We Belong Together
A Camp-ference for Families and Workers
June 29 – July 2, 2017
Wyndham-Virginia Crossings
Glen Allen, Virginia

Education, Respite, & Family Time
There is little more that can ensure the success of families than the opportunity to learn new skills; secure new knowledge; spend time with one another unplugged from everyday life; and developing new friends and support networks.

WE BELONG TOGETHER! And, you belong with us. Register Today!

The registration fee is only $40 per adult (does not include lodging) and $30 for children/youth age 2-21...whether you come for a day or the whole event...thanks to the support of our sponsors:

Virginia Department of Social Services & Anthem Healthkeepers

"Talk about friendship and loyalty
Talk about how much you mean to me
And I'll promise to always be by your side
Whenever you need me”

from Toy Story 3
written by Randy Newman
Building a Trauma-Informed Community: Caring for our Children and Their Families

In Virginia, several communities are focusing on trauma-informed services that help to reduce rates of childhood abuse and neglect; homelessness; economic insecurity; violence; school drop-out; incarceration; and drug abuse. In this session we will learn the motivation and strategies of the first U.S. city, Tarpon Springs, Florida, to adopt the trauma-informed community model and how that effort has improved outcomes for children and families. We will also hear what is being done to influence better outcomes in Virginia communities using this model. And, because this year our Virginia General Assembly passed resolutions to support and endorse this work, we will hear more about what Virginia’s General Assembly intends to do to promote this model so that our communities are safer and healthier for children and their families.


The Opioid Crisis: Protecting our Children

The rising use of opioids in our country is being felt by our families and our children. Children are being removed from these dangerous situations and with this come reunification and permanency challenges. In this session, we will learn how kinship and foster care are impacted by this crisis and what our researchers, policy-makers, and program administrators are planning for the protection of our children.


Identifying and Parenting Children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

It is hard to fathom how many children we care for in our homes have been impacted by fetal alcohol syndrome and what the best strategies may be for parenting these children. National expert, Kathleen Mitchell, MPH, will share the skills needed to identify if your child is impacted by FAS and the parenting tips for raising a child with FAS. You will be amazed when you see the data and learn the scope of FAS in our communities.

https://www.nofas.org
Thursday, June 29, 2017

7:00 PM Loads of Snacks and The Toy Story Movie Series (included in registration)

Friday, June 30, 2017

8:30 AM Take Charge...Jessie Funk, Author (for youth and adults)

Jessie Funk will take a research-based approach to teaching the importance of making good choices. She will provide four proven tools that can take their lives from average to extraordinary. She will address health vs. toxic relationships, bully prevention, lessons from history’s greatest leaders and she does all this while sharing personal, hilarious stories and dynamic pop music.

10:15 AM See Differently, Do Differently, Get Better Results...Patricia C. Brooks, Author, Bold: How to Overcome Fear, Build Confidence, and Love the Life you Live

“If we continue to do what we’ve always done, we’ll continue to get what we’ve always gotten.” This 90-minute workshop aims at breaking this pattern.

Participants will identify what values lie behind their decisions to be foster care/adoptive parents. From there, they will outline what success in their role of parenting looks like and set goals that support achieving this vision. Then participants will learn the different action levels available to them in working toward their goals. They will also learn techniques to break the pattern of doing the same thing and getting the same, undesired results. At the end of the session participants will have an action plan in hand to begin applying their learnings and working toward their parenting goals.

12:00 PM Family Lunch (included in registration)

1:30 PM Workshops

1-A Resilience: A Film Screening and Discussion, Richmond SCAN

1-B Medication Management Strategies, Anne Fedyszen, M.D., Anthem

The purpose of this workshop is to provide parents and families information on the use of psychotropic medications to treat common psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents. We will discuss the risks, benefits and side effects of medications. Participants will learn about the importance of coordinating or integrating care. We will discuss treating the “whole patient” by integrating medical and behavioral health. This workshop will also include a panel discussion about case management services offered at Anthem, including interventions utilized to help support families impacted by psychiatric disorders.

1-C Protecting your Child in a Social Media World, Operation Blue Ridge Thunder

1-D Foster Care Goes to School: Understanding Education and Foster Care in Virginia Schools, Dr. Patricia Popp and Hope Murphy, VA Department of Education

1-E The VDSS Normalcy Policy and Practice Guidelines, Em Parente, VDSS and Brenda Sayers Wilkins, NewFound Families-VA representative on the VDSS Normalcy Committee
3:15 PM Workshops

1-F Parenting Tips Preventing and Intervening Bullying, TBD

1-G Medicaid and Managed Care, Lester Saltzberg, Ph.D. and Matthew Fitzner, RN, BSN, Anthem Healthkeepers

The purpose of this workshop is to provide an overview of Behavioral and Physical Health Care Management services offered by Anthem Healthkeepers Plus. This session will provide information on the benefits of managed care for Foster Care and Adoptive Assistance youth. Participants will learn about healthcare services offered through the Managed Care Organization (MCO), as well as, MCO carved out services. Additionally, an overview of newly carved in Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services “ARTS” and transition to Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus “CCC+” will be featured. This workshop will also include a panel discussion on managed care.

