

# TOGETHER WE CAN CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 27-29, 2025



**Beacon of Hope:  
Making a Difference for  
Experiencing Children of  
Abuse and Neglect**

**20  
25  
REGISTER  
NOW**

Cajundome Convention Center  
444 Cajundome Blvd.  
Lafayette, LA  
[www.latwc.org](http://www.latwc.org)

**REGISTER:**  
<https://bit.ly/TWCREG2025>



# TOGETHER WE CAN CONFERENCE



**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AT THE TWC 2025 CONFERENCE!**

Together We Can is an annual multi-disciplinary conference that focuses on the children who have experienced abuse or neglect. The children may be in foster care, residential care, kinship care or have been reunited with their birth family. We provide many educational opportunities for professionals featuring both national and local experts. The TWC conference is geared toward social workers, attorneys, judges and court staff, CASA volunteers and staff, children’s advocacy centers, law enforcement, educators and child welfare stakeholders—all working to make a difference in the lives of Louisiana’s abused and neglected children.

The Together We Can conference offers in-depth learning opportunities which address policy and practice concerns. There will be keynote addresses focused on the latest trends and institute sessions allowing more intensive attention to the selected topics. The conference averages over 600 people attending.

## **Current coalition members are:**

- **Louisiana CASA Association**
- **Louisiana Child Welfare Training Academy**
- **Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund**
- **Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services—Children’s Justice Act**
- **Louisiana Supreme Court—Court Improvement Program**
- **Pelican Center for Children and Families**

## **Who Attends Together We Can?**

Children’s Attorneys	Social Workers	Judges	CASA Staff & Volunteers
Parent’s Attorneys	Nonprofit Leaders	Forensic Interviewers	Children’s Advocacy Centers
Foster/Adoptive Parents	Students and Interns	Former Foster Youth	Law Enforcement
Mental Health Workers	Indigent Defenders	Tribal Social Workers	District Attorneys & ADAs
Prevention Coordinators	Court Staff	FINS Program Leaders	Faith-based Programs

And more...

How can you benefit by attending TWC? The 23rd Annual Together We Can Conference offers attendees a unique opportunity for networking with a statewide group of stakeholders and other child welfare community leaders. You will have the opportunity to grow your knowledge base, experience timely hallway conversations, and talk informally with colleagues and community resources at the exhibit tables. You can provide bring your full team and spread out over the various breakouts and then share when you are back in the office. This is a great time to dive into the details with our in-depth sessions too!



**Together We Can Conference**

**October 27-29, 2025**



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Lisa Mayer, HSI, DHS**

**Project IGuardian: Preventing Child Abuse in the Digital Age**



**Amnoni Myers**

**From Trauma to Redemption: Personal Journey of Overcoming the Foster Care System**



**Tasha Levert, PhD**

**Riding the Waves: Empowered Communication**

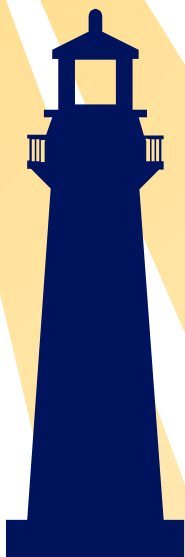


**Dr. Angela White-Bazile**

**Beacon of Hope: Surviving the Trenches with Courage and Care**



# AGENDA AT A GLANCE



## Monday, October 27

10am - 12pm Exhibitor Set Up  
 10am - 4pm Registration Desk Open  
 11:30 am - 1 pm Lunch and Opening Keynote 1  
 1:15 - 2:45 pm Breakouts - 10 optional sessions  
 Afternoon light refreshments  
 3 - 4:30 pm Breakouts - 10 optional sessions

## Tuesday, October 28

7:30 am - 4:30 pm Registration Desk Open  
 8 am - 4:30 pm Exhibits Open  
 8:30 -10 am Welcome and Keynote 2  
 Morning light refreshments  
 10:15 - 11:45 am Breakouts - 10 optional sessions  
 12 pm - 1:15 pm Lunch and Keynote 3  
 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Institutes - 10 optional sessions  
 Afternoon light refreshments  
 6-8pm Vermilionville Reception (all participants invited)

## Wednesday, October 29

8am - noon Exhibits Open  
 8am - 12:15 pm Registration Desk Open  
 8:30 am - 10:30 am Breakouts - 10 optional sessions  
 10:45 am - 12:15 pm Closing Keynote 4, Door prizes

## TOPICAL EDUCATION TRACKS:

TWC Institutes - 3 hour sessions	
Court Appointed Special Advocates	
Foster Parent and Kinship Care	
General - Interest to All	
Legal, including Ethics & Professionalism	
Social Work, including Clinical & Ethics	



# QUICK INFO:



## REGISTRATION FEES:

Registration for the three-day conference is \$250 at the early bird rate through August 15, 2025. Tickets are \$350 after that date! There are limited partial scholarships available. Go to the TWC website to learn more. Registration closes on October 15, 2025..

