Everyone knows the story of the Tortoise & the Hare, right. Different ways of getting to the same place. What would have happened if they worked together, formed a new perspective, to accomplish something better. Possibly a new path. We may never know without their perspectives together put into action. Learning the act of Perspective Taking will offer new strategies for better solutions. Participants will learn how to utilize alternative methods through different perspectives for better

Session 104 - Developing Your Toolkit: Recognizing & Addressing Grief to Promote Resiliency

Jarvis Spearman, LMSW, Wellpath-Swanson

Zydeco Room

How do we support children and families after trauma and loss? This workshop will provide an overview of trauma and grief, explore the myths and facts of grief, address the unique needs of clinical interventions for caregivers and professionals to support grieving children in the aftermath of a traumatic event and provide strategies to promote resilience.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Networking Lunch

Exhibit Hall A

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm Breakout 200 Series Sessions

Session 201 - Substance Use: Prevention and Impact on Families and Children

Tieranni Parquet, LPC, CADA Prevention & Recovery Center

Cajun Room

Attend this session to learn more about the critical issue of substance use and its profound effects on families and children. Substance abuse not only poses significant health risks to individuals but also exerts a devastating impact on familial dynamics and the well-being of children. Through insightful discussions and evidence-based strategies, this session aims to illuminate the pathways of prevention and intervention, offering attendees valuable insights into mitigating the adverse effects of substance use within family settings. From understanding the underlying factors contributing to substance abuse to exploring effective prevention measures and support systems, this session will equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to address this multifaceted issue comprehensively.

Breakouts



Session 202 - ALICE in Louisiana: Hard Choices Impacting Families and Children

Sarah H. Berthelot, President and CEO, United Ways of Louisiana

Gospel Room

In this session, attendees will be provided with information about the United Way ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) report and insights directly related to the well-being of families and children. ALICE represents a significant segment of our population living above the poverty line but struggling to afford basic necessities. Participants will gain valuable insights into the unique challenges faced by ALICE families and how to tailor prevention efforts to effectively support them.

Session 203 - On the Road to Safety: Ensuring Child Well-Being through Vehicle and Car Seat Safety

Bridget Gardner, RN, Trauma Program Specialist, Injury Prevention, University Medical Center New Orleans

Jazz Room

This session will focus on the critical importance of vehicle and car seat safety in preventing child injuries and fatalities. Attendees will gain essential knowledge about best practices for selecting, installing, and using car seats correctly, as well as understanding the latest recommendations for keeping children safe in vehicles. Through interactive demonstrations and expert-led discussions, participants will leave equipped with practical strategies to promote child well-being on the road.

Session 204 - FINS: Understanding Status Offenders of Louisiana

Zydeco Room

Reshonn Saul, Louisiana Supreme Court, Judicial Program Manager for FINS

In this session participants will increase understanding about the complexities surrounding status offenses and their intersection with child abuse prevention efforts. FINS (Families in Need of Services) cases involve minors who engage in behaviors that are only considered offenses because of their age, such as truancy or running away from home. Participants will explore the unique challenges faced by status offenders in Louisiana and learn about strategies for addressing these challenges through a collaborative, trauma-informed approach. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the underlying issues contributing to status offenses and learn how to effectively support and advocate for vulnerable youth.

Breakouts



2 pm to 3 pm Breakout 300 Series Sessions

Session 301 (Repeated) - Understanding Brain Architecture and Trauma

Corie Hebert, Ph.D., Southeast Louisiana University

Cajun Room

This engaging and interactive session will introduce participants to the concept of brain architecture and its relationship to trauma using the Brain Architecture Game. Participants will explore how early childhood experiences, including trauma, can shape brain development and lifelong health. Through game play and discussion, attendees will gain valuable insights into the impact of trauma on brain development and the importance of trauma-informed approaches.

Session 302 - Assessing Child Safety

Gospel Room

Etrena Gerard, Louisiana DCFS and Lacy Simms, MCSW-BACS, Louisiana DCFS

The Child Welfare Assessment and Decision-Making Model (CWADM) is a framework that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) uses to assess safety and risk and the needs and strengths of children and families throughout the life of a child welfare case. CWADM ensures that DCFS and courts have the best possible information upon which to make decisions with and for families involved with DCFS. In 2022, the safety language in CWADM was incorporated into the Louisiana Children's Code (Act 272). Our presenters will unpack the variables that help determine whether a child is safe or unsafe: threats of danger to the child, the child's vulnerability to the identified threats of danger, and the caretaker's protective capacities. They will give practical examples of circumstances that help guide the type of safety plan with the family that is needed. Presenters will provide information about the ongoing assessment of safety in a Child In a Need of Care case with a focus on conditions for return and conditions for closure.