1-H Medicaid and Foster Care, Latanya Hairston, DMAS

1-I Special Education 101: The Basics and Beyond, Dr. Kelly Henderson, Formed Families Forward

1-J Financial Policies: Fostering Futures/Medicaid Auto Enrollment, VEMAT, Clothing Allowance, Adoption Assistance, Em Parente, VDSS, and Traci Jones, VDSS, invited

6:30 PM BBQ and Pool Party with S-mores (included in registration)

Saturday, July 1, 2017

8:30 Continental Breakfast & Youth Panel: What Matters to Us and Why (for youth and adults) (included in registration)

10:00 Workshops

2-A Connected Child: Trauma Impact on Attachment, Patrick Neff, Patrick Henry Family Services

2-B Wise-Up: How to Talk about Adoption, Leslie Wright, LCSW, Lutheran Family Services

2-C Medicaid Waivers: The Who, what, when, where, and how, Barry Seaver, Virginia Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Services, Joy Spencer, Moms in Motion; Jeannie Comett, and Kathy Sauter, Access Family Services

2-D Educational Survival Strategies: Learning from Experienced Parents & Caregivers, A panel

2-E How to Stay Together: Family Engagement in Practice, Rachelle Butler and Christy Corbin

This session will focus on family engagement and tools we use through the High Fidelity Wraparound process to help keep families together and in the community. Cristy Corbin, FSP coach, and trainer is the Family Support Partner supervisor at UMFS and will present on the FSP role and how being a support to families helps build resiliency and long-term success for the parents and their youth. Rachelle Butler, HFW trainer, and coach and Project Manager for the Systems of Care grant will talk about the outcomes that support this work and provide tools around the evidence-informed model that will be introduced.

11:45 AM Family Lunch on Your Own (you may purchase Wyndham buffet tickets when you register)

1:00 PM Workshops

2-F Compassion Fatigue: When Helping Hurts and How to Heal
2-G Why Do They Do That and How Do I Make It Stop?, Keven Schock, LBA, Anthem Healthkeepers

This workshop will focus on the factors that develop and maintain behaviors. We will review basic skills that make every parent more effective. We will also review more advanced skills that can be used to narrow down the reasons that people engage in problematic behaviors, the reason they do not engage in more productive behaviors and how to join with the person in order to help them achieve the intention of their behavior without the negative side effects associated with the unwanted behavior.

2-I Mental Health First Aid

2-J Funding Post-Secondary Education & Training, Bethany Robinson, VDSS, and Lakeisha Doman, Great Expectations

3:00 PM Bus Leaves for King’s Dominion ($40 Parents/Workers, $25 3-18 yrs, under 3 FREE)

8:30 Talent Show and Dance Party

Sunday, July 2, 2017

8:30 AM Breakfast and Awards Program

9:30 AM “We Belong Together” Closing Program

NOTE: Parents are invited to enjoy the Wellness and Relaxation Suite throughout the adult training times.
Child and Youth Programming

Thursday, June 29, 2017

12:30 - 5:45  0-13 years in Child Care Camp activities
14 + years in workshops hosted by Project LIFE

6:30 PM  Family Dinner

Friday, June 30, 2017

8:15 – 12:00  0-13 years in Child Care Camp activities
14 + years in workshops hosted by Project LIFE

12:00 PM  Family Lunch on Your Own

1:15 PM  0-13 years in Child Care Camp activities
14+ years in workshops hosted by Project LIFE

6:15 PM  Family BBQ and Pool Party with S'mores

Saturday, July 1, 2017

8:30 AM  0-13 years in Child Care Camp activities

9:45 AM  0-13 years in Child Care Camp activities
14 + years in workshops hosted by Project LIFE

YMCA Morning for 5-12 years old (an additional cost of $5 per child)

12:45 PM  Family Lunch on Your Own

1:45 PM  0-13 years in Child Care Camp activities
14 + years in workshops hosted by Project LIFE

3:00 PM  King's Dominion Family Trip

8:30 PM  Talent Show and DJ Dance Party

Sunday, July 2, 2017

8:00 AM  Family Breakfast and Closing Program