

20TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2016 • GRAND HYATT WASHINGTON • WASHINGTON DC



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (CB/OCAN) within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is pleased to announce the 20th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) to be held Wednesday, August 31 through Friday, September 2, 2016, at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, D.C.

The National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect is unique for its scope and the deep diversity of its participants, which include professionals, researchers, policy makers, parents, and volunteers representing a wide variety of disciplines. It provides a unique opportunity for those who are committed to achieving better outcomes for children, youth, and families to come together, learn from and support each other, take in new knowledge, build new understanding, and reenergize for the always changing and challenging work ahead.

CB/OCAN is committed to offering a program featuring a cadre of compelling and thought-provoking speakers. We welcome the submission of abstracts that address a wide range of topics of interest and importance to those engaged in promoting the well-being of children and families. We are interested in proposals representing a diversity of backgrounds, communities, and perspectives including: urban, suburban, and rural areas; racial and ethnically diverse populations; and involvement at the national, state, and local levels.

The 20th NCCAN is placing a premium on sessions that represent an array of voices and are responsive to principles of adult learning. CB/OCAN strongly encourages the participation of consumers, parents, and other community partners as session presenters.

THEME

The Conference theme, ***Building Community, Building Hope***, acknowledges the tremendous power in communities to solve the problem of child abuse and neglect, and reflects our goal of providing a multidisciplinary forum to foster conversations about what we as a society can—and should—do to ensure children grow up to achieve their full potential, free from abuse and neglect. As we gather together to build new knowledge, skills, and abilities, we will be strengthening our sense of community and renewing our shared sense of hope for achieving improved outcomes for our nation's children.

AUDIENCE

We anticipate that more than 2,000 in-person and virtual attendees will participate in the 20th NCCAN from across the United States, its territories, and around the world. The Conference is designed for child abuse and neglect prevention and child protection workers, supervisors and administrators, social workers, educators, those in law enforcement and the courts, in health care and public health, therapists, researchers, child advocates, parents, and others committed to ensuring the safety, permanency, and well-being of children.



APPROACH

The 20th NCCAN will focus on the connections among research, practice, and policy in a wide variety of subject areas related to our theme of ***Building Community, Building Hope.***

Our approach is guided by our recognition that effective practice, research, and policy in child maltreatment must be informed by all three dimensions. Innovative practices need further research before they may be ready for full-scale replication and expansion. A variety of research and evaluation methods are needed to address the range of questions coming from practitioners and policy makers. Effective policies must be grounded in sound research and data and an awareness of direct practice implications. Delivering services with quality must incorporate performance management and continuous quality improvement.

In addition, we recognize that we are all working within an interactive multi-level system with stakeholders that include policy makers, funders, technical assistance providers, implementing agencies (including public and private agency staff at all levels), researchers, community partners, and the families receiving services and supports. Sessions proposed for the Conference should emphasize how the content addresses the intersections and implications for practice, research, and policy in child maltreatment at multiple levels of the system.

Finally, we are placing a premium on meeting the needs of adult learners. Our goal is for all sessions to be responsive to what adult learners find most useful. This includes:

- **Personal Benefit.** Adult learners must be able to see the personal benefit of what they are learning, and how it satisfies a need they have. They are motivated to learn if the learning—
 - Solves or avoids a problem for them; and
 - Leads to professional or personal growth.
- **Experience.** Adult learners come to each learning event with a unique background of knowledge and experience. They are motivated to learn if the learning—
 - Involves them in sharing what they know;
 - Builds on what they know; and
 - Validates their expertise.
- **Application and Action.** Adult learners are busy, practical, and learn by doing. They learn best when—
 - There is immediate application for the learning;
 - They participate actively in the learning process; and
 - They can practice new skills or test new knowledge before leaving a learning session.
- **Learning Styles.** Adult learners approach learning in a great variety of ways, from hands-on and moving to using their eyes, ears, and/or logic to anchor new skills and knowledge. They learn best when—
 - The learning taps into a mix of learning styles that fit their preferences and stimulate their ‘multiple intelligences’ (e.g., verbal, visual, kinesthetic, interpersonal, logical, intrapersonal); and
 - Multiple means are used to present the material being learned.



CORE TOPIC AREAS

Listed below are the five core topic areas for the 20th NCCAN. Each includes *examples* of the types of subject matter that support these topics. Given the diverse professional backgrounds, experience, and interests of expected Conference participants, these examples are meant to be illustrative only.

Regardless of the specific content to be offered, all sessions will include specific learning objectives to assist Conference participants in choosing the learning opportunities that best help them achieve their professional development goals.