Session 303 - Building Safe Homes: Strategies for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Prevention

Janell Brown, Project Celebration

Jazz Room

This session will provide attendees with insight into the critical intersection of domestic violence and child abuse prevention, offering strategies for safeguarding families and creating environments where children can thrive. Attendees will gain an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, its impact on children, and evidence-based approaches to prevention and intervention.

Breakouts



Zydeco Room Session 304 Louisiana ACE Educator Program and Parent Talk: Parents Can Prevent ACEs

Sheri Eastridge, Louisiana Department of Health

Zydeco Room

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study demonstrated the connection between childhood adversity and health and well-being throughout the lifespan. Increased childhood adversity is associated with an increase in the risk of adverse outcomes in physical health, mental health, and social problems. Parents have the greatest power to prevent childhood adversity, and they deserve to know more about this important driver of public health. In this workshop, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the impact of childhood adversity and discuss the importance of parental self-care in the parent-child relationship. Participants will also learn and practice some strategies that parents can use to increase resilience and protective factors for their children.

3:15 pm – 4:10 pm

Exhibit Hall A

Closing Keynote - Empowering Families and Caregivers: Understanding Trauma and Approaches to Child Abuse Prevention

Elizabeth Power, MEd, The Trauma Informed Academy

Join us for the closing keynote session of the La Children's Trust Fund Child Abuse Prevention Conference, where Elizabeth Power will delve into the critical intersection of trauma and prevention strategies in the context of child abuse. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of trauma-informed practices and how they can be effectively utilized as tools for preventing child abuse. From recognizing the signs of trauma to implementing trauma-sensitive interventions, this session will equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to create safer environments for children and families.

4:10 pm – 4:15 pm Closing Comments and Door Prizes

Exhibit Hall A

Ursula Anderson, Executive Director of Louisiana Children's Trust Fund





CEU / CLE Credits

CEUs and CLEs: We will offer a maximum of 5 CEUs and 5 CLEs (application under review) for this event. You must complete the Conference Evaluation to receive a certificate for CEUs and/or CLEs. The CEU certificate will be sent to you within 30 days at the email address you used to register online. CLEs will be posted on your MCLE record. The link to the Evaluation will be shared after the Closing Keynote.

Sessions Approved for CEUs:

General: Opening Keynote (1), Session 102, Session 104, Session 201, Session 202, Session 203, Session 204, Session 302, Session 304, Closing Keynote

Clinical: Session 101/301 (1), Session 103

Not approved: Session 303

Resource Tables

Exhibitor resource tables will be open from 8:30 am to 3 pm in the Blues Room. Please thank our exhibitors for sharing information with all of us!

- Bayou Lotus Corporation
- Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana
- Chez Hope, Inc.
- Families Helping Families of Acadiana
- GBC Life Services - Behavioral Health
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Info Center of Louisiana
- Louisiana CASA
- Louisiana Spirit
- Pelican Center for Children and Families
- Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services
- The Family Tree Information, Education, & Counseling Center
- United Healthcare
- United Way of Acadiana
- VIA LINK/Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (PCAL)

Faculty Bios



Sarah Hamilton Berthelot serves as President and CEO of the Louisiana Association of United Ways, an organization of eight-member United Ways. Sarah was also selected by her fellow state association peers to serve on the United Way Worldwide Network Advisory Council, a body of leaders spanning the global United Way Network. With 27 years of nonprofit experience, Sarah fosters the development of statewide impact initiatives, which leverage technology, people-powered capabilities of United Ways and other nonprofit partners to unlock scaled solutions for human service delivery. Sarah currently provides project leadership to nine public-private statewide partnerships, including strategic work with the Louisiana Department of Child and Family Services, Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Department of Corrections, and Louisiana Board of Regents. Sarah's board and task force involvement includes Past President of Louisiana Voluntary Organizations Active During Disaster (VOAD), Board Member for the Louisiana Association of Non-Profit Organizations (LANO), Board Member for the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, Leadership Team Member for the Ready Louisiana Coalition, Board Member for the Association of Junior Leaders International (AJLI), Past President of the Junior League of Lafayette, Founding Board Member for the 705 Young Professional Group in Acadiana, Appointed Member for the Louisiana Governor's Task Force for the 2020 Census, Member of Leadership Lafayette Class XXI, Member of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Subcommittee, and appointment to the Empower Families to Live Well Legislative Coalition. Sarah is a first-generation college graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, completing a Bachelor of Arts focused on Interpersonal and Public Communications. Sarah has received honors through the years – including being named one of Acadiana's Women Who Mean Business; recognized as Lady of the Year by the Faith House and named as one of the Top 20 under 40 by The Daily Advertiser. This month, Sarah will receive the Rising Leader Award as part of the 17th Annual Women's Leadership Conference at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Sarah and her husband, Jon, live in Youngsville. They are the proud parents of two children.

