



California Alliance  
OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

## Fall 2010 Executive's Conference

September 15 – 17, 2010

Hyatt Grand Champions Resort

44-600 Indian Wells Lane

Indian Wells, CA

(760) 341-1000

### Wednesday, September 15, 2010

#### Conference Begins

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**      **Registration and Continental Breakfast**      **Indian Wells Foyer**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**      **Welcome**      **Indian Wells LM Ballroom**  
Bill Martone  
President, California Alliance of Child And Family Services

**9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**      **National Trends in Child Welfare**      **Indian Wells LM Ballroom**

**Policy/Management**      Elizabeth A. Skidmore  
President and CEO, Skidmore and Company

Shrinking public dollars, the unstable economy, decreased fund development dollars and a nation distracted by the war and other security concerns have resulted in one of the most challenging operating environments for public and private child welfare agencies in recent memory. Effective agency leaders understand the importance of identifying the trends, opportunities and challenges that will likely shape the field of child welfare in the foreseeable future. How will political, economic, workforce and programmatic trends impact our child welfare agencies? What will the impact be on the workforce, federal funding streams and programs? Most importantly perhaps, how can we best prepare our organizations and our staff for the changes ahead?

**10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**      **Break**      **Indian Wells Foyer**

**10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**      **Cultural Transformation in Child & Family Services: Traditional and Non-Traditional Approaches to Organizational Change**      **Indian Wells LM Ballroom**

**Practice/Management**      Suzanne Button, Ph.D.  
Assistant Executive Director, Quality & Clinical Outcomes  
Astor Services for Children & Families

Service providers for youth across the nation are hard-pressed to develop a reliable, effective “tool belt” of best practices for treatment. Child welfare, juvenile justice, and residential programs are under even more scrutiny than much of the children’s mental health field, and are particularly challenged to meet this call for efficacy. Programs that target marginalized youth and their families often are accused of having poor coherence across treatment at best, and for being damaging to children at worst. Provider agencies need more sophisticated, empirically supported treatment practices, but need to implement them with the same limited resources they have always had.

This presentation will attempt to provide leaders of youth service programs with an awareness of the burgeoning literature on organizational change in mental health, and provide ideas for the application of organizational change methodology from the business world to that of human services. Traditional strategies for the dissemination of innovative approaches to treatment in the often-complex world of behavioral health will be discussed, and the potential for comprehensive and sustainable cultural transformation that is inherent in combining non-traditional management and participatory decision making approaches with traditional approaches will be reviewed.

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**11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.      Break      Indian Wells Foyer**

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**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.      Another Year, Another Budget Catastrophe.      Indian Wells LM  
Otherwise, Things Are Going Pretty Well.      Ballroom**

**Policy/Management**

Carroll Schroeder  
Executive Director, California Alliance of Child and Family Services

By the time of this presentation, there either will or won’t be a 2010-11 state budget in place closing a \$19 billion gap, AB 12 extending foster care to age 21 will or will not have been signed, and special education pupils needing mental health services will or will not still be receiving them under AB 3632. What has or may happen, and the impacts real or anticipated, will be explained.

The presentation will also discuss the impact of the group home rate increase occasioned by the federal courts decisions, where the candidates for governor stand on children’s issues – hint: it hasn’t crossed their minds – and new legislation that will affect member agencies and the children and families they serve.

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**12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.      California Alliance Membership Annual,      Indian Wells OP  
Accreditation Recognition and Luncheon      Ballroom**

Bill Martone  
President, California Alliance  
Chris Stoner-Mertz  
Vice President/President Elect, California Alliance  
Jim Roberts  
Treasurer, California Alliance  
Karen Alvord  
Secretary, California Alliance  
Mary Kay Gerski  
Chairperson, Membership Committee, California Alliance

The President will report on the accomplishments and health of the Alliance for 2010. The Secretary of the Alliance will certify the election of board members and the membership will acknowledge outgoing board members and welcome new ones. The current Vice President/President Elect will assume his duties as President for 2010-2011.

Member agencies that have completed the accreditation process will be honored with the presentation of the Accreditation Certificates. The President will welcome new member agencies and executives.

