



St. Catherine's Summer Colloquy
"Embracing the Changing Human Services Landscape"
Family Prevention Center: 40 N. Main Ave, Albany, NY
Tuesday, July 26, 2022 / 8:30am – 5:00pm

Colloquy is the fastest and most personable way to encourage conversations and build awareness around causes we care about. The purpose of this Colloquy, is to initiate an ongoing and open dialog around the challenges and triumphs of being a modern human services provider.

Agenda

8:30am – 9:00am

Networking and Breakfast

9:00am – 9:10am

Welcome Remarks and St. Catherine's Overview

- **Frank Pindiak**, Executive Director of St. Catherine's Center for Children

Morning Session

9:10am – 9:50am

Family Matters in Family First (Presentation and Q&A)

Moderator: Frank Pindiak, Executive Director of St. Catherine's Center for Children

Guest Presenters:

- **Sixto Cancel**, CEO of Think of Us

Panelists:

- **Mark Quail**, Assc. Executive Director of Permanency and Family Support
- **Anne Byron**, Director of Prevention
- **Vanessa Gonzalez**, Director of Foster Care
- **Kim Austin**, Supervisor of Case Management

9:50am – 10:00am

Break

10:00am – 10:50am

Let's Care About Kinship Care (Discussion and Q&A)

Moderator: **Mark Quail**, Assc. Executive Director of Permanency and Family Support

Guest Presenter:

- **Eunju Lee**, Assc. Professor at the School of Social Welfare, UAlbany

Panelists:

- **Lillian Leveque**, Kinship Care Supervisor
- **Carla Medina**, Kinship Care Case Manager
- **Melinda Gonzalez**, Director of Kinship & Foster Care
- **Meghan Ideman**, Family Finding Specialist

10:50am – 11:00am

Break

11:00am – 12:00pm

In the Course of Being a Child: Systems of Care (Presentation and Q&A)

Moderator:

- **Brian Perrotto**, Assc. Executive Director of Community Services

Guest Presenter:

- **Michael Arterberry**, Executive Director and Founder of Youth Voices Center

Panelist:

- **Jaclyn Yusko**, Chief Operating Officer
- **Jess Luquis**, Clinical Director
- **Erica Schwartz**, Director of Health Home Care Management
- **Alyssa Barkley**, Supervisor of Centralized Intake and Managed Care Relations

12:00pm – 12:45pm

Networking and Lunch

Afternoon Session

12:45pm – 1:20pm

Hiding in Plain Sight: Reducing the Stigma Around Mental Health (Presentation and Q&A)

Moderator

- **Jaclyn Yusko**, Chief Operating Officer

Guest Presenters:

- **Michael “Misha” Thomas**, Independent Consultant and Therapeutic Crises Intervention Expert

Panelists:

- **Miranda Himes**, Assc. Executive of Clinical Services
- **Emily Lezzi**, Assistant Clinical Director
- **Catherine Rafferty**, Special Interest Media Expert at WMHT TV
- **Leah Scott**, Director of Marketing and Communications

1:20pm – 1:30pm

Break

1:30pm – 2:20pm

Dynamic Street Outreach: Pathways to Health (Discussion and Q&A)

Moderator:

- **Louisa Marra**, Assc. Executive Director of Homeless Services

Guest Presenters:

- **Erica Coletti**, CEO of Healthy Alliance and **Kristen Scholl**, VP of Strategic Partnerships at Health Alliance

Panelists:

- **Nick Francella**, Sidewalk Warriors
- **Dave Healy**, Director of Housing
- **Kristin Michael**, Supervisor of Project Host
- **Sarah Ryan**, Supervisor of Pathways to Health

2:20pm – 2:30pm

Break

2:30pm – 3:00pm

A Conversation with Sixto Cancel and Michael Arterberry

Led by:

- **Frank Pindiak**, Executive Director of St. Catherine's Center for Children

3:00pm – 4:15pm

The Unconditional Community (Roundtable Discussion)

- **Michael Arterberry**, Executive Director of Youth Voices Center
- **Sixto Cancel**, CEO and Founder of Think of Us
- **Erica Coletti**, CEO of Healthy Alliance
- **Nick Francella**, Sidewalk Warriors
- **Eunju Lee**, Assc. Professor at the School of Social Welfare, UAlbany
- **Michele Puleo-O'Hare**, Executive Director of the Foundation of St. Catherine's
- **Frank Pindiak**, Executive Director of St. Catherine's Center for Children
- **Catherine Rafferty**, Media Specialist at WMHT TV
- **Kristen Scholl**, VP of Strategic Partnerships at Healthy Alliance
- **Michael "Misha" Thomas**, Independent Consultant and Therapeutic Crises Intervention Expert

