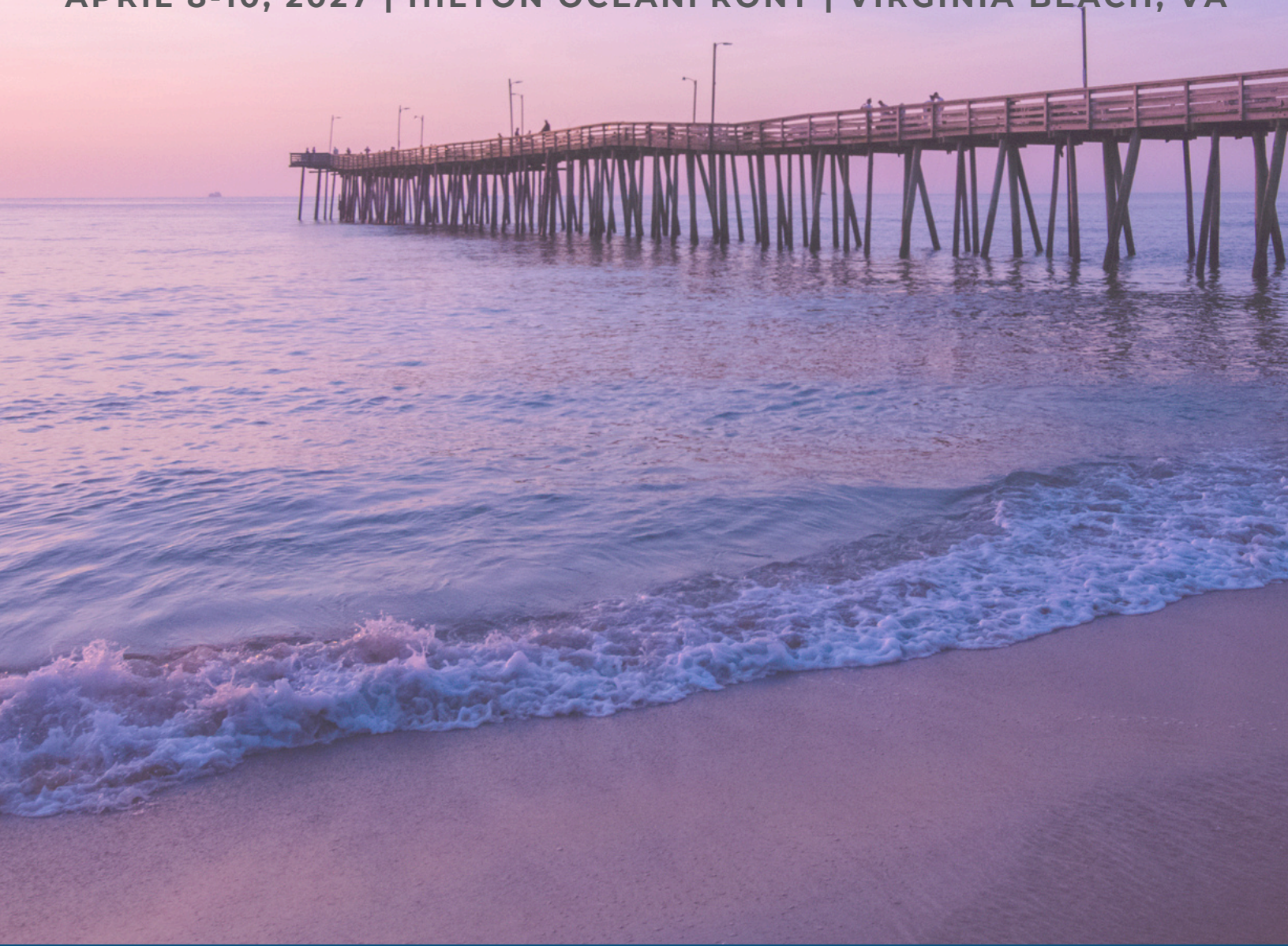
ATTACh

THE POWER OF CONNECTION

HEALING RELATIONSHIPS IN AN EVOLVING WORLD

2027 ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

APRIL 8-10, 2027 | HILTON OCEANFRONT | VIRGINIA BEACH, VA



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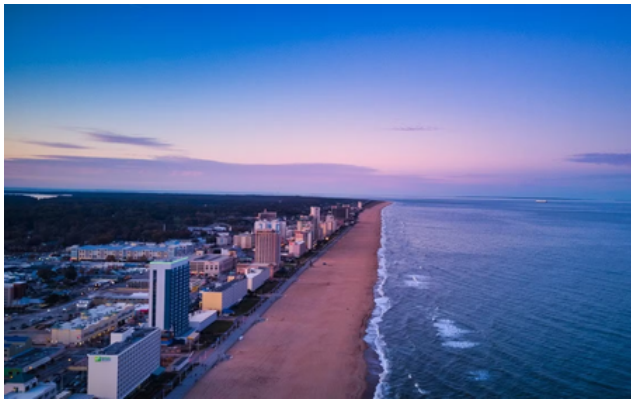
SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

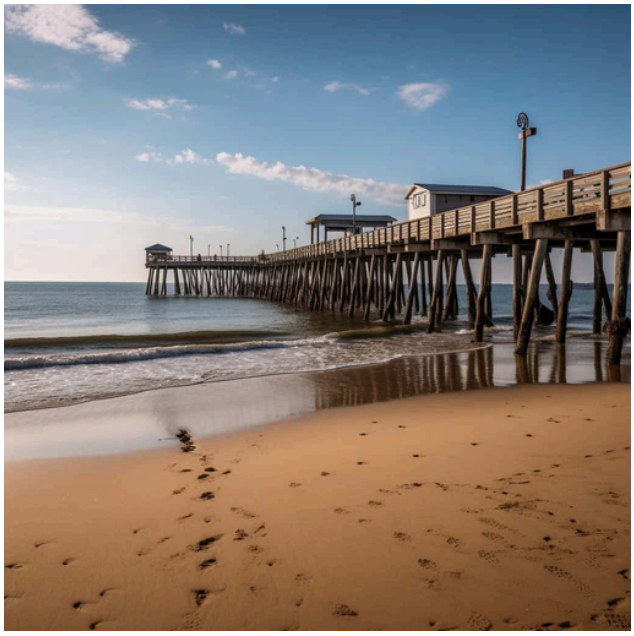
THURSDAY, APRIL 8

7:00 AM	REGISTRATION OPENS
7:30 AM	EXHIBIT AREA OPENS
8:15 AM - 9:45 AM	WELCOME & OPENING KEYNOTE
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	MORNING BREAK
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH BREAK (ON YOUR OWN)
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	AFTERNOON BREAK
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	SESSION 3 WORKSHOPS
5:00 PM	EXHIBIT AREA CLOSES
5:00 PM	WELCOME RECEPTION



FRIDAY, APRIL 9

7:00 AM	REGISTRATION OPENS
7:30 AM	EXHIBIT AREA OPENS
8:15 AM - 9:45 AM	FRIDAY KEYNOTE
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	MORNING BREAK
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	SESSION 4 WORKSHOPS
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	SESSION 5 WORKSHOPS
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	AFTERNOON BREAK
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	SESSION 6 WORKSHOPS
5:00 PM	EXHIBIT AREA CLOSES
6:00PM	PARENT NIGHT AT BEACHSIDE SOCIAL CLUB



SATURDAY, APRIL 10

7:30 AM	REGISTRATION OPENS
8:00 AM	EXHIBIT AREA OPENS
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	SESSION 7 WORKSHOPS
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	MORNING BREAK
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	SESSION 8 WORKSHOPS
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	BOX LUNCH PROVIDED
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	CLOSING KEYNOTE



The Power of Connection

HEALING RELATIONSHIPS IN AN EVOLVING WORLD

APRIL 8 - 10, 2027 | VIRGINIA BEACH, VA



Mary M. McGowan
ATTACh, Executive Director
Minneapolis, MN



Nicole Fuglsang
President, Board of Directors
Lake Ozark, MO

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Sue Badeau, Training Specialist
Jennifer Thiele, Operations Manager

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Members of the ATTACh Community,

Welcome to the ATTACh 39th Annual Conference!

It is our great pleasure to invite you to join us as we gather to explore next year's theme, "The Power of Connection: Healing in an Evolving World." Months before we come together in person, we are already inspired by the collective wisdom, dedication, and passion that each of you brings to this important work.

We are living in a time of rapid change. Families, professionals, organizations, and communities continue to navigate evolving challenges and opportunities that impact relationships, mental health, and well-being. Amid these shifts, one truth remains constant: healing happens in connection. Meaningful relationships provide the foundation for resilience, growth, trust, and hope. Whether we are supporting children, families, adults, or communities, our ability to foster connection remains at the heart of transformative healing.

This conference will celebrate the power of relationships while exploring innovative approaches, emerging research, and practical strategies that strengthen attachment, regulation, and emotional well-being. Together, we will learn from respected experts, engage in meaningful conversations, and deepen our understanding of how connection continues to shape healing across diverse settings and populations.

Beyond the educational sessions, we hope this conference will serve as a space for renewed purpose and belonging. The ATTACh community is uniquely united by a shared commitment to helping others build secure relationships and thrive. Each attendee contributes valuable experience, insight, and perspective. By coming together, we strengthen not only our professional knowledge but also the network of support that sustains our work throughout the year.

As we look ahead to this gathering, we encourage you to embrace opportunities to connect with colleagues, exchange ideas, and challenge yourself to think in new ways. The relationships formed and strengthened during this conference often become lasting sources of inspiration, collaboration, and encouragement.