**2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (Three Workshops begin at 2:00 p.m.)**

**Workshop 1A Best Practices for Maximizing Group Home Occupancy: A Process Benchmarking Exercise Desert Vista AB Ballroom**

**Practice/Management** Paul M. Lefkovitz, Ph.D.  
President, Behavioral Pathway Systems

Process benchmarking is an innovative investigative technique that seeks to identify potential best practices. In this workshop our presenter will conduct a hands-on process benchmarking exercise to identify best practices that drive high levels of group home occupancy. In these days of economic hardship, it is vital for residential programs to operate at peak levels of efficiency. We will use electronic polling technology to anonymously gather and analyze data during the workshop that will reveal the strategies and methods used by organizations that have the highest levels of occupancy.

While all are welcome to attend the workshop, in order to actively participate in the exercise, it will be necessary to know your group home program's average occupancy percent over the past three months. That percent is the number of occupied beds days divided by the total number of bed days. You will leave the workshop with a concrete list of potential best practices that can be implemented to enhance the level of occupancy in your own group home settings.

Even if you do not have a group home program and are not participating in the benchmarking project, plan to attend the workshop to experience this very interesting and informative technique.

**Workshop 1B The Public-Private Partnership: Can This Relationship Be Saved? Desert Vista DE Ballroom**

**Policy/Management** Elizabeth A. Skidmore  
President and CEO, Skidmore and Company

Too often, significant tensions exist between public sector agencies and their private sector counterparts. Scarce resources and role confusion often create unnecessary conflict between public and private agency workers—commonly resulting in an “us vs. them” mentality. In the middle of this contentious relationship are the children, families and communities that both “sides” exist to serve. This workshop will highlight strategies for improving and enhancing the public-private partnership from the perspective of one leader who has served on both sides of the system.

**Workshop 1C Katie Tells You What’s Going On With Her Lawsuit Nopales**

**Practice/Management** Patrick Gardner  
Deputy Director, National Center for Youth Law

*Katie A v Bontá* is a case that seeks to provide mental health services to foster children to help them stay in their homes and communities by improving access to wraparound services and therapeutic foster care. Last year, the Court ordered the State and the plaintiffs to come to the table to discuss possible settlement of the case.

In this workshop, two of the lead plaintiff's attorneys on the case will share up-to-date information on the status of the lawsuit; details of their most recent report to the court, their current thinking around the best way to settle the case, and what all this could mean for the children and families you serve.

**3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Break Desert Vista Foyer**

**4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (Two Workshops begin at 4:00 p.m.)**

**Workshop 2A Implementing Residentially-Based Services in California Desert Vista AB Ballroom**

**Policy/Practice/  
Management**

- William P Martone  
President & CEO, Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services
- Robert A. Ketch  
Executive Director, Five Acres
- Joseph M. Costa  
Chief Executive Officer, Hillside
- Jim Martin  
Executive Director, Martins' Achievement Place
- Glynis Butler-Stone  
Director of Clinical Services, Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento
- Matt Madaus  
Chief of Programs and Strategy, Edgewood Center for Children and Families
- Katherine West  
Executive Director, Seneca Center
- Doug House  
Executive Director, Victor Treatment Center RBS Program
- Daniel Gallagher  
Associate Director, St. Vincent's School for Boys'

After more than five years of development, Residentially-Based Services programs are now being implemented and accepting their first cohort of placements in four demonstration counties: San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Francisco. Eight of the ten private nonprofit agencies which are partnering with these four counties are members of the California Alliance. In this workshop, representatives of these Alliance agencies will describe their experiences in working with the State and counties to design and implement their RBS programs. They will also discuss how residential, mental health and other care and services provided under their RBS programs differ from traditional group care and how they intend to achieve better outcomes for foster youth.

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**Workshop 2B**

**It's a Hard Knocks Life! (for providers also!)**

**Desert Vista DE  
Ballroom**

**Policy/Management**

- Laura W. Boyd, Ph.D.  
Owner and CEO, Policy and Performance Consultants

Life is hard enough for foster care service providers, mental health treatment providers and foster parents, not to mention the youth we serve! Can the system be simplified, improved upon, and better secured financially? If so, how do we begin...and where might we end up?