4:15pm – 5:00pm

Wrap Up & Networking

Program Session Details

Family Matters in Family First

This session will cover impact and implications of seeking family solutions before child welfare intervention. The focus will be on family dynamics during and after abuse, neglect or trauma occurs. In this session, we'll take an in-depth look at how Family First and Permanency is being addressed for those requiring a therapeutic foster care setting, or currently in or aging out of the foster care system. The session will be moderated by Mark Quail, St. Catherine's resident family prevention and permanency expert, and feature guest presenter Sixto Cancel, who grew up in and aged out of the child welfare system to become the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of "Think of Us" – a research and development think tank for child welfare transformation. **Topics Covered:** Family Finding, Family Prevention, Child Welfare, Foster Care and Family-Integrated Solutions.

Let's Care About Kinship Care

Why isn't Kinship Care talked about? Even under the best circumstances, it a complicate relationship. Kinship Care is not a new concept but it is a relatively new social service. Unlike foster care or other child protective services where caregivers have months or even years of planning, preparation and training, kinship caregivers are often appointed under duress or emergency family circumstances. Even under the best circumstances, kinship caregivers face unique barriers specific to their family. Without assistance and advocates, caregivers may have limited access to and eligibility for available support. **Topics Covered:** Shifts in family ideals; cultural norms, stigma, and expectations; family dynamics and disruptions to the nuclear family.

In the Course of Being a Child: Systems of Care

The Systems of Care model is rooted in the idea that curating services and supports to meet the needs of children and families, is the most effective way to deploy prevention measures and employ intervention efforts. In this session, we will discuss St. Catherine's wrap-around and community-based child care and prevention through the use of Trauma Informed Care and Structured models of Intervention such as Motivational Interviewing, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) and Restorative Practice. With the guidance of Youth Voices expert Michael Arterberry, the panel, led by St. Catherine's community-based services expert Brian Perotto, will seek answers to the questions; How do we build a framework that involves collaboration across all divisions, programs, and levels of care?; How and where can we improve services and access to the most vulnerable among us?; and How do we motivate and encourage others to launch their best future? **Topics Covered:** Systems of Care, Greater Impacts Through Interdependency, Youth Development Continuum of Care, and community-based intervention at all levels of care.

Hiding in Plain Sight: Reducing the Stigma Around Mental Health

Because we need to talk about Bruno! In this session we'll explore how to initiate and frame conversations around mental health stigma and its portrayal in the media. Building on documentarian Ken Burns' new film, "Hiding in Plain Sight: Youth Mental Illness," we'll discuss the effects of stigmatized living, mental health's impact in everyday life, caustic portrayals in the media, and why we don't talk more about it. **Topics Covered:** Parenting through mental illness, preparing youth to navigating adulthood with mental health challenges, the role of the media in perpetuating the stigma, the mental health substance abuse correlation, and more!

Dynamic Street Outreach: Pathways to Health

Creativity is thinking up new things; innovation is doing the new thing. With the overall aim of improving the health and well-being of everyone in the community, St. Catherine's Pathways to Health team is implementing new approaches to street outreach. With our mobile *Care-a-Van* unit, the team is connecting individuals and families who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, to vital health services. The Pathways team along with guest presenters from Healthy Alliance and Sidewalk Warriors, will discuss how making connections without using the Social Determinants of Health, is not sustainable and how to use them to make inroads to reach people in need. The session will also cover how community partnerships such as Healthy Alliance's Micro-Spend, can supplement available resources and actual need. The panelists will discuss how economic stability, social environment, access to health care, and education levels greatly determine individuals' and families' health status. **Topics Covered:** Community healthcare collaborations, non-judgmental client engagement methods, strategic community partnerships, healthcare and social disparity cause and effect, and bridging gaps between available resources and actual need.

The Unconditional Community@

Where do we go from here? Building on the sentiment expressed by renowned social worker Brene' Brown that we should never underestimate the benefit of, "having a place to belong and be vulnerable... because it often does change the trajectory of our lives," St. Catherine's is addressing the changing human services landscape by embracing what Brown framed – the most vulnerable among us need a sense of belonging in order to thrive, a place in the community, a purpose, safety, stability, and security; and an understanding that these things are not conditional by virtue of circumstance, rather unconditional by virtue of our humanity. Similar to the assurance one achieves as the recipient of unconditional love, one achieves self-actualization when support is guaranteed. In this roundtable discussion, our featured and guest presenters will help us understand what it means to be a modern human services provider?, Why change is still hard even when change is what's needed? **Topics Covered:** Staying ahead of the curve, sustainability in programs and funding, cultural shifts and trends, Growth River principles, and more!