The five core topic areas are:

1 PROMOTING CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING: Effective Strategies at All Levels

Effective multi-disciplinary strategies are needed at all levels, including: individual, relationship, community, and societal.

For example, topics in this area could include: approaches, policies, strategies, programs, and practices related to applying a public health approach to preventing and addressing child maltreatment; being strengths-based; partnering with families throughout engagement and involvement; shifting funding, policies, and systems toward prevention; preserving family relationships and promoting healing; and building a new vision that incorporates family well-being into the work.

2 SHAPING THE WORKFORCE: Strong, Capable, and Well-supported Teams

Child welfare and child maltreatment prevention programs are only as strong as their staff.

Topics in this area could include approaches, policies, strategies, programs, and practices that provide solutions and skill-building opportunities related to issues such as creating and operating in trauma-informed systems; addressing secondary trauma; coaching vs. managing; reflective supervision; engaging the workforce in using data to explore challenges and ensure continuous quality improvement; and improving decision-making skills to ensure more effective assessments and engagement techniques.

3 BUILDING ON STRENGTHS: Engagement in Effective, Supportive, and Informed Systems

Building on strengths found in individuals, families, and communities is a critical part of changing systems to better support child and family well-being.

Topics in this area could include approaches, policies, strategies, programs, and practices that help systems change to become more trauma-informed; using data to strengthen systems; increasing family ownership of decisions and plans; better use of assessments to determine service need, quality, and effectiveness; services designed from the consumer's point of view; building resilience; relying on best practices and evidence-based programs; and creating and sustaining more supportive organizational cultures.



4 LEVERAGING COMMUNITY ASSETS: Understanding Context and Building Responsive Programs and Practices

Effective, high-functioning child welfare and child maltreatment prevention programs and practices rely on deep knowledge and understanding of the people and communities served, and the ability to adapt to and leverage changes in the environment.

Topics in this area could include approaches, policies, strategies, programs, and practices related to addressing changes in family structure and mobility and responding to increased diversity, multiculturalism, and immigration; ensuring equity; implementing multi-generational strategies; mobilizing communities; using technology and social media; amplifying unheard voices; addressing historical/intergenerational trauma; and identifying community-level protective factors.

5 PARTNERING FOR IMPACT: Effective Work Across Systems and Disciplines to Break Down Silos

Advancing the well-being of children and families requires overcoming barriers to working across silos, systems, and disciplines, especially if we are to effectively serve families with multiple, complex needs.

Topics in this area could include approaches, policies, strategies, programs, and practices related to developing powerful and meaningful partnerships to address multiple and complex needs of families; reframing neglect; addressing the intersections among child maltreatment, substance abuse, domestic violence, poverty, and housing; understanding the impact of toxic stress on development; identifying shared values and desired outcomes; adopting a common language; sharing data and technology; engaging in shared decision making; utilizing evidence-informed and evidence-based programs; strengthening leadership skills; creating and nurturing champions; promoting collective impact; and social impact financing.

SESSION FORMATS

Session formats for the 20th NCCAN include the following:

Policy Forums are half-day (3-hour) sessions offering the opportunity to dig deep into a policy issue. Policy Forum sessions may include a number of presenters but are intended primarily to allow for the type of dialogue that is critical to informing the development of policies or improving policies being implemented. CB/OCAN is particularly interested in abstract submissions that are intended to result in a concrete product or report from the proceedings that can be disseminated to the field.

Workshops are designed to increase knowledge and understanding and provide practical applications for a broad range of research, policy, and programmatic issues. Up to three presenters engage participants in exploration of a single topic over a 90-minute period.

Table Talks are shorter, less formal presentations. Presenters will be stationed throughout a large room; the only AV will be presenter-provided laptops or tablets. Participants will choose which and how many of the stations/presentations they wish to attend during a 90-minute period. Table Talks are ideal for new voices or for showcasing a particular feature such as a public awareness campaign or management tool.



Skills Seminars engage participants in intensive, hands-on training designed to enhance proficiency and learn new skills and strategies. Presenters will use various formats, including dialogue, role-play, brainstorming, and other active learning modes, and are encouraged to share tools and resources that participants can access after the session. Skills Seminars are 1.5 or 3 hours in length and attendance is limited to no more than 30 people.