## REFRESHMENTS AND MEALS:

The conference includes two luncheons - Monday and Tuesday. The evening reception at Vermilionville offers an evening meal on Tuesday. We provide coffee and refreshments in the morning on Tuesday and Wednesday. Afternoon refreshments will be provided on Monday and Tuesday. Medically required dietary restrictions should be entered during registration. No changes can be made at the conference.

## EXHIBITS:

Exhibitor information and presenter handouts can be downloaded directly using our conference event app on Whova but just in case apps aren't your thing, handouts will also be available on the TWC website from October 25 - December 15. Please remember that some speakers don't use handouts.

## CLE/CEU CREDITS:

You'll verify your attendance and credit hours each day using the Conference Evaluation Survey distributed on the Whova app and posted to the LATWC.org website. Certificates will be sent out within 30 days after the conference via email, PLUS all CLE hours will be entered online for legal attendees within 30 days. All specialty credits will be identified as such in the WHOVA app.

## SESSION SELECTIONS:

You will not be required to pre-select sessions. You will simply go to a session and find a chair. If there are no chairs available, you must go to a different session. If you start a long block session, you must finish it to get full credit.

## HOTELS/LODGING:

We have arranged for courtesy room blocks for conference attendees at many hotels in Lafayette. The list of those hotels is on our website: [www.latwc.org](http://www.latwc.org). If you are a government employee, be prepared to show an ID to verify your employment. Most hotels will meet state rates if you are a government employee with the proper paperwork.

# CONFIRMED SESSIONS/SPEAKERS:

- **Understanding ICWA: Safeguarding the Rights of Native American Children and Families** - Guy R. Lain, JD and Natasha Fossett, JD
- **Protecting the Most Vulnerable: Supporting Child Victims of Domestic Violence in Protective and CINC Proceedings** - Timothy McEvoy, JD
- **Clarity, Context, and Credibility: Writing Court Reports that Make a Difference** - Rebecca May Ricks, JD, CWLS and Rodney Hastings, JD
- **Building Secure Attachments: Shifting from Insecurity to Stability in Practice and Personal Growth** - Tasha Levert, PhD
- **Navigating the Spectrum: Supporting Children with Autism through Family, School, and Placement Transitions** - Bradley Ross, M.A., BCBA, LBA
- **It's All Related! Fostering Collaboration** - Dr. Vickie Tolliver Auguste
- **Caregiver Panel on Supporting Healing & Hope** - Kathy Coleman, Angela Johns, and Megan Barker
- **Lighting the Way: Lessons in Leadership and Hope from Award-Winning Advocates** - Kären Hallstorm, JD, Amanda Carroll, Bria Hampton, MSW, BA, and Stacy LeBlanc, JD, MEd
- **Understanding the Complex Relationship Between Trauma and Food Vulnerability for Children and Youth in Foster Care** - Marie Smith, MD and Shantrell M. Charles, MD
- **Legal Professionalism** - Virginia Listach, JD and Jason May, JD
- **C.C. Custody v. Ch.C. Custody** - Claire Bergeron Edwards
- **When They Take it Back: The MDTs Response to Recantations** - Lindsey Dula
- **Shining a Light on SB 41: Understanding the Impact of Louisiana's New Child Welfare Law** - Mona Chapman, Lacy Simms, Denise Evans, and Sherry Powell -
- **Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force (LEAF)- What is LEAF?** - Samantha Morris-LaCour, Breayana Bradley, and Keionna Johnson
- **Engaging Foster Youth in their Foster Care Journey** - Judge Ernestine Gray, Retired, JD, Samantha Morris-LaCour, and Pakima Stamps, LCSW
- **Stability as a Strategy: Leveraging Economic and Concrete Supports to Build Resilient Families** - Lorrie Briggs, Shannon Cantanzaro, and Karen Austin
- **Safe Harbor: Specialized Residential Programs for Youth Impacted by Human Trafficking** - Walter Fahr, LCSW, Sherri Combs, Jennifer Best, and Sharon Pleasant
- **Strategies to Improve Continued Care Management Access by Managed Care Organizations for Justice Impacted Children and Youth** - Dr. Marie Smith & Dr. Shantrell Charles
- **Legal Ethics** - Richard Pittman, JD
- **Hidden in Plain Sight - Grooming** - Lindsey Dula
- **Two Paths, One Purpose: Navigating FINS and DCFS Family Services to Support Louisiana Families** - Storm Ehlers, JD, Jaqueta Taylor, and ReShonn Saul
- **Pathways to Permanency: Understanding the Options and the Roles** - Sherry Powell, JD and Angela Mitchell