Thank you for being part of the ATTACh community and for your unwavering commitment to promoting attachment, trauma-informed care, and healing-centered practices. We are honored to learn alongside you and excited to welcome you to what promises to be an engaging, thought-provoking, and transformative conference experience.

Together, let us celebrate the profound impact of connection and continue advancing healing in an ever-evolving world.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Mary M. McGowan
Executive Director, ATTACh

Nicole Fuglsang
President, Board of Directors

ATTACh

PROFESSIONAL ATTENDEES:

Register by January 8, 2027 to receive a $50 discount on your registration fee (applies to Professional Full Conference only).

CONFERENCE HOTEL DISCOUNT:

Reserve a room at the conference hotel and receive a 10% discount on registration fees listed on this page.

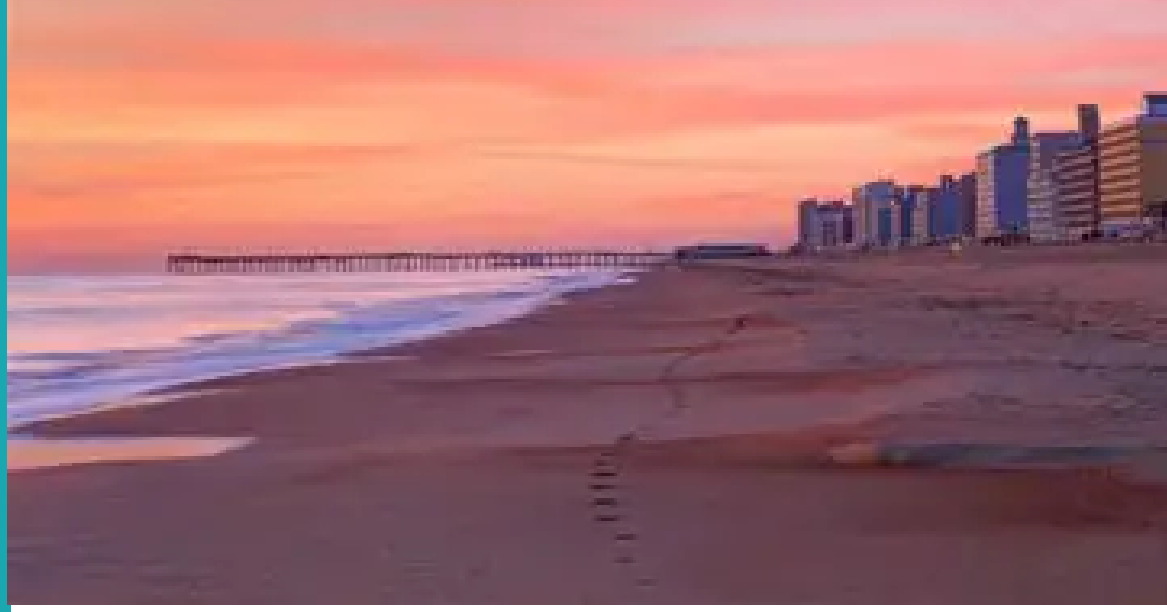
RESERVE YOUR ROOM HERE!

GROUP DISCOUNT

20% DISCOUNT

When registering groups of 5 or more professional registrations from one agency.

EMAIL US AT
CONFERENCE@ATTACH.ORG



Registration
Fees and Information

https://attach.org/2027-attach-conference/

2027 Conference Registration Costs

	ATTACh Member	Non-Member
Full Conference Professional (Three Days) April 8-10	Regular Rate $545	Regular Rate $595
One-Day Professional Select one day: Thursday, Friday or Saturday	$275	$325
Student/CASA Rate Students must provide proof of current enrollment in psychology, social work, or similar field.	Per Day $100	Per Day $125
Parent/Caregiver Rate Must be current parent(s) of child with trauma and attachment issues. This option is not eligible for CE credits..	Per Day $100	Per Day $125

**The cost of the hotel is not included with your registration fees. Travel accommodations are not included with your registration fees and must be arranged separately by the attendee. We provide a lower negotiated reservation cost for those that are attending the event, and we offer a reduced conference registration fee for those staying at our host hotel.*

CANCELLATION POLICY: A $50 handling fee will be deducted from refund for cancellation made by March 5, 2027. No refunds will be made for cancellations on or after March 5, 2027.

Conference Venue

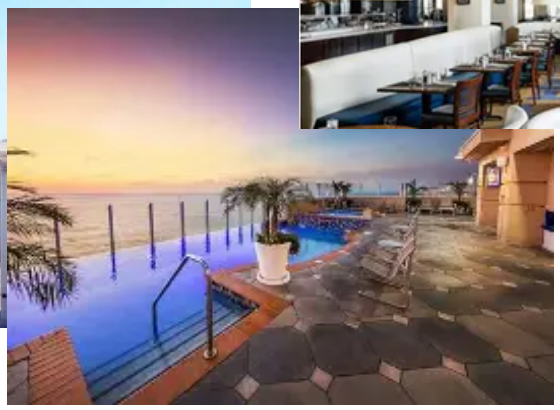
The Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront

3001 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 USA

Click Here to Learn More and Book Your Stay Today!







Welcome to Virginia Beach!



Named one of the top places to visit in 2026 by The New York Times, Virginia Beach is more than a beach destination — it's where happiness comes naturally.

Start at the buzzing Oceanfront, where watersports meet the iconic Boardwalk and live music fills the air. Then branch out: take in wall-to-wall murals in the ViBe Creative District, shop or catch a show at Town Center, slow it down with a Sandbridge stay or kayak your way straight to dinner on the Back Bay. Add in festivals that turn the sand into a stage (hello Jackalope, Neptune and Point Break) and you've got a place where joy is always in season.



With 38 miles of coastline — where the peaceful Chesapeake Bay meets the Atlantic's longest stretch of pleasure beach — Virginia Beach is closer than you think: just an hour from Richmond, three from Raleigh and three-and-a-half from D.C. And the seafood? Next level. Think oysters kissed by the ocean, peel-and-eat shrimp piled high and just-caught dishes that set a new standard for fresh.



In addition to soaking up all the sessions at the ATTACh conference, you might choose to stay an extra day or two to chase dolphins with your best buds, exploring trails with family or working on a solo three-day tan, Virginia Beach stays with you — in snapshots, in stories, in the way you'll wish you never had to leave.

Come for the coast, stay for the feeling — come live the life in Virginia Beach.



Special Events

Hot Topic Discussion Groups

Lived Expertise - Join ATTACh Board Members Jess Larsen and Nathan Ross for a meaningful conversation exploring the lived experience of trauma and attachment. Hear personal perspectives, reflect on how lived experiences shape healing and connection, and engage in an open, respectful discussion with others who bring their own experiences and insights. Come listen, learn, and connect in a space where every voice matters.
More discussion groups to be announced.

39th Annual Welcome Reception: Paradise by the Sea

Thursday, April 8, 5:00 pm | Neptune Park
Kick off the conference with a tropical twist at our Thursday evening Welcome Reception! Enjoy food, music, entertainment, and plenty of opportunities to mingle with fellow attendees. Grab a drink from the cash bar, soak up the laid-back island vibes, and make new connections as we celebrate the start of an unforgettable conference experience. Silent Auction with proceeds benefiting the 2028 Conference Parent & Caregiver Scholarships. Come ready to relax, connect, and have some fun!

Parent & Caregiver Night Out

Friday, April 9, 6:00 pm | Beachside Social Club
Swap your conference badge for a shuffleboard cue and join us for an evening of dinner, games, drinks, laughs, prizes, and connection. Don't worry if you are not a shuffleboard pro, you will have a chance to learn, and we will have other games and activities inviting connection, relaxation, and laughter.

Open Yoga Classes

Friday & Saturday, 7:00 - 7:45 am | Beach
All Levels Welcome! Led by a trauma informed yoga instructor.

Group Beach Boardwalk Walk

Friday & Saturday, 7:00 – 7:45 am | Beach Boardwalk
Start your day with fresh air, movement, and connection! Join fellow conference attendees for a relaxing group walk along the beach boardwalk. All paces welcome—come walk, talk, and enjoy the beauty of the morning together.

Saturday Box Lunch & Closing Keynote

Saturday, April 10, 11:45 am | The Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront
Don't miss this opportunity to refuel your body and your thinking! Pick up your complimentary boxed lunch and bring it with you to the Saturday keynote. Settle in, enjoy your meal, and kick off the afternoon with a uniquely engaging keynote designed to spark reflection, connection, and continued learning.



Meet Sponsors & Exhibitors

7:30 am - 5:00 pm, Thursday & Friday

8:00 am - 12:30 pm, Saturday

Find out more about their programs and services.

ATTACh

Parents & Caregivers

You're Invited!

ATTACh

Pause.

Connect.

Recharge.

This year's conference honors 39 years of supporting families. These special events are designed just for you—because you deserve it.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

"Thank you for providing spaces and opportunities for parents/caregivers to connect and find each other. That's one of the best parts of this conference. Thank you!"

-Parent/Caregiver Attendee

Parent/Caregiver Check-In
Thursday, April 8 | 4:45- 5:15 PM
Pause. Reflect. Connect. Join a Parent Mentor and fellow parents and caregivers to talk through the day's learning, share insights, and process new ideas together.



Connected Conversations
Friday, April 9 | 3:00-4:30 PM
Relax, reflect, and share stories with others who "get your life." This built-in session offer space to connect and breathe.



Parent & Caregiver Night Out
Friday, April 9, 6:00-8:00 PM
Beachside Social Club
Swap your conference badge for a shuffleboard cue and join us for an evening of dinner, games, drinks, laughs, prizes, and connection. Don't worry if you are not a shuffleboard pro, you will have a chance to learn, and we will have other games and activities inviting connection, relaxation, and laughter.