These are some of the questions that will be addressed in this workshop presentation through an examination of models of treatment foster care service delivery and funding in other states. Federal legislation, HR 4787 and S 1217, currently under consideration in Congress and their potential impact and opportunities for California providers will be discussed in detail. Limitations – and opportunities – imposed by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services on treatment foster care that includes mental health services will be discussed. We will also take a look ahead at federal policy changes under development that will affect the child welfare and mental health funding of treatment foster care nationally over the next few years.

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**5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**Wine and Water Tasting Event**

**Verde Vista  
Terrance**

The Fall Executive Conference will once again feature the wildly popular wine and water tasting sponsored by Alliance Associates and vendor companies that provide goods and services to Alliance member agencies and also provide financial support to the Alliance in the form of annual dues. We hope you can join us.

# Thursday, September 16, 2010

## Conference: 8:30 a.m. – Noon

**7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Challenging Current Wisdom: The Uses and Misuses of Residential Care, and Life After Foster Care Indian Wells LM Ballroom**

**Practice/Policy/  
Management**

Mark E. Courtney, Ph.D.  
Professor of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago

Professor Courtney's presentation will focus on two topics of importance to child welfare services policymakers, program administrators, and practitioners: The appropriate uses of residential care for child welfare services populations and lessons from research on the transition to adulthood for foster youth. Dr. Courtney will summarize lessons learned from a recently published cross-national study of the uses of residential care to raise questions about current assumptions that guide US child welfare policy and practice directed towards the use of residential care. His presentation will identify circumstances under which residential care is probably misused, as well as ways that ideologically-based opposition to the use of residential care might needlessly limit service options for children and families.

In the second part of his presentation, Dr. Courtney will summarize the findings of recent research on the transition to adulthood for foster youth and the implications of the research findings for policy and practice. Relying on findings from the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth ("Midwest Study") and the Multisite Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs, Dr. Courtney will describe what is known about outcomes during young adulthood for former foster youth and the state of the evidence regarding the effectiveness of independent living services. Recent findings from the Midwest Study will be used to identify distinct subgroups of foster youth with distinct sets of service needs as they make the transition to adulthood.

**10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break Indian Wells Foyer**

**10:30 a.m. – Noon Concurrent Workshops (Two Workshops begin at 10:30 a.m.)**

**Workshop 3A A Caregiver's Guide to Helping Youth Develop Independent Living Skills – an online guide for foster, adoptive and kin caregivers Desert Vista AB Ballroom**

**Practice**

Gail Johnson Vaughan  
Founder and Executive Director, Mission Focused Solutions

Most of us did not attend independent living classes to prepare us for our successful lives as adults. Our parents and others were part of our circle of caring that prepared us by integrating appropriate activities in our everyday lives. California's recent Breakthrough Series Collaborative to Transform Independent Living Programs concluded that getting ILP out of the classroom and into the lives of foster youth was the most natural and effective way to help them succeed as adults.

As BSC faculty member Gail Johnson Vaughan became exposed to the education and career development tools available online, she realized that she had been preparing foster and adoptive families for 22 years without making them aware of these tools. In this workshop Ms. Johnson Vaughn shares her recent publication, [A Caregivers' Guide to Helping Youth Develop Independent Living Skills](#), designed to be utilized by licensed and certified foster parents, kin caregivers, and caregivers in group home settings.

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**Workshop 3B****Large Scale Implementation of the Child Adolescent Needs & Strengths Measure****Desert Vista DE Ballroom****Policy/Management**

Suzanne Button, Ph.D.

Assistant Executive Director, Quality & Clinical Outcomes  
Astor Services for Children & Families

For the past seven years, our multi-site, multi-service behavioral health agency for children and youth has measured client outcomes using the CANS-MH in diverse types of treatment programs, and this presentation will address what we have learned about effective cultural and procedural implementation. The importance of collaborative, highly communicative, and richly trained and supervised/supported implementation at each of planning, implementation, and evaluation will be presented. Hidden challenges in a procedural implementation of a large-scale, uniform measurement tool will be discussed, and examples of how we have used agency-wide CANS-MH data in a variety of program-change, public education, and advocacy initiatives will be presented.

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**Conference Adjourns – Noon**

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