

Breakout Session 1:

1. Join MelRo Potter for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training, and Trauma Informed Care training to service providers. DEI training helps create a more inclusive and equitable workplace for all servant leaders, and the children/families they serve. The trauma informed care training (TIC) is designed to promote safety, trustworthiness, collaboration, and empowerment within the internal support network/ as well as youth/families served.

DEI Project Objective:

- Identify Biases
 - Address unfair practices
 - Improve communication
 - Promote inclusion
 - Understand cultural humility, and competency • Foster innovation
 - Increase retention
2. Disenfranchised Grief and Behavioral Health Considerations with Families: Families who are involved in the child welfare system often experience disenfranchised grief and behavioral health challenges. This session helps CASA advocates understand how grief, trauma, and conditions like PTSD, substance use, and depression affect parents, children, and caregivers. Through a trauma-informed lens, advocates will gain tools to recognize emotional distress, hold space without judgment, and advocate effectively while keeping the child's best interest at the center. This session will also help advocates by providing them with emotional regulation skills to address compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma.
 3. Advocates Supervisors Networking: Calling all advocate supervisors! There have been multiple requests to connect with each other, meet the new staff and share ideas. Join each other to gather and network.
 4. Rowing Together: Best Practices for Board and Executive Director Partnerships: A strong, collaborative relationship between the Board and Executive Director is one of the most important drivers of nonprofit success. In this interactive session, Gregory Nielsen of Nielsen Training and Consulting will share practical strategies, real-world examples, and proven best practices to help Boards and Executives strengthen trust, clarify roles, and align around mission and strategy. Designed for both Board members and senior staff, this session will provide actionable tools to enhance communication, decision-making, and partnership at the highest levels of your organization.

Breakout Session 2:

1. How CASAs and GALs can work together: CASA Advocates and Guardian at Litems (GALs) are a team as we serve the youth on child in need of protection cases. Hear from CASA Directors and GALs on what are the best practices when working together.
2. Access to Educational Services and Supports: Three Things to Know
When advocating for students with IEPs, it's essential to start with a strong foundation. This session will introduce three key areas every advocate should understand: the basics of special education, school attendance requirements, and student discipline. Participants will gain practical information and one essential resource for each topic. We'll also provide an overview of additional resources and leave time for Q&A.
3. Addiction, trauma, and the role we play!: In this session you will learn about addiction as a brain disease, how it intersects with trauma, and the struggle to rewire the brain. We will discuss the difficulty in remaining abstinent from drugs and alcohol, including how trauma and stress complicate the healing process. All systems that are built on or become dysfunctional result in each person taking on a role within the system. You will learn what these roles are and how to navigate a relationship with those in each role. Finally, you will walk away with resources and skills to use daily with those you support.