



ASSOCIATION FOR TRAINING ON TRAUMA AND ATTACHMENT IN CHILDREN

ATTACH 2026 Conference Committee Meeting
July 10, 2025
8:00am-9:00am Central Time

Attendees

Mary McGowan, Bea Oakes, Sarah Bingham, Tammy Wells, Bonnie Butler, Noemi Contreras, Helaine Sandler, Rebecca Knowles, Kellie Pittman, Tracy Johnson, Arnie Eby, Stacey Notch

Meeting Notes

1. **Memorial and Trauma Workshop**

Mary proposed holding a memorial at the conference to honor families impacted by recent flooding. In connection, she suggested offering a 3-hour workshop focused on trauma resulting from such natural disasters.

2. **New Committee Members**

Mary welcomed Arnie and Tammy from NFPA to the committee. Arnie introduced Kellie Pittman from TFFC, a Texas-based affiliate. All three bring extensive experience as foster and adoptive parents and as leaders in foster care advocacy.

3. **Proposal Submissions and Review Process**

Mary provided an overview of the proposal review process. Helaine noted that two individuals would be submitting their presentation proposals that day. Deadline to submit is July 31.

4. **Conference Registration**

The committee is targeting the end of August to open registration.

5. **Venue Tour**

Mary will be in San Antonio in August for another conference and will tour the conference venue hotel with several committee members.

6. **Parent & Caregiver Committee**

Mary requested Bonnie schedule a meeting within the next month. Arnie will share a contact from their team, who Mary hopes will co-chair the subcommittee. A special luncheon is planned for Thursday, and Mary is contacting riverboat operators about a discounted "Parent Night" experience. A partial sponsor for Parent Night may be secured.

7. **Auction Committee (Live and Silent)**

Tracy is heading up the Auction committee. The silent auction is open to any committee member willing to help solicit donated items. All proceeds will go toward parent scholarships for the following year's conference.



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8. **Thursday Reception**

The committee is still seeking entertainment options. Mary will follow up with Michael regarding a mariachi band. Additional volunteers are needed for this subcommittee. Helaine has joined.

9. **Exhibitors and Listening Room**

Rebecca reported that Unyte has verbally committed to an exhibit booth but won't have funding until January. She requested a table be reserved. They're also interested in hosting a Listening Room and quiet space.

10. **Sponsorship and Promotion**

Bea secured a sponsorship commitment from San Marcus Treatment Center and has three proposal submissions in progress. Save-the-date cards were distributed at recent events in Houston and Dallas. She will continue distributing cards in the San Antonio area.

11. **Marketing Materials**

Helaine requested more Save-the-Date cards. The committee discussed updating materials to include sponsors as they are confirmed. If sponsors are secured by the end of July, they can be featured in printed materials for the August conference.

12. **Local Outreach**

Mary asked the group to identify potential connections with local child services to ensure strong representation and attendance. Bea will reach out to her contacts.

13. **Morning Yoga**

Rebecca volunteered to lead yoga sessions on Friday and Saturday mornings from 7:00–7:45 AM.

14. **In-Kind Photographer**

Mary asked the group to consider photographers who may be willing to donate their services. Bonnie will reach out to her contacts.

15. **Welcome Address**

The committee is looking for a strong local leader to give a 5-minute welcome on Thursday morning.

16. **Friday Luncheon**

The luncheon will feature boxed lunches that attendees can take with them. Affinity group discussions will be offered during this time. Bea will contact a leadership trainer, and Tammy suggested a discussion topic focused on working with birth families.

Action Items

Task	Assigned To	Due By
Plan memorial and coordinate trauma workshop	Mary	In progress
Share contact for Parent & Caregiver subcommittee co-chair	Arnie	ASAP
Schedule Parent & Caregiver Committee meeting	Bonnie, Stacey	Within 1 month
Contact riverboat operator about Parent Night	Mary	In progress
Confirm partial sponsor for Parent Night	Mary	In progress
Encourage silent auction participation and item donations	All committee members	Ongoing
Follow up with Michael re: mariachi band for Thursday reception	Mary	ASAP
Join Thursday Reception subcommittee	All interested	Ongoing
Distribute Save-the-Date cards in San Antonio	Bea	Ongoing
Provide additional Save-the-Date cards	Stacey	ASAP



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Update printed materials with sponsor logos	Stacey	By end of July
Identify and invite local child services reps	All / Bea	ASAP
Reach out to potential in-kind photographers	Bonnie	In progress
Identify local leader for Thursday welcome	All / Mary	ASAP
Contact leadership trainer for Friday luncheon	Bea	In progress
Develop affinity group list and topics	All	Ongoing