Come away with us. Pause. Connect. Refill your cup.

This is more than a conference—it's an opportunity to step away from the everyday, make space for yourself, and connect with a community that understands. Come ready to learn, reflect, laugh, and be inspired. Bring your curiosity & your open heart.

We Can't Wait to Welcome You!

Thank You

To Our Conference Committee

Amanda Becker, United Health Care
Amy Peterson, Center for Attachment and Trauma Services, Inc.
Angella Allison-Davis, Virginia Beach Department of Human Services
Ashley Jackson, James Barry Robinson Institute
Ashley Van Note, Inspire Family Empowerment
Chuck Brooks, James Barry Robinson Institute
Colleen Luksik, Everheld
Daralene Smith, Norfolk Department of Human Services
Dawn Garrigus, Foster/ Adoptive Parent
Elizabeth Stewart, James Barry Robinson Institute
Janice Goldwater, Janice Goldwater, Consulting
John Richardson-Lauve, St. Joseph's Villa
Josetta Thomae, Virginia Beach Public Library
Joy Rios, Everheld





Kate Kosky, Virginia Beach Court Appointed Special Advocates Inc.
Lauren DeSimone, James Barry Robinson Institute
Marquita Edwards, Virginia Department of Human Services
Meaghan Campbell, James Barry Robinson Institute
Miriam Matson, Foster Parent
Odessa Becker, Center for Children and Families
Roxie Hoven, Norfolk CASA, Inc
Sharon Reams, The Up Center
Stanika Rowson, Foster Parent & Residential Provider
Susan Penick, ShineForth
TeVondra Gayden, Virginia Beach Department of Human Services
Tom Crockett, Smart Transitions
Vickie Butts, James Barry Robinson Institute



Thank You

To Our Sponsors!

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Corporation

The James Barry-Robinson Institute

Chaddock
Every Child Deserves a Chance

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
VIRGINIA BEACH

ATTACh Annual Conference

Advertising & Sponsorship Opportunities



Secure Sponsorship Now!

Elevate your organization's visibility and impact by purchasing a sponsorship package at our conference! Showcase your commitment to social responsibility while gaining valuable exposure to professionals and caregivers in the field. Don't miss this opportunity to make a meaningful impact and stand out among industry leaders.

Become an Exhibitor!

Showcase your business to professionals and caregivers, and help create an engaging space for networking and learning. Gain exposure on our website, app, and at the event. Reserve your space now:

6' x 30" Table:
Non-Profit Rate: $700
Standard Rate: $850
Optional electrical service available. Join us and make an impact!

Ad Options

Limited ad space! Please submit your application, payment, and electronic file promptly. Accepted formats: jpeg, png, tif, or gif. Choose black/white or color, but beware of distortion when enlarging. Ensure your format matches the ad size precisely for optimal quality. Thank you!

ATTACh

Discover sponsorship packages tailored to meet all levels! With options ranging from $2,500 to $25,000, there's a package suitable for every budget and goal.

See what your sponsorship could get you below:

- **ENHANCE BRAND EXPOSURE**
  Secure digital program ad space to prominently showcase your logo across the digital program, website, and on-site at the conference, maximizing brand visibility.
- **MAXIMIZE VISIBILITY**
  Showcase your organization to our diverse audience.
- **ENGAGE DIRECTLY**
  Stand out with exhibitor tables and engage directly with professionals and caregivers.
- **EXTEND YOUR REACH**
  Leave a lasting impression with promotional items for attendee tote bags, extending your brand's reach.
- **EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS**
  Enjoy complimentary conference admission and one-year ATTACh membership, accessing exclusive benefits while supporting our mission.

Available sponsorship benefits vary by sponsorship tier.

Check Out the Sponsorship Flyer!

You don't have to sponsor to support! ***Placing an ad still boosts your visibility and showcases your brand to our diverse audience, enhancing your reach and impact.***

- Full Page Print Space: $1,500
  - Dimensions: 7.5"w x 10"h
- ½ Page Print Space: $1,000
  - Dimensions: 7.5"w x 5"h
- ¼ Page Print Space: $700
  - Dimensions: 3.75"w x 5"h

2027 CONFERENCE SPONSORS, SCHOLARSHIP DONORS, EXHIBITORS, & ADVERTISING



Trusted Medicaid Managed Care Partner and National Foster Care Leader

As the leading Medicaid managed care organization (MCO), Centene Corporation serves nearly a quarter of a million children involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, more than any Medicaid MCO in the nation. We partner with state agencies, providers and advocates to deliver reliable, high-quality care that supports better outcomes for children.

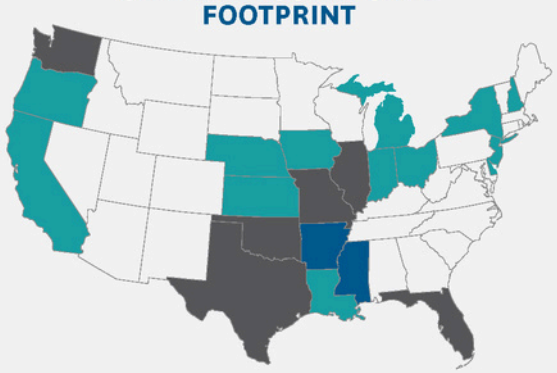
Uniquely Local Personalized Support with a National Presence

With local offices and dedicated staff in the communities we serve, we provide personalized support tailored to our member's needs. Backed by more than **40 years of Medicaid experience** and the strength of a national organization, we bring the scale, stability, and expertise needed to deliver comprehensive, integrated care.

Aligning People and Resources for Holistic High-Quality Care

Through strong collaboration with state agencies, providers, and advocates, we improve the health of children who have experienced trauma.

CENTENE FOSTER CARE FOOTPRINT



Sole Statewide Specialty MCO | Preferred MCO | One of multiple MCOs

Healthcare Providers

Juvenile Justice

State Agencies

Licensed Child-Placing Agencies

Child Welfare Advocates

Keynote Speakers
AND PLENARIES



Dr. Ruth Lanius,

Dr. Ruth Lanius, MD, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry, director - PTSD research unit, and Harris-Woodman Chair in Mind-Body Medicine at Western University. Her research focuses on the neurobiology of PTSD and treatment outcome. She has more than 200 published papers/chapters.

Thursday MORNING KEYNOTE | 8:15 - 9:45

Grounded Enough to Heal: New Pathways for Complex Dissociative Trauma

ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.

Complex dissociative trauma challenges conventional approaches to treatment. This keynote explores what makes trauma processing possible, highlighting gravitational security and embodied regulation as foundations for healing. Drawing on Finding Solid Ground, SMART, and Deep Brain Reorienting, clinical research and cases illustrate new brain- and body-based pathways from stabilization toward trauma processing.

Learning Objectives:1) Describe the role of gravitational security in establishing embodied safety, orientation, and connection. 2) Identify brain- and body-based strategies from Finding Solid Ground and SMART to strengthen regulation and stabilization. 3) Explain the neurobiological rationale for Deep Brain Reorienting and its role in trauma processing. 4) Recognize clinical indicators of readiness to transition from stabilization to trauma processing. 5) Integrate brain- and body-based approaches to guide trauma processing in complex dissociative disorders. 6) Adapt treatment approaches to the complexities and individual needs of patients with developmental and relational trauma.

About Dr. Lanius: Ruth A. Lanius, M.D., Ph.D., is a Psychiatry Professor and Harris-Woodman Chair at Western University of Canada, where she is the director of the Clinical Research Program for PTSD. Ruth has over 25 years of clinical and research experience with trauma-related disorders. She established the Traumatic Stress Service at London Health Sciences Center, a program that specializes in the treatment of psychological trauma. Ruth has received numerous research and teaching awards, including the Banting Award for Military Health Research. She has published over 200 research articles and book chapters focusing on brain adaptations to psychological trauma and novel adjunct treatments for PTSD. Ruth regularly lectures on the topic of psychological trauma both nationally and internationally. Ruth has co-authored five books: The Effects of Early Life Trauma on Health and Disease: The Hidden Epidemic, Healing the Traumatized Self: Consciousness, Neuroscience, Treatment, Finding Solid Ground (textbook and workbook), and most recently Sensory Pathways to Healing from Trauma; Harnessing the Brain's Capacity for Change. Ruth is a passionate clinician scientist who endeavours to understand the first-person experience of traumatized individuals throughout treatment and how it relates to brain functioning.

Keynote Speakers
AND PLENARIES



Dr. George Thompson

Dr. George Thompson, author of The Polyvagal Parent: The Science and Soul of Raising a Connected Child, is co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of Velocity Health Group. Dr. Thompson is Chairman of the Polyvagal Institute's board of directors.

Friday MORNING KEYNOTE | 8:15 - 9:45

Finding Our Footing in an Evolving World: A Polyvagal Pathway to Understanding Behavior, Creating Safety, and Renewing Hope

ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.

Supporting children and teens who have experienced trauma and attachment disruptions can be challenging and leave parents, professionals, and caregivers feeling overwhelmed and uncertain. This presentation offers a compassionate, practical approach to understanding challenging behaviors through the lens of nervous system states and Polyvagal Theory, helping caregivers recognize how children respond to perceived threats and communicate safety without abandoning boundaries or accountability. Through attuned listening, we can look beyond behavior to recognize the adaptive strengths and virtues—such as courage, persistence, protectiveness, and resourcefulness—that children draw upon to navigate their experiences. This perspective can foster dignity, strengthen attachment, and restore hope while also encouraging caregivers to extend greater compassion to themselves as they navigate the challenges of supporting children and families.