Rob Carlisle currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer for Child Advocacy Services. Child Advocacy Services (CAS) is a private, non-profit umbrella agency providing services through the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Program, and other services supporting their mission to give Voice, Healing, and Security to children. Formerly the Clinical Director for Child Advocacy Services, he has provided therapeutic supervision and counseling for children and adults in a variety of settings. Rob has developed, planned, and implemented a range programs and direct service initiatives for youth in over fourteen parishes and ten Judicial Districts throughout Louisiana. In earlier capacities, he served as the Juvenile Services Director for the City Court of Hammond. He has worked in

Faculty Bios



substance abuse treatment and the juvenile justice field for over 18 years, five of those years he has been involved in the development and implementation of three juvenile drug courts resulting in national consultant duties through the National Family and Juvenile Court Judges Association. He has served as a national consultant for the National Council for Juvenile Court Judges Association. Mr. Carlisle has been instrumental in integrating various program strategies and treatment approaches for youth in a variety of contexts including judicial, non-profit, and private settings. He strives to ensure a comprehensive continuum of care and service delivery for all youth and families. He continues as an adjunct faculty member at Southeastern Louisiana University. He received his bachelor's degree and certification in education and special education as well as his master's degree in counseling from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana. Rob has two sons, Cross-18 and Cale-16.

Sheri Eastridge joined the ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Educator Program with the Louisiana Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health in 2018 as a volunteer ACE Educator, and she became the Program Coordinator in 2022. She comes to this position after 15 years in non-profit and community leadership roles, primarily in programs serving domestic violence victims and their children and families experiencing homelessness. She has extensive experience in advocacy, developing trauma-informed programming, and compliance monitoring. Ms. Eastridge has been a trainer at both the local and state level. Since 2011, she has trained thousands of professionals, law enforcement officers, civic leaders, and other community members on the impact of trauma and strategies to build resilience. She has dedicated her career to increasing awareness about the connection between childhood adversity and health and well-being throughout the lifespan.

Bridget Gardner has been a registered nurse with the world renown Charity Hospital Trauma Center, now University Medical Center, for 31 years. She is a Program Specialist for the Trauma Department and is specific in Injury Prevention. She is a 1992 graduate of Charity Hospital School of Nursing who began her career in the Emergency Department. Bridget is the Program Director for the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force overseeing Occupant Protection activities in 9 regions of the state, the director of the Sudden Impact Program and serves as the Emphasis Area leader for the State Young Drivers Emphasis of the Louisiana Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Etrena Gerard is currently a Child Welfare Manager 1 in the Child Protective Services unit at the Department of Children and Family Services in State Office. She has a master's degree in criminal justice and is experienced in Child Welfare as an investigator, a supervisor of Investigations and Family Services, as well as a Child Welfare Consultant. Etrena currently works with CPS units statewide to assist in the investigation process by providing case consultation, as well as the ongoing assessment of safety.

Faculty Bios



Dr. Corie Hebert - Dr. Hebert has served as Principal Investigator of the Louisiana Child Welfare Training Academy from inception to present. She has a PhD and teaches at Southeastern University School of Social Work with over twenty years teaching experience in social work. Areas of research include foster parent engagement, training, and trauma.

Tieranni Parquet is a Licensed Professional Counselor with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the mental health field. She is passionate about removing the stigma and criminalization surrounding individuals that need mental health services. As the Clinical Director at CADA Prevention & Recovery, she strives to empower our individuals along their journey to recovery. Ensuring that individuals feel, seen, heard and respected when they seek treatment services.