Poster Presentations offer unique opportunities to present original research, new data, exciting service delivery initiatives, educational activities, and other pioneering work impacting our field today. CB/OCAN strongly encourages submissions on innovative and cutting-edge research from child welfare and other related disciplines to help inform discussions around research, policy, and practice. Posters will be available for general viewing throughout the Conference; specific presentation times are to be determined.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Acceptance for presentation will be based on the extent to which abstracts fulfill the following selection criteria:

- Addresses an important understudied topic, or provides new information on a well-studied topic.
- Increases knowledge and/or improves practice significantly.
- Demonstrates how key principles of adult learning outlined in the Call for Abstracts (Personal Benefit, Experience, Application and Action, and Learning Styles) will be incorporated into the session.
- Responsiveness to the Conference theme and one or more of the Core Topic Areas.
- Clarity and achievability of the stated learning objectives.
- Strength and appropriateness of the evaluation approach and evidence for any research findings represented in the abstract.
- Reviewer's overall impression of the quality and clarity of the abstract.

All abstract submissions will be peer-reviewed by at least three people with expertise in the field of child abuse and neglect using these criteria.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

- While there is no registration fee for the Conference, presenters must register to participate.
- The Conference is unable to underwrite or reimburse any travel, lodging, or incidental expenses for presenters.
- Supplemental material, to be made available through the Conference app, is expected for every selected presentation.
- Use of presentation time to sell or market products is prohibited.
- By submitting an abstract for consideration, applicants acknowledge that:
 - They have read and agree to abide by the terms of this Conference policy statement.



- They understand that the purpose of the session is primarily to make information and resources available to those working in child abuse and neglect practice, research, and policy, and secondarily, to the general public.
- They understand that any presentations and handouts provided in conjunction with the session may be posted on the World Wide Web and made available to the general public. *(More information on handouts will be sent to those presenters whose abstracts have been accepted.)*

SUBMITTING YOUR ABSTRACT

Abstracts should be submitted for consideration through the online [Abstract Submission Portal](#). **Abstracts must be submitted online NO LATER THAN 11:59 p.m. on April 11, 2016.**

REQUIRED ABSTRACT PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

- Core Topic Area
- Session Format
- Presentation Title (*20 words maximum*)
- Primary Presenter Information (*Name, email address, organization, state/territory/country, and biographical sketch—100 word maximum*)
- Other Presenters (*optional*) (*No more than two; name, contact information, and biographical sketch; 100 word maximum*)
- Learning Objectives (*Two or three; no more than 25 words each*)
- Brief Description (*100 word maximum*)
- Full Description (*Summary of the substantive content and format of the presentation; 500 word maximum*)
- Target Audience (*With suggested level of participant expertise; 75 word maximum*)
- Audiovisual Requirements (*Note: Not applicable to those proposing Table Talks or Poster Presentations*)

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1. Select “I am a Presenter” then “Create Abstract” on the side menu.
2. Once you’ve selected “Create Abstract,” you will be presented with a form that you must fill out. One of those fields will be for adding authors/presenters.
 - a. When adding an author/presenter, choose the type you wish to add by clicking the appropriate button.
 - b. A small window will appear where you can fill out the contact information for that author/presenter. Be sure to complete all the mandatory fields, then click “Add.”



- c. After clicking “Add,” the small window will close and the newly created author will be added to the list of authors for this submission.
 - d. At this point you can either add another author or change the author type for authors that have already been added.
3. When all the mandatory abstract fields have been filled out, click the “SUBMIT” button at the bottom of the page.
 4. If there is a problem with your submission, you will be notified either by an alert box indicating the problem or one of the fields will be highlighted indicating the problem.
 5. If there were no problems with your submission, you will be brought to the “View My Abstracts” page where you will find all of your submissions, including the new one. You can get to the page via the menu item “I am a Presenter” then “View All My Abstracts.”

Check Your Submission for Accuracy. Please check your confirmation and ensure that all of your contact information, the title of your presentation, and your summary are complete and correct. The information you have provided at this time will be used, as you have submitted it, to create our program, agenda, and website. In particular, please ensure that your presentation title and summary statement are not truncated due to character and word limits. It is your responsibility to address any questions, or make any requested changes sent by the 20th NCCAN Planning Committee online or send any questions about your submissions to the 20th NCCAN Planning Committee well in advance of the deadline of April 9, so that we can help you make the changes or complete the submission on time. Changes may not be made during or following the review period.

THE ABSTRACT REVIEW PROCESS

All abstracts submitted that meet minimal acceptance requirements (i.e., submitted by the deadline, contain sufficient information in each of the required elements for reviewers to make rating decisions) will be reviewed by a minimum of three qualified individuals. Proposals will be scored in each of the required proposal elements.

CB/OCAN reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding which proposals to accept.

We anticipate that those submitting abstracts will be notified as to whether or not their proposal has been accepted no later than mid-May 2016.