# CONFIRMED SESSIONS/SPEAKERS:

- **Caring for the Caregiver: Mental Health, Burnout, and Building a Sustainable Support System** - Michelle Many, LCSW
- **Bridging the Gap: DCFS Strategies for Supporting Unhoused Children and Families** - Shannon Catanzaro and Karen Austin
- **Louisiana Youth Challenge Program** - Marco Molina
- **Lighting the Path: Planful Transitions as a Beacon of Hope for Youth and Families** - Patricia McClinton, Margie Neilsen, and Dr. Ashley Carey-Betts
- **Paternity and Legal Issues** - Judge Jennifer Womble and Rodney Hastings, JD, CWLS
- **Advocating with Precision: Discovery, Motions, and Objections** - Franchesca Hamilton Acker, JD and Thailund Porter-Green, Esq.
- **The Ethics of ER Diversion: Balancing Duty to Warn with Best Practice** - Sherrard Crespo, LCSW
- **Do No More Harm: Preventing Re-Traumatization in CW Practice** - Kristyn Carver, PhD, LPC-S
- **Creating Safe and Affirming Care for Youth in Foster Care** - Currey Cook, JD
- **DCFS 101: Understanding Investigations and Removal** - Etrina Gerard and Jaketha Green
- **Foster Care Recruitment and Retention** - Kellye Worley
- **Building Resilience: Effectively Treating PTSD** - Thomas Mitchell, LPC and Stacy Faulkner, LPC
- **Guardianship in Child Welfare: Pathways to Permanence** - Sholanda Ellis

# CONFIRMED 3-HOUR INSTITUTES:

- **Legislative Lighthouse 2025: Child Welfare Legislative & Case Law Updates** - Kathy Lynn Cook, JD, MA CWLS, Courtney Shroeder, JD, and Kayana Bradley
- **Mastering Change Like a Chameleon Crawling through a Costume Ball** - Elizabeth Power, MEd
- **Resolution 606: A Turning Point for Louisiana's Child Welfare System** - Patsy Wilkerson, MA, Mark Harris, JD, and Samantha Morrison
- **Social Work Ethics** - Patsy Johnson, LCSW-BACS
- **Windows to Healing: Understanding Trauma and Building Safe Spaces Through Mind-Body Integration** - Toni Bankston and Randi Mitev
- **Breaking the Cycle: Addressing Intergenerational Trauma to Strengthen Families** - Dr. Sebastián Del Corral Winder
- **Speaking the Same Language: Strengthening DCFS-CASA Communication for Better Outcomes** - Stephanie Breeden, LMSA and Angela Mitchell
- **Current Trends in Substance Use Impacting Family and Youth** - Lynn Reimer
- **Family-Controlled Trafficking: Understanding Familial and Child Exploitation** - Shobana Powell, DSW, LCSW
- **The Importance of Differentiating Between Autistic Spectrum Traits and Sexual Abuse Indicators** - Lisa Donze Jacobs, LCSW

# REGISTER TODAY!



Scan to  
sign up now!



## Use the App!

Opens 2 weeks ahead of the conference!

### Join us on our official event app!

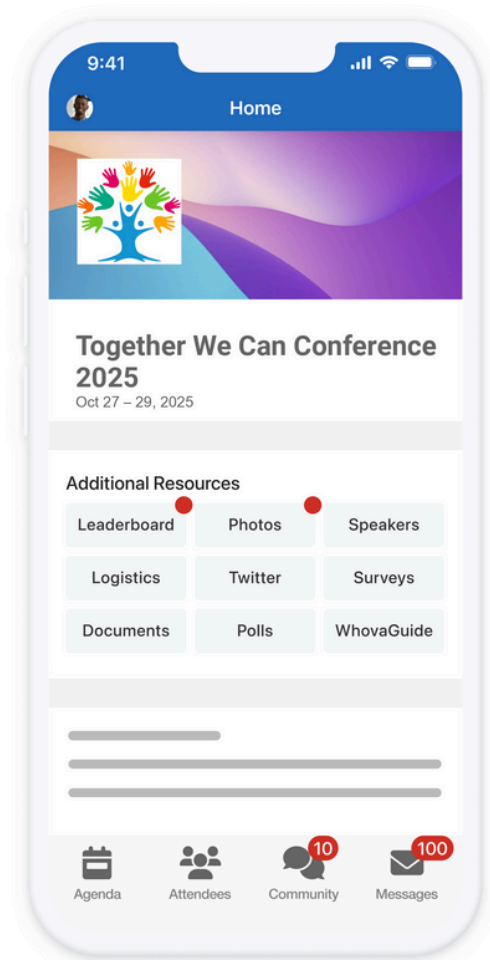
We're using *Whova* as our official event app. Download the app and join our event to:

- ➔ Personalize your agenda
- ➔ Receive event updates and notifications
- ➔ Connect with other attendees
- ➔ Create and join meet-ups



Scan this code for the link or search "Whova - Event and Conference App" on the App Store or Google Play.

Event Invitation Code: 5cldll66s5



Conference Coordination: Team Dynamics

<https://teamdyn.com>

Conference Website: <https://latwc.org>

985-624-3514