Elizabeth Power, M.Ed., of Nashville, TN USA makes peoples' lives sing! Power helps folks cope with change, increase resilience, and master trauma. She is the Founder of The Trauma Informed Academy and an adjunct instructor in Psychiatry at Georgetown University Medical Center, where she teaches Trauma-Informed Medical Care. She helps people change how they respond to what has happened in their lives or the lives of those they care for. She integrates Emotional Intelligence with skills that relieve the impact of trauma, making evidence-informed work user friendly. Power is an international best-selling author and her latest book, *Healer: Reducing Crises*, is the first in a series bringing her work home to readers everywhere. When she's not speaking, teaching, or writing, you'll find her in her garden. Her other books also focus on helping people learn, grow and change. Whether happiness, coping with change, or healing from trauma, she's your best bet for practical, easy to read books (and, um, she's not the Romance Writer by the same name...)!

Reshonn Saul is currently the Louisiana Supreme Court's Judicial Program Manager for the FINS Assistance Program. As program, she's responsible for maintaining and monitoring funding for 42 FINS Programs, policy implementation, analyzing data and work with Statewide Stakeholders on multiple continued projects for Louisiana. Reshonn has 13 years of experience in the field of mental health and juvenile justice. She strongly believes that every person has the ability to change if someone believes in them. Reshonn was appointed a seat on the Louisiana Children's Cabinet by Governor John Bel Edwards in 2023. She's currently the Chair of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board and serves on multiple state boards across Louisiana. She's a grad of Mississippi Valley State University.

Faculty Bios



Lacy Simms is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, BACS with the Department of Children and Family Services. Lacy obtained a bachelor's in social work from Southeastern Louisiana University, and she was a Title IV-E recipient. Lacy graduated from Louisiana State University with her master's degree. Lacy graduated from Grambling State University with an Advanced Leadership Certification. Lacy serves as a Child Welfare Consultant in the Child Protective Services Unit, she has experience in Management, Family Services, Due Process, front-Line Supervision, and foster care.

Jarvis Spearman, LMSW, is a graduate of Grambling State University. He currently serves as a mental health professional with Wellpath-Swanson. Being raised in the foster care system for 12 years with his siblings, he dedicated his time and passion to working at Louisiana Methodist Children's Home. There Jarvis worked in the Life Skills Program for 6.5 years as a Peer Support Specialist and Advocate for the Louisiana Foster Care System. He has held the title of President for the State of Louisiana Youth Advocacy group known as LEAF for many years. Jarvis serves on the Board for the Pelican Center for Children and Families. Jarvis has served as a speaker and panelist at multiple conferences throughout Louisiana. In 2017, Jarvis participated in the Foster Youth Intern Program held at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, LA. He gave a powerful testimony that touched all who were in attendance. From this internship experience, he was a part of the force that pushed Senate Bill 109 into place, which extended foster care to age 21 for all youth in care on their 18th birthday. This voluntary program allows the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to provide intensive services to aid youths' transition to adulthood. As President of the LEAF board, Jarvis and his peers got the opportunity to create Louisiana's first Foster Youth Bill of Rights. Jarvis has gained many awards for his hard work. Jarvis has traveled out of the country on mission trips to serve and be a beacon of happiness to others. Through it all, he strives to be a better individual by giving back to the community and being a light in the lives of vulnerable populations.

Holly Tupper is a committed advocate of survivors of human trafficking. From India to the Ukraine-Poland border, she has worked directly alongside survivors and at-risk populations, fostering holistic healing, and preventing exploitation. Holly served over four years as a CASA volunteer, gaining first-hand experience and insight into the state legal system and the practical needs of marginalized individuals. Holly's collaborative efforts, both locally and internationally, have raised awareness and built partnerships in the fight against trafficking. As the Director of Survivor Advocacy for Unbound Now in Louisiana, she oversees CSEY advocates serving survivors in the greater New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. Holly is committed to extending the reach of survivor advocacy through Unbound Now's survivor-centered approach. Holly remains steadfast in the mission to empower survivors, contributing to Unbound Now's 12-year fight to end human trafficking in communities around the world.

Faculty Bios



D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas is an internationally acclaimed motivational storyteller whose expertise is in leadership and personal development. He is also the author of the celebrated book *The Tiny Warrior: A Path to Personal Discovery & Achievement*, which is printed in six countries. His latest book, *Spirit on the Run*, is his first novel. D.J. is a tribally enrolled member of the Odawa Nation and a former military officer. He shows organizations how to practically apply the power of the warrior spirit to perform at their best, stay resilient and thrive in tough, changing environments. For twenty years, he's delivered his dynamic programs in 49 states and overseas to over 7,000 audiences including Walt Disney, NASA, Intel Corporation and hundreds of tribal governments, communities, and schools. He's also been invited to the White House to speak – twice. He holds a B.S. from the U.S. Air Force Academy and an M.S. from University of Southern California and has served on the Board of Directors on the National Board of Certified Counselors. After serving ten years as an Air Force officer, he is now the president of his own company, Native Discovery Inc. D.J.'s mission is to "build the warriors of tomorrow...today".



