

# LINKING FORCES XV Annual Children's Mental Health Conference

May 13 and May 14, 2008



The conference will offer a comprehensive view of children's mental health issues and innovative strategies for high-risk groups, creative partnerships and advocacy efforts.

Keynote Speaker:

**Kim Peek**

The inspiration for the movie "Rain Man," returns as our keynote speaker

Registration includes:

- ◆ 14 Master Plan Points (MPP)
- ◆ Up To 10 Hours Of Continuing Education
- ◆ Continental Breakfast And Lunch For Both Days
- ◆ Parking At The Hotel

The Linking Forces Conference is sponsored by The Children's Trust. The Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.





**Fifteenth Annual Children's Mental Health Conference – Linking Forces XV  
Schedule for Tuesday, May 13, 2008**

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

**8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. . . . . Welcome with Dr. Robert Nolan, Executive Director, ICFH  
Conference Overview, Dr. Hank Sterner, Conference Coordinator**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. . . . . Keynote Speakers Kim & Fran Peek**

Kim Peek, who inspired the movie "Rain Man," returns as the keynote speaker to speak on behalf of students with special needs. Kim's message: *"Learn to recognize and respect differences in others and treat them as you would like them to treat you. This will help give us the kind of world we hope for. Share, care ... be your best!"*

**10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**T1 Teens Who Self Injure: A Cry For Help - Yvette Berger, L.C.S.W.**

This session will provide evidenced-based research and information about self-injurious behavior, identify warning signs and symptoms, discuss strategies and factors that contribute to recovery.

**T2 Understanding Psychological Evaluations of Children - Bitá KianiManesh, Psy.D.**

This presentation provides an introduction to child psychological evaluation. Drawing upon accepted best practices within the field, participants will learn the practical benefits of psychological evaluations and how to apply evaluation results and recommendations in meeting a child's individual needs across settings (home, school, etc.). A variety of child evaluations and commonly used measures will be discussed. A list of community resources to assist with following up on recommendations will be disseminated.

**T3 Short-Term Interventions CAN Make a Difference: Terri Eggers, EdS. M.S.C.J., Marcela J. Torres, Dale Scott Dobuler, C.P.M., Vickie Lopez Lukis**

Teaching parenting skills, promoting literacy and opportunities for positive behaviors, training on effective techniques, as well as capitalizing on available partnerships can have far reaching effects. This workshop will provide participants with a free research-based parenting booklet and instructor's guide as a result of a partnership with DJJ, DOE and the Florida Institute on Family Involvement. Effective gender-responsive intervention strategies used throughout Florida in juvenile justice prevention/day treatment programs for girls will also be shared, as will a powerful program developed by an advocate for justice-system involved females. The Superintendent of the largest juvenile detention center in the nation will close with an example of how all these strategies can come together in a short-term secure setting.

◆ **T4 Parenting with Common Sense-- Peggy B. Sapp, B.S.**

The goal of the session is for participants to become more effective parents while relaxing, relating to and enjoying his/her children and family by understanding historical parenting; identifying the child's environment; learning to set boundaries and monitor behavior; and follow professional advice and innate wisdom simultaneously.

**T5 Dealing with Bullies: A Proactive Approach for Children & Adults - Chuck Bryant, M.A.**

We face bullies at all stages of life. Adults, especially in their role as behavioral models, can help young children, teens, and colleagues prevent bullying, and respond more constructively when it does occur. Based on The Peace Works Curricula, six components surveyed here offer activities and concepts to apply in everyday practical situations.

**T6 Motivational Interviewing with Adolescents - Bretton C. Engle, Ph.D. & Elise Preira, B.A.**

Motivational Interviewing is a therapeutic approach that explores clients' intrinsic motivation for behavior change by addressing and resolving ambivalence. Adolescents are often viewed as being particularly resistant to behavior change and the therapeutic process. This session will introduce MI techniques and demonstrate their use in engaging adolescents and encouraging change.

**T7 Sexual Abuse: The Silent Epidemic - Maureen V. Zamora, M.S.W. and Michael J. Alicea, M.S., M.S.W.**

Child sexual abuse is a hidden but significant problem in every community in America. The purpose of this presentation is to provide mental health providers, social workers and educators with an overview of how sexual abuse affects children by providing a clinical definition of the victim and the abuser. In addition, a discussion of sexual offender's treatment, goals and approaches will be provided.

**\*\*\* 12:15 p.m.-- 1:30 p.m. Complimentary Lunch \*\*\*\***

◆ **Developed for Parents**

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