Learning Objectives: 1) Describe how perceived threat influences autonomic nervous system state and how nervous system state shapes a child's thoughts, emotions, behavior, and capacity for connection. 2) Identify the nervous system state, perceived threat, and protective purpose that may be operating beneath a child's challenging behavior. 3) Explain how attuned listening and relational connection can offer cues of safety and protection while preserving appropriate boundaries, accountability, and adult leadership. 4) Apply a polyvagal-informed listening approach to respond to challenging behavior in ways that protect dignity, support attachment, and strengthen the caregiver-child relationship. 5) Recognize the adaptive virtue—such as courage, persistence, protectiveness, or resourcefulness—within children's and caregivers' imperfect responses, and describe how perceiving this moral beauty can renew hope, self-compassion, and courage.

About Dr. Thompson: Dr. George Thompson is a visionary child psychiatrist with over 30 years of experience helping children reclaim trust, dignity, and self-mastery. A national leader in trauma-informed systems, he co-authored Working with Relational Trauma in Children's Residential Care and Polyvagal Theory and the Developing Child. His work integrates neuroscience and deep clinical insight to design healing environments where even the most wounded children can thrive. Dr. Thompson is co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of Velocity, a new psychiatric residential center near Springfield, Missouri. Scheduled to open this fall, Velocity combines intensive inpatient care with an integrated aftercare model for long-term success. He serves as Chair of the Polyvagal Institute's Board and core faculty in its certificate course. He also supervises adult and child psychiatry residents at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

Keynote Speakers *AND PLENARIES*



Sue Badeau, Trainer and Advocacy Specialist, ATTACh, Panel Facilitator



Robyn Gobbel, MSW, Owner, Baffling Behavior Training Institute, Panel Mental Health Expert



Nathan Ross, LMSW, Co-Founder, ApricityEQ, Panel Lived Experience Expert



Vicki Butts, BSW, CSAC, Director of Community Relations & Communications, James Barry Robinson Institute, Panel Foster Care Expert



Dawn Garrigus, MSW, Foster and Adoptive Parent, Panel Parent/Caregiver Expert



Marquita Edwards, BA, Human Services Supervisor I, Virginia Beach Dept. of Human Services, Panel Child Welfare Expert

SATURDAY CLOSING KEYNOTE | 12:30 - 2:00

Same Child, Different Lens

ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.

What happens when a child and family with complex needs engage with multiple helping systems? Even when professionals across mental health, education, child welfare, healthcare, and other systems are working toward the same goals, families can experience fragmented services, competing expectations, and the challenge of navigating multiple systems at once. In this interactive closing plenary, we'll take a deeper dive into one fictional family's journey as they encounter challenges spanning housing, substance use, education, mental and physical health, child welfare, and court involvement. Panelists—including professionals from multiple disciplines, a parent/caregiver, and a young adult—will consider the **same child and family through different lenses,** sharing how their roles, training, and lived experiences shape the way they understand and respond to the family's needs. Along the way, we'll explore where systems can miss one another, where collaboration can make a difference, and what support can feel like from the family's perspective. As we close three days of learning and connection, we invite you to bring your own experience and perspective to the conversation—and leave asking: **"What can I do, in my own role and community, to help create more coordinated, compassionate, and healing experiences for children and families?"**

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify at least three ways that fragmented or siloed systems can affect children and families navigating multiple service systems. 2) Analyze the fictional family's experiences from at least two professional or lived-experience perspectives and identify how those perspectives may influence service planning and intervention. 3) Describe at least three strategies for strengthening communication, coordination, and collaboration among professionals, families, and young people supporting children with trauma histories. 4) Apply a collaborative, family-centered approach to children or families in their own communities, families or practices by identifying at least two actions they can take within their own professional or community role to promote coordinated, trauma-responsive support.

About Sue Badeau: Sue Badeau speaks on trauma and resilience, family and youth engagement, parenting and more for child welfare, justice, education and mental health agencies, courts, and other organizations worldwide. She serves on several boards. She is a parent, grandparent and author. **About Robyn Gobbel:** Robyn Gobbel, MSW, is an internationally recognized speaker, trainer, and USA Today bestselling author specializing in relational neuroscience, attachment, and trauma. After 20 years as a therapist, she founded the Baffling Behavior Training Institute, training professionals and families. **About Nathan Ross:** Nathan Ross, LMSW, is a consultant specializing in youth engagement, leadership development, and systems change across child welfare, family strengthening, and community-based prevention. For over a decade, he has designed structures that integrate the voices of people with lived experience into program development, training, and policy at local, state, and national levels. **About Vicki Butts:** Vicki has served as a public servant in the child welfare field for 26 years. Her degree is in Social Work, and she is a licensed certified substance abuse counselor in the state of Virginia. Her background history relates to the nonprofit sector, local government with foster care children, juvenile justice, and substance recovery services. Vicki is currently the Director of Community Relations at the James Barry Robinson Institute. In this role, she provides ongoing engagement and supportive services to children and families in need of residential or foster care services. **About Dawn Garrigus:** Dawn Garrigus, MSW, is a child development and family support professional with more than 40 years of experience in education, social work, counseling, military family services, and youth programming. As an adoptive mother and former therapeutic foster care provider, Dawn combines lived experience, clinical training, and trauma-responsive practice to strengthen children, families, and communities. **About Marquita Edwards:** Marquita Edwards is a Permanency Supervisor with the Virginia Beach Department of Human Services, bringing over 20 years of experience advocating for children and families. A dedicated child welfare leader, she champions collaboration, community engagement, and improved outcomes for vulnerable youth and trafficking survivors. Her motto: "Teamwork makes the dream work."

Workshop Schedule THURSDAY, APRIL 8

	KEYNOTE 8:15 - 9:45	SESSION 1 10:15 - 11:45	SESSION 2 1:00 - 2:30	SESSION 3 3:00 - 4:30
TRACK A Parent & Caregiver	Grounded Enough to Heal: New Pathways for Complex Dissociative Trauma **Dr. Ruth Lanius**	Providing Care with Purpose: Honoring Yourself to Better Serve Others **Doreen Wruk & Jennifer Fellars**	There's No Right Answer: What to Do When Every Next Step Seems Wrong **Robyn Gobbel & Rose LaPiere**	Loving the Child I Have: Attachment, Grief, and Healing After an IDD Diagnosis **Priscilla Estrello & Araceli Salcedo**
TRACK B OT / Sensorimotor		Seeking Silent Stability: A Practical Approach to Core Development **Dr. Katie Mesko**	When the Body Says No: Clinical Reasoning Through Sensory Defense, Trauma, and Protective Responses **Maude Le Roux**	
TRACK C Intermediate Professional		From Disclosure to Support: Strengthening Clinician Responses to Domestic Violence **Jessica Yaffa**	When the Caring Adult Is Overloaded: Protecting Connection With Children and Families **Dr. Renee Sunday**	Shame: The Quiet Critical Core Issue **Laura Ornelas**
TRACK D Advanced Clinical		Effective Attachment Therapy: Relational, Skills-Based & Experiential Interventions **Dr. Terry Levy & Randall Radetsky**		Sensory Pathways to Healing from Trauma: Practical Strategies **Dr. Ruth Lanius**
TRACK E Multidiscipline / Young Adult		Unpacking Neurodivergence, Developmental Trauma, and Healing Through Brainspotting **Shannon Poulos**	Faith, Culture, & Family Systems - The Messages We Carry **Dr. Alena Crawley**	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders from a Trauma Lens **Barb Clark**
TRACK F Child Welfare		Protecting Attachment Through Better Child Welfare Decision-Making **Dr. Channing Collins**	The Weight of "What If": Attachment, Neurobiology, and Persistent Uncertainty **Dr. Tracie Self, Dr. Sarah Ogilvie, & Dr. Kyle Ritten**	Prioritizing Prevention Through Evidence-Based Practices **Dr. Marie Petrone & Ashley Sandman**

Workshop Schedule

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

	KEYNOTE 8:15 - 9:45	SESSION 4 10:15 - 11:45	SESSION 5 1:00 - 2:30	SESSION 6 3:00 - 4:30
TRACK A Parent & Caregiver	Finding our Footing in an Evolving World: A Polyvagal Pathway to Understanding Behavior, Creating Safety, and Renewing Hope Perspective **Dr. George Thompson**	Building Trauma Sensitive Classrooms and School Cultures Through Social-Emotional Learning **Carla Jenkins**	Understanding the Vulnerable Nervous System **Megean Eggert & Danielle Heimericks**	Connected Conversations **Sue Badeau**
TRACK B OT / Sensorimotor		Exploring Attachment, Sensory Processing, and Arousal in Child Development **Claire Ginty**		Beyond Words: Somatic Play Practices for Safety, Connection, and Attachment **Darlene Brace**
TRACK C Intermediate Professional		Present, Attentive, Attuned and Responsive (PAAR): Therapeutic Engagement With the NMT- **David Paxton**	Dimensions of Loss: A Relational Map for Healing **Janice Goldwater & Amy Peterson**	
TRACK D Advanced Clinical		Polyvagal Practices: Building Safe Connection One Nervous System at a Time **Dr. George Thompson**	Healing Through Connection: Trauma, Addiction, and the Relational Field **Rafael Cortina**	Relational Pathways to Healing: Attachment-Based Therapy Practices for Trauma Survivors **Dr. Allison Brownlee**
TRACK E Multidiscipline / Young Adult		From Trauma to Trust: EMDR and ABFT for Attachment Healing **Meredith Dellorco & Michelle Ehrler**	Trauma Informed Interventions: Supporting Healthy Behaviors in Trauma Exposed Youth **Ari Salcedo**	Silence Has a Sound: The Lifelong Impact of Childhood Trauma **Anthony Gould**
TRACK F Child Welfare		Implementation and Sustainability of a Trauma-Informed Infant Mental Health Court Program **Dr. Jennifer Mitchell & Tiffany Perry**	An "Emotional Recession": Addressing the Global EQ Decline in a Child Welfare Context **Britt Cloudsdale & Nathan Ross**	What's Love Got to Do with It? Healing Through Collectives **Dr. Jennifer Paz, Dr. Tonika Green, & Ashley Kruger**

Workshop Schedule SATURDAY, APRIL 10

	SESSION 7 8:30 - 10:00	SESSION 8 10:15 - 11:45	CLOSING KEYNOTE 12:30 - 2:00
TRACK A Parent & Caregiver	Before We Solve Problems, We Build Trust **Dr. George Thompson**	Helping Children Know, Understand, and Navigate Their Stories **Kelly Raudenbush**	Same Child Different Lens Plenary Panel **Robyn Gobbel, Nathan Ross, Vicki Butts, Dawn Garrigus, Marquita Edwards, and moderated by Sue Badeau.**
TRACK B OT / Sensorimotor	Clinical Formulation and Case Conceptualization in Trauma/Attachment-Informed Occupational Therapy **Dr. Heidi TenPas & Rebecca Berg**		
TRACK C Intermediate Professional	Attachment Wounds: Understanding Their Impact on Safety, Connection, and Relationships **Allison McFatter**	When Caregivers Hold Trauma: Secondary Exposure and System Breakdown **Madhuri Govindu**	
TRACK D Advanced Clinical	Consultation in Attachment-Focused Treatment: Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy **Craig Clark & Dr. Norm Thibault**	Cut From the Herd: Understanding Childhood Trauma and Addiction Development **Steve Sawyer**	
TRACK E Multidiscipline / Young Adult	The Power of Your Voice: Turning Adversity into Purpose and Impact **Dr. Sheryl Butler & Molly DePrekel**	The Missing Piece is Mattering **Kerrie Bremner**	
TRACK F Child Welfare	Healing in Relationship: A Continuum of Care for Adoptive and Guardianship Families **Melanie Geddings-Hayes & Jennifer McLeod**	Beyond the Therapy Room: Applying Attachment Theory to Organizational Culture **Kaylee Morford**	

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

7:00 AM	REGISTRATION OPENS
7:30 AM	EXHIBIT AREA OPENS
8:15 AM - 9:45 AM	WELCOME & OPENING KEYNOTE
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	MORNING BREAK
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH BREAK (ON YOUR OWN)
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	PARENT/CAREGIVER LUNCHEON
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	AFTERNOON BREAK
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	SESSION 3 WORKSHOPS
5:00 PM	EXHIBIT AREA CLOSES
5:00 PM	WELCOME RECEPTION



Session 1 | 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

1A: Providing Care with Purpose: Honoring Yourself to Better Serve Others. ***Parent/Caregiver Track****. ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*

Providing Care with Purpose: Honoring Yourself to Better Serve Others is an interactive workshop that explores how purpose-driven caregiving can shape preexisting family relationships, identity, and self-worth. Participants will examine the hidden costs of self-neglect, guilt, and burnout, and learn how unmet needs can quietly erode well-being. Through guided reflection, practical tools (such as genograms/ecomaps and self-worth assessments), and restorative practices, caregivers will gain strategies to care sustainably—honoring themselves while continuing to serve others.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify how providing care with purpose impacts personal well-being and pre-existing relationships. 2) Recognize signs of caregiver strain, burnout, and self-neglect that may emerge in purpose driven care. 3) Assess their own levels of self-care and self-worth using guided reflection and assessment tools. 4) Apply practical strategies to set boundaries, prioritize personal needs, and maintain wellbeing.

Presenter(s): Doreen Wruk, LMSW | Aid to the Adoption of Special Kids | Gilbert, AZ
Jennifer Fellars, MA | Aid to the Adoption of Special Kids | Peoria, AZ

1B: Seeking Silent Stability: A Practical Approach to Core Development. ***Sensorimotor/OT Track,*** *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*

In order to develop and adapt without added stress or overwhelm, we need to feel secure and steady in our bodies — and that's not remedied with more planks or sit-ups. Come learn what shapes core stability and how it lays the foundation for motor skills, executive functioning, and emotional regulation.

Learning Objectives: 1) Differentiate an occupational therapy/sensory-integration approach to core stability from others. 2) Explain how core stability functions as a developmental foundation for higher-level skills. 3) Analyze and interpret core stability through clinical assessments and observations. 4) Develop intervention strategies that build functional core capacities.

Presenter(s): Katie Mesko, DrOT, OTRL | CAYA Therapies | Grand Rapids, MI

1C: From Disclosure to Support: Strengthening Clinician Responses to Domestic Violence. ***Intermediate Professional Track,*** *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*

Domestic violence impacts patients across all healthcare settings. This practical session equips clinicians with trauma-informed tools to identify abuse, assess risk, respond to disclosures, and connect survivors with appropriate resources. Participants will gain confidence in conducting effective domestic violence assessments while promoting safety, trust, and survivor-centered care.

Learning Objectives: 1) Apply trauma-informed relationship violence assessment language when engaging with individuals impacted by domestic violence. 2) Explain domestic violence through the lens of attachment theory to better understand behavioral patterns and relationship dynamics. 3) Identify and utilize appropriate resources and support systems to enhance safety and promote well-being for survivors of domestic violence and their families.

Presenter(s): Jessica Yaffa, CPC | Jessica Yaffa Coaching Institute | Escondido, CA

Session 1 | 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

1&2D: Effective Attachment Therapy: Relational, Skills-Based & Experiential. ***Advanced Clinical Track.*** *10:15-2:30 with 1 hr. 15-minute break. ELIGIBLE FOR 3 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Early abuse, neglect and abandonment results in a negative self-concept, emotional, behavioral and biological dysregulation, and attachment problems. After completing this workshop, participants will be able to describe the following interventions: relational (change attachment styles and relationship dynamics), skills-based, (self-regulation, communication, parenting), and experiential (therapeutic cognitive, emotional and attachment experiences).
Learning Objectives: 1) Describe the cognitive, emotional, social and neurobiological effects of attachment trauma. 2) Utilize effective individual and relationship based assessment methods, including the Life Script. 3) Identify interventions to improve self-concept, dysregulation and attachment relationships. 4) Apply Attachment Communication Training to foster constructive communication and secure attachment. 5) Explain how traumatized clients can achieve resilience and post-traumatic growth.
Presenter(s): Dr. Terry Levy, PhD | Evergreen Psychotherapy Center | Evergreen, CO
Randall Radetsky, MA | Evergreen Psychotherapy Center | Evergreen, CO

1E: Unpacking Neurodivergence, Developmental Trauma, and Healing Through Brainspotting. ***Multidiscipline/Young Adult Track,*** *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Explores how neurodivergence and developmental trauma combine to drive chronic burnout. Frames hyper-performance and executive dysfunction as trauma-adaptive survival responses. Highlights late-stage diagnosis as an often transformative, validating turning point. Uncovers deep-seated trauma scripts that fuel anxiety, shame, and fatigue. Introduces Brainspotting for somatic healing beyond surface symptom management. Guides clients from self-blame toward narrative resolution.
Learning Objectives: 1) Differentiate between trauma, developmental trauma, and neurodivergent developmental trauma. 2) Identify the psychological and physiological impacts of masking late-stage neurodivergent diagnosis. 3) Analyze the shift from surface-level symptom management to somatic root causes. 4) Analyze the mechanisms of Brainspotting to understand the efficacy and clinical suitability for neurodivergent individuals presenting with co-occurring developmental trauma.
Presenter(s): Shannon Poulos, MSW, LCSWA | Woven Wholeness Services | Old Fort, NC

1F: Protecting Attachment Through Better Child Welfare Decision-Making. ***Child Welfare Track,*** *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Discover how the Collins Imminent Harm Standard strengthens child welfare decision-making by protecting children while preserving healthy attachment whenever safely possible. Participants will explore a practical framework that promotes consistent safety assessments, reduces unnecessary family separation, and supports relationship-centered practice.
Learning Objectives: 1) Differentiate imminent harm from generalized risk when evaluating child safety concerns and removal. 2) Apply the Collins Imminent Harm Standard to analyze child welfare case scenarios and support consistent, defensible decision-making. 3) Evaluate how attachment-informed decision-making can improve child safety while reducing unnecessary family separation.
Presenter(s): Dr. Channing Collins, PhD, MLS, MDR | The Collins Institute for Child & Family Systems | Merrillville, IN

Session 2 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

2A: There's No Right Answer: What to Do When Every Next Step Seems Wrong. ***Parent/Caregiver Track,*** *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Every parent of a child with a history of attachment trauma knows this moment: nothing you do next feels right, and you're certain you'll get it wrong no matter what. Based on the latest neuroscience in memory reconsolidation theory, this workshop teaches a different way through these unsolvable dilemmas.
Learning Objectives: 1) Explain why the "there's no right answer" experience is a real physiological response, not distorted. 2) Identify the "stuck" feeling in their own body and in their child's behavior before it escalates. 3) Apply a relational approach to stay steady inside a dilemma, rather than solving, fixing, or fleeing.
Presenter(s): Robyn Gobbel, MSW | Baffling Behavior Training Institute | Ada, MI
Rose LaPiere, MA, LPC, RPT-S, ACS | Private Practice | Jackson, NJ

Session 2 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

2&3B: When the Body Says No: Clinical Reasoning Through Sensory Defense, Trauma, and Protective Responses. ***Sensorimotor/OT Track.*** *1:00-4:30 with a 30-minute break, ELIGIBLE FOR 3 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
When children resist, avoid, freeze, control, or collapse, behavior rarely tells the whole story. This experiential workshop helps OTs distinguish sensory, motor, interoceptive, relational, and trauma-based protective responses; and choose interventions that restore safety, agency, regulation, and participation.
Learning Objectives: 1) Differentiate sensory defensiveness, interoceptive distress, praxis challenges, trauma-related protective responses, and relational vulnerability that may contribute to similar observable behaviors. 2) Identify sensory-motor, physiological, environmental, and relational indicators that may signal a child's protective nervous-system response during everyday occupations. 3) Analyze child behavior using a trauma-responsive occupational therapy clinical reasoning framework to generate plausible hypotheses regarding underlying mechanisms. 4) Select sensory, environmental, relational, and occupation-based interventions that support safety, agency, regulation, and meaningful participation. 5) Apply clinical reasoning principles to case-based and experiential scenarios to evaluate a child's response to intervention and modify the therapeutic approach accordingly.
Presenter(s): Maude Le Roux, B. OT | A Total Approach | West Chester, PA

2C: When the Caring Adult Is Overloaded: Protecting Connection with Children and Families. ***Intermediate Professional Track,*** *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Adult stress and overload can affect interactions with children and families. This interactive workshop helps participants identify early signs of overload and apply the REST™ Framework: Recognize, Explore, Support, and Take Action. Participants complete the REST™ Checker Assessment and identify practical strategies that support responsive, connected relationships.
Learning Objectives: 1) Identify at least three cognitive, emotional, behavioral, or physical indicators that may signal increasing adult stress or overload. 2) Describe two ways adult stress or responses may affect interactions and connection with children and families. 3) Apply the four components of the REST™ Framework to results from the REST™ Checker Assessment to identify one action for addressing personal stress or overload.
Presenter(s): Dr. Renee Sunday, MD | DRS Global, LLC. | Conyers, GA

2E: Faith, Culture, & Family Systems - The Messages We Carry. ***Multidiscipline/Young Adult Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Families carry messages about love, conflict, faith, gender, strength, vulnerability, and connection across generations. This session explores how cultural and faith-based narratives shape family systems and relational expectations, while helping participants identify which messages promote healthy connection and which may need to be reconsidered or reframed.
Learning Objectives: 1) Identify common faith-based, cultural, and family messages that shape relational beliefs. 2) Examine how generational patterns influence family relationships and behaviors. 3) Analyze how language & family narratives affect emotional safety & long-term relational resilience.
Presenter(s): Dr. Alena Crawley, DCCC | Your Marriage Works, LLC | Colonial Heights, VA

2F: The Weight of "What If": Attachment, Neurobiology, and Persistent Uncertainty. ***Child Welfare Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
This workshop explores how persistent uncertainty about caregiver availability affects children's attachment, nervous system regulation, and family functioning. Using clinical vignettes, attachment theory, and contemporary neuroscience, presenters examine the impact of prolonged uncertainty and offer culturally responsive strategies for strengthening co-regulation, psychological safety, resilience, and caregiver-child relationships.
Learning Objectives: 1) Explain how persistent uncertainty affects attachment and regulation. 2) Differentiate persistent attachment activation from acute trauma. 3) Apply strategies that strengthen co-regulation, safety, and resilience.
Presenter(s): Dr. Tracie Self, Ph.D | Minnesota State University, Mankato | Mankato, MN
Dr. Sarah Ogilvie, DNP APRN FNP-C | Minnesota State University, Mankato | Mankato, MN
Dr. Kyle Ritten, EdD | Minnesota State University, Mankato | Mankato, MN

Session 3 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

3A: Loving the Child I Have: Attachment, Grief, and Healing Beyond an IDD Diagnosis. ***Parent/Caregiver Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*

Receiving a diagnosis of Down syndrome, autism, or another intellectual or developmental disability can significantly affect how parents and caregivers envision their child's future. Families may find themselves navigating medical, therapeutic, and educational systems while simultaneously processing grief, fear, changing expectations, and hope. This presentation explores the impact of viewing children primarily through a medical or deficit-based model and introduces a strengths-based, trauma- and attachment-informed approach that recognizes each child's individuality, abilities, interests, relationships, and potential. Drawing from professional expertise and lived family experiences with Down syndrome, the presenters will discuss grief, adjustment, acceptance, attachment, and the development of new hopes following a diagnosis. Down syndrome and autism will be used as examples while emphasizing principles applicable across intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ultimately, participants will be challenged to move beyond asking, "What is wrong with this child?" and instead consider, "Who is this child, what are their strengths, what do they need from us, and what is possible when they are provided with meaningful opportunities and appropriate support?"

Learning Objectives: 1) Differentiate between medical/deficit-based and strengths-based approaches to Down syndrome, autism, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities and identify how these perspectives can influence caregiver expectations, attachment, and perceptions of a child's potential. 2) Identify emotional and relational experiences families may encounter following an IDD diagnosis, including grief, adjustment, acceptance, and changes in expectations, and describe trauma- and attachment-informed approaches that support caregiver-child connection. 3) Apply at least three practical strategies to help caregivers recognize a child's strengths, interests, abilities, and potential while supporting meaningful goals related to relationships, belonging, education, independence, and community participation.

Presenter(s): Priscilla Estrello, LCSW, MSW | Beyond the Diagnoses | El Paso, TX
Araceli Salcedo, MA, NCC, LPC-Supervisor | Beyond the Diagnoses | El Paso, TX

3C: Shame: The Quiet Critical Core Issue. ***Intermediate Professional Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*

Amid experiences of trauma and loss, shame often lurks and may be under addressed. These life experiences have led to a faulty sense of self that manifest in a host of challenging behaviors and resulting relational impacts. Using a family systems model, approaches to address this complex presentation are covered.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain and recognize why Shame is a critical area to treat with children who have experienced loss. 2) Illustrate the profound impact of Shame in universal areas of functioning. 3) Identify a range of practical & profound approaches to be used to address the experience of Shame.

Presenter(s): Laura Ornelas, MSW, LCSW | Academy for Elevating Clinical
Practice in Permanency & Center for Adoption Support and Education | Santa Monica, CA

3D: Sensory Pathways to Healing from Trauma: Practical Strategies. ***Advanced Clinical Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*

This presentation explores how trauma disrupts the brain's capacity to integrate sensory, bodily, emotional, and cognitive experiences. Drawing on neuroscience and clinical insights from Sensory Pathways to Healing from Trauma, it introduces practical, brain-guided strategies for restoring embodied safety, strengthening self-regulation, and supporting reconnection, integration, and healing.

Learning Objectives: 1) Describe how trauma affects sensory, bodily, emotional, and cognitive integration in the brain. 2) Explain the role of embodied and gravitational safety in establishing a foundation for trauma recovery. 3) Identify sensory pathways that can support nervous-system regulation. 4) Apply practical, brain-guided sensory strategies to enhance regulation, agency, and connection.

Presenter(s): Dr. Ruth Lanius, MD, PhD | University of Western Ontario | London, Ontario, CA

ATTACh

Why Attend?

The ATTACh conference has proven indispensable to my clinical development. Although no definitive manual exists for treating families affected by attachment-related trauma, adoption, and foster care, this event provides the closest equivalent. ATTACh uniquely facilities collaboration among researchers, practitioners, parents, and clients. Mental health professionals serving theses populations will find immense value in participating in this premier conference on attachment and trauma.

~ LMFT & PhD.

Session 3 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

3E: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders from a Trauma Lens. ***Multidiscipline/Young Adult Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Explore how prenatal exposure impacts brain development and attachment in individuals with FASD. This session introduces a trauma-informed, neurobehavioral lens to better understand behaviors and shift responses from frustration to compassion— helping caregivers and professionals support connection, regulation, and long-term growth.
Learning Objectives: 1) Identify risk factors associated with prenatal exposure to alcohol, illicit drugs, and tobacco. 2) Define FASD and explain the connection between brain impairments and observable behaviors. 3) Examine the range of diagnoses under the FASD umbrella & identify supports. 4) Identify why consequence-based or punitive approaches are ineffective for youth w/ trauma histories. 5) Interpret neurobehavioral causes of challenging behaviors.
Presenter(s): Barb Clark, BIS Youth Studies, Sociology & English | FASD Mosaic | Homosassa, FL

3F: Prioritizing Prevention Through Evidence-Based Practices. ***Child Welfare Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Virginia's child welfare framework has offered limited intentional interventions for preventing the disruption of families in the past. The Family First Prevention Services Act has created a pathway for families to access high-quality evidence-based programs to sustain and strengthen family bonds. This presentation will review the current Family First EBPs available in Virginia and give insight into finding the right EBP and how to pay for it.
Learning Objectives: 1) Differentiate EBPs from treatment as usual. 2) Describe current Family First EBPs in Virginia. 3) Compare Family First EBPs and identify how to access them. 4) Apply knowledge to drive and increase EBP utilization.
Presenter(s): Dr. Marie Petrone, DSW | Center for Evidence-Based Partnerships | Richmond, VA
Ashley Sandman, BSW | Center for Evidence-Based Partnerships | Richmond, VA



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FRIDAY, APRIL 9

7:00 AM	REGISTRATION OPENS
7:30 AM	EXHIBIT AREA OPENS
8:15 AM - 9:45 AM	WELCOME & OPENING KEYNOTE
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	MORNING BREAK
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	SESSION 4 WORKSHOPS
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH (PROVIDED)
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	SESSION 5 WORKSHOPS
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	AFTERNOON BREAK
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	SESSION 6 WORKSHOPS
5:00 PM	EXHIBIT AREA CLOSES
5:30 PM	PARENT & CAREGIVER NIGHT



Session 4 | 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

4A: Building Trauma Sensitive Classrooms and School Cultures Through Social-Emotional Learning. ***Parent/Caregiver Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Students cannot fully engage in learning when they do not feel safe, seen, or supported. This interactive session explores how trauma sensitive practices and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) work together to create classroom environments where all students can thrive. Participants will examine the impact of trauma on behavior, learning, and relationships while gaining practical, research-based strategies that foster emotional regulation, resilience, and positive classroom culture. Through real-world examples, reflection, and collaborative discussion, attendees will leave with tools they can implement immediately in their classrooms and schools.
Learning Objectives: 1) Analyze the effects of trauma on student learning, behavior, and brain development. 2) Identify the core principles of trauma-sensitive educational practices. 3) Explore and discuss how SEL supports resilience, emotional wellbeing, and academic success. 4) Evaluate practical strategies to build trust, strengthen relationships, and learning environments. 5) Develop an action plan for implementing trauma-sensitive and SEL practices in daily instruction.
Presenter(s): Carla Jenkins, Ed. S. | GAPSC & Jenkins Education Network, LLC | Newnan, GA

4&5 B: Exploring Attachment, Sensory Processing, and Arousal in Child Development. ***Sensorimotor/OT Track.*** *10:15-2:30 with 1hr 15-minute break. ELIGIBLE FOR 3 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
This workshop explores the link between children's attachment patterns and sensory-arousal behaviors, emphasizing trauma and window of tolerance effects. It highlights differentiating strategic versus survival behaviors and advocates tailored, interdisciplinary interventions to support emotional regulation and occupational performance, ideal for therapists, clinicians, and educators working with affected children.
Learning Objectives: 1) Analyze attachment patterns and sensory profiles to identify strategic versus survival behaviors. 2) Apply assessment tools measuring sensory-arousal and attachment regulation difficulties in children. 3) Critique case studies on vestibular, proprioceptive, and interoceptive impacts on arousal. 4) Develop interventions using sensory integration to improve occupational performance and attachment. 5) Summarize the Dynamic Maturation Model and Sensory Attachment Theory in clinical practice.
Presenter(s): Claire Ginty, MSc-Psy, PgCert, BSc-OT| Achieve Occupational Therapy Ltd | Offord Cluny, Cambridgeshire, UK

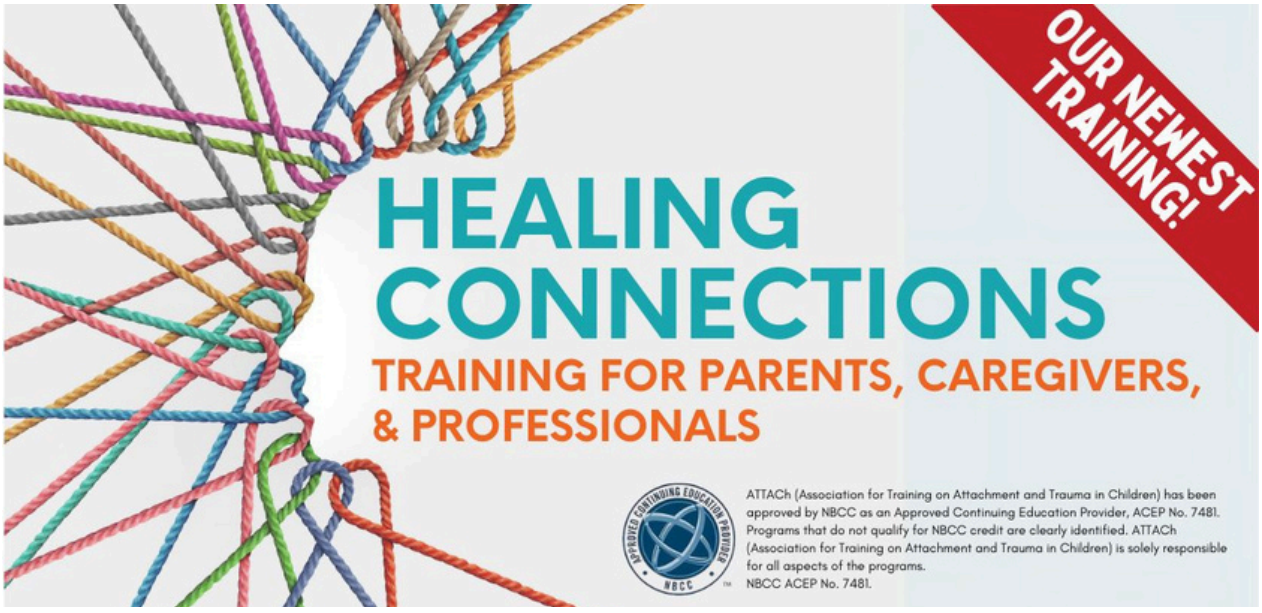
4C: Present, Attentive, Attuned and Responsive (PAAR): Therapeutic Engagement With the NMT. ***Intermediate Professional Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
This presentation will demonstrate how caregivers can therapeutically engage the most challenging children by applying Perry's Six R's and the relational framework of being present, attentive, attuned and responsive. This session will offer attendees the science behind the NMT as well as practical application through a case presentation.
Learning Objectives: 1) Participants will be able to describe foundational principles of the NMT. 2) Identify the 4 functional domains as measured by the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics. 3) Explain Perry's six R's: Relational (safe), Relevant, Repetitive, Rewarding, Rhythmic & Respectful. 4) Develop engagement strategies using the present, attentive, attuned and responsive framework. 5) Describe the neurobiology behind attachment.
Presenter(s): David Paxton, MA | The Village Network | Wooster, OH

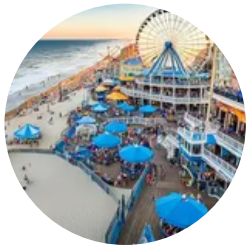
4D: Polyvagal Practices: Building Safe Connection One Nervous System at a Time. ***Advanced Clinical Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
This interactive workshop moves Polyvagal Theory from concept into lived experience. Participants will map their own autonomic states, explore how defensive and connected states shape relationships, practice attuned listening as a cue of safety, and experience the Trust-Building Sequence as a practical framework for co-regulation with children and teens.
Learning Objectives: 1) Identify their own embodied awareness of the autonomic states. 2) Demonstrate one communication strategy that sends cues of safety and supports coregulation. 3) Describe how attuned listening affects their own nervous system in real-time. 4) Understand and apply the steps of the Trust Building Sequence.
Presenter(s): Dr. George Thompson, MD | Velocity Health Group | Houston, TX

Session 4 | 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

4E: From Trauma to Trust: EMDR and ABFT for Attachment Healing. ***Multidiscipline/Young Adult Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Clinicians working with adolescents and young adults often face challenges in treating complex cases with co-occurring conditions and significant attachment trauma. This presentation Synopsis explores the integration of Attachment-Based Family Therapy (ABFT) and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) to address these challenges effectively and promote holistic healing for Clients and families.
Learning Objectives: 1) Explain how attachment ruptures impact how we view ourselves and our relationships with others. 2) Conceptualize how maladaptive experiences may create negative cognitions that are at the root of many psychological issues, including attachment ruptures. 3) Describe how ABFT shifts from viewing the Client as the "problem" to the family as the "solution". 4) Identify the 5 Tasks of ABFT. 5) Formulate a plan of how to utilize EMDR therapy to promote the healing of attachment ruptures in family therapy.
Presenter(s): Meredith Dellorco, LCSW | Newport Healthcare | Windsor, CT
Michelle Ehrler, LCSW | Newport Healthcare | Windsor, CT

4F: Implementation and Sustainability of a Trauma-Informed Infant Mental Health Court Program. ***Child Welfare Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Learn how partnerships in Utah are addressing child abuse and neglect prevention by promoting infant mental health and relationship-based interventions to strengthen caregiver-child relationships, support recovery, reduce child welfare involvement, and promote healthy early development through cross-system collaboration, and practical implementation strategies.
Learning Objectives: 1) Identify three common challenges faced by families experiencing perinatal substance use disorders. 2) Describe how prevention-oriented, relationship-based services strengthen parent-child relationships. 3) Apply at least three implementation strategies for developing cross system prevention partnerships.
Presenter(s): Dr. Jennifer Mitchell, PhD | The Children's Center Utah | West Valley City, UT
Tiffany Perry, MPP | The Children's Center Utah | West Valley City, UT








Session 5 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

5A: Understanding the Vulnerable Nervous System. ***Parent/Caregiver Track,*** *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
This workshop, from counseling and occupational therapy perspectives, explores how attachment, development, nervous system, sensory processing, and life experiences influence children's complex behaviors. Understanding these factors helps us respond with greater curiosity, compassion, and connection.
Learning Objectives: 1) IDENTIFY vulnerable nervous system responses. 2) DEVELOP a greater understanding of their child's nervous system. 3) IDENTIFY and APPLY practical strategies that support connection with their child. 4) EXPLAIN how sensory experiences can influence a child's sense of felt safety. 5) RECOGNIZE their own nervous system vulnerabilities and APPLY strategies to support them.
Presenter(s): Megean Eggert, MA | CALO | Linn Creek, MO
Danielle Heimericks, OT | CALO & Play Learn Grow | Jefferson City, MO

5&6C: Dimensions of Loss: A Relational Map for Healing. ***Intermediate Professional Track****. 1:00-4:30 with 30-minute break. ELIGIBLE FOR 3 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Clinicians meet loss in the relational space where attunement, presence, and connection shape healing. This immersive workshop integrates theory, lived experience, and neuroscience informed insight to explore how loss moves through the brain, body, and spirit. We will explore ambiguous loss, anticipatory, traumatic and disenfranchised grief. Through content and experiential exercises, we will deepen understanding of the distinct types of loss, strengthen relational resonance, and expand your capacity to help clients navigate the many forms loss can take.
Learning Objectives: 1) Identify and differentiate between various types of loss and their implications. 2) Apply a relational map using a clear, grounded framework to orient clinical decision making. 3) Identify the intersection of loss and attachment disruptions in children, adolescents, and adults. 4) Utilize reflective practices to enhance therapeutic presence and emotional attunement. 5) Apply trauma-informed and attachment based interventions to support clients navigating loss.
Presenter(s): Janice Goldwater, MSW, LCSW-C | Janice Goldwater Consulting | Silver Spring, MD
Amy Peterson, MSW, LCSW | Private Practice | Springfield, VA