Louisiana Children's Trust Fund

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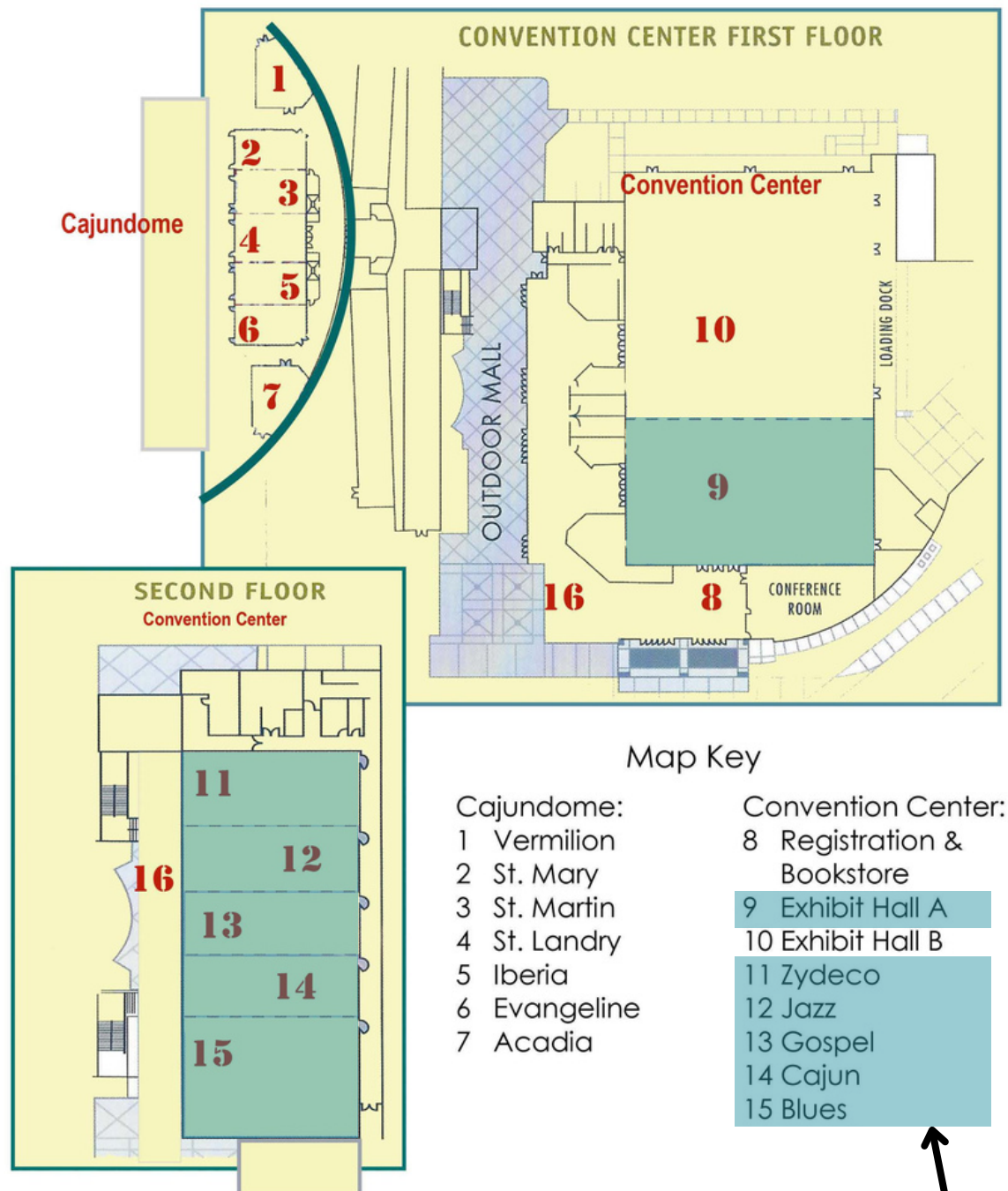
Conference coordination services provided by Team Dynamics.

Questions:

Dr. Sharon Delvisco, CGMP sharon@teamdyn.com

Susan Shaffette, CGMP susan@teamdyn.com

Cajundome Map



LCTF Conference is using highlighted rooms.