5D: Healing Through Connection: Trauma, Addiction, and the Relational Field. ***Advanced Clinical Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
This workshop explores trauma and addiction through a compassionate relational lens, understanding addictive behaviors as adaptive survival strategies rather than pathology alone. Grounded in the Compassionate Relational Gestalt Trauma Model (CRGTM), participants will examine nervous system regulation, attachment, embodiment, and healing through authentic connection, coregulation, and relational therapeutic presence.
Learning Objectives: 1) Describe addiction from a relational, trauma-informed, and field-sensitive perspective. 2) Identify how trauma, attachment disruption, shame, and nervous system dysregulation contribute to compulsive behaviors. 3) Recognize how addictive processes function as attempts to regulate emotional and relational pain. 4) Apply relational and somatic interventions that support co-regulation, awareness, and emotional integration in trauma and addiction treatment. 5) Explain the role of the therapeutic relationship and relational field in trauma and addiction recovery.
Presenter(s): Rafael Cortina, MA | In-Sight Transformative Therapy Group | San Diego, CA

5E: Trauma Informed Interventions: Supporting Healthy Behaviors in Trauma Exposed Youth. ***Multidiscipline/Young Adult Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
In this training, attendees will learn how to more effectively support trauma exposed youth by using trauma informed deescalation techniques. This course provides a robust examination of trauma and how trauma reminders impact youth behaviors.
Learning Objectives: 1) Define trauma. 2) List at least 3 principles of trauma informed care. 3) Recognize at least 3 areas of function impacted by trauma. 4) List 2 external indicators of someone experiencing toxic stress. 5) Identify 3 evidence based approaches caregivers can use to support trauma exposed youth.
Presenter(s): Araceli Salcedo, MA, NCC, LPC-Supervisor | Beyond the Diagnoses | El Paso, TX

Session 5 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

5F: An "Emotional Recession": Addressing the Global EQ Decline in a Child Welfare Context. ***Child Welfare Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*

Child welfare jobs ask for regulation, empathy, and sustained motivation in conditions built to erode all three. A 2025 global study found that those exact capacities are declining across the workforce, with measurable drops in intrinsic motivation, optimism, and purpose. This session translates those findings into child welfare terms and uses the REAL Framework to lay out what rebuilding that capacity requires from us as leaders.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain the Emotional Recession findings and why the child welfare workforce is at high risk. 2) Distinguish EQ awareness-building from EQ practice infrastructure. 3) Explain why emotional intelligence must be built as a shared organizational practice. 4) Apply the REAL Framework (Reflect, Evaluate, Adjust, Lead) to a real team scenario. 5) Identify structural points for embedding EQ into existing supervision or professional development.

Presenter(s): Britt Cloudsdale, MSW | ApricityEQ | Tacoma, WA
Nathan Ross, MSW, LMSW | ApricityEQ | Apopka, FL



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Session 6 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

6B: Beyond Words: Somatic Play Practices for Safety, Connection, and Attachment. ***Sensorimotor/OT Track,*** *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
This experiential workshop equips caregivers and professionals with playful, body-based practices that support regulation, attachment, and relational safety. Participants will practice movement, rhythm, sensory awareness, mirroring, and co-regulation activities adaptable for home, clinical, educational, child-welfare, and community settings. No specialized training or equipment is required.
Learning Objectives: 1) Identify three body-based signs of activation, shutdown, or regulation in children. 2) Demonstrate three somatic play practices using movement, rhythm, mirroring, or sensory awareness to support regulation and relational safety. 3) Select and adapt one co-regulation activity based on a child's developmental level, sensory needs, and current state of regulation. 4) Describe two trauma-responsive ways to respond to refusal, withdrawal, silliness, or escalation while preserving connection and relational safety.
Presenter(s): Darlene Brace, LCSW LAC | Authentic Healing LLC | Dolores, CO

6D: Relational Pathways to Healing: Attachment-Based Therapy Practices for Trauma Survivors. ***Advanced Clinical Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
This advanced workshop explores attachment-based experiential interventions for adult trauma survivors. Participants will learn practical strategies for addressing shame, emotional withdrawal, protective coping patterns, and relational distress through trauma-informed, emotionally engaged clinical work. Emphasis is placed on corrective emotional experiences, relational healing, and deepening emotional connection beyond symptom reduction.
Learning Objectives: 1) Identify how trauma adaptations impact emotional regulation, relationships, and therapy. 2) Distinguish between protective behavior and underlying emotional needs within trauma treatment. 3) Learn to apply trauma-informed strategies to address shame, emotional withdrawal, and hypervigilance. 4) Integrate relational attunement and nervous system awareness into advanced experiential work. 5) Evaluate how corrective emotional experiences within the therapeutic relationship can promote safety.
Presenter(s): Dr. Allison Brownlee, Psy.D., LMFT | Stronger Together Community Services | San Diego, CA

6E: Silence Has a Sound: The Lifelong Impact of Childhood Trauma. ***Multidiscipline/Young Adult Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Silence Has a Sound: The Lifelong Impact of Childhood Trauma. What happens when a child survives trauma but carries its wounds into adulthood? Through powerful lived experience, Anthony "Tony" Gould reveals how childhood trauma can shape identity, attachment, trust, and relationships. His journey from silence and survival to healing demonstrates that trauma may shape our story—but it doesn't have to define our future.
Learning Objectives: 1) Identify common ways childhood trauma, abuse, neglect, abandonment, rejection, and adverse childhood experiences can affect emotional development, identity, trust, and relationships. 2) Recognize survival responses and behaviors developed during childhood that may continue into adulthood and influence emotional regulation, vulnerability, communication, and interpersonal relationships. 3) Examine the relationship between childhood trauma, silence, shame, attachment, and an individual's ability to establish and maintain healthy relationships later in life. 4) Describe how unresolved childhood trauma can influence adult behaviors and relationships while recognizing that trauma responses vary among individuals. 5) Explore trauma-informed approaches that promote safety, connection, healthy relationships, resilience, and opportunities for healing. 6) Apply practical strategies for creating environments where individuals impacted by childhood trauma feel safe enough to acknowledge their experiences, find their voice, seek appropriate support, and begin moving from survival toward restoration.
Presenter(s): Anthony Gould, BS | Gould Holdings Group | Omaha, NE

6F: What's Love Got to Do with It? Healing Through Collectives. ***Child Welfare Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
This interactive session introduces The Connection Collective, a 15-year federally funded initiative advancing healing-centered school environments through Project CARES, TLC, and HEAL. Participants will explore how empathy, cultural responsiveness, collaboration, and intentional connection foster thriving children and families, concluding with a facilitated community drumming circle focused on collective engagement and co-regulation.
Learning Objectives: 1) Explain how the Connection Collective prepares professionals to build healing centered relationships. 2) Apply 3 healing-centered strategies to strengthen attachment, belonging, resilience, and connection. 3) Analyze how community drumming supports co-regulation, relationships, and emotional well-being.
Presenter(s): Dr. Jennica Paz, PhD, PSY | San Diego State University | La Mesa, CA
Dr. Tonika Green, PhD | San Diego State University | San Marcos, CA
Ashley Kruger, MS | Hatching Results | San Diego, CA

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

7:30 AM	REGISTRATION OPENS
8:00 AM	EXHIBIT AREA OPENS
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	SESSION 7 WORKSHOPS
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	MORNING BREAK
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	SESSION 8 WORKSHOPS
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	BOXED LUNCHES
12:30 PM	EXHIBIT AREA CLOSES
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	CLOSING KEYNOTE

Session 7 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

7A: Before We Solve Problems, We Build Trust. ***Parent/Caregiver Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*

We want to calm our children's upsets, but they often need us to understand them first. How frustrating! In this must-do workshop, parents will learn the Trust-Building Sequence, recognize the Threshold of Mistrust, and practice listening in ways that help children feel safe, understood, and ready to solve problems together.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain how offering advice, reassurance, or problem-solving before establishing connection can contribute to defensiveness in children. 2) Differentiate between socially engaged and defensive responses in children during moments of distress. 3) Identify signs that a child has crossed the Threshold of Mistrust and requires a shift in the caregiver's approach. 4) Demonstrate core listening and acknowledgment skills, including silence, minimal encouragers, echoing, and reflection, to support children's sense of safety and being understood. 5) Apply the Trust-Building Sequence to respond to children's distress and establish the relational conditions needed for collaborative problem-solving.

Presenter(s): Dr. George Thompson, MD | Velocity Health Group | Houston, TX

7&8B: Clinical Formulation and Case Conceptualization in Trauma-/Attachment-Informed Occupational Therapy. ***Sensorimotor/OT Track****. 8:30-11:45 with 30-minute break. ELIGIBLE FOR 3 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*

Clinical formulation and case conceptualization are bedrock practices that are well-established in the psychotherapy professions, though go under-addressed in the discipline of occupational therapy. As occupational therapy practitioners further elevate service delivery in specialty practice related to trauma and attachment, we must address this gap. This advanced workshop empowers participants to clinically apply the state-of-the-art evidence base on "occupational formulation" and build competency through a hands-on skills lab in a supportive, judgment-free community of practice for OT practitioners in any setting serving individuals and families impacted by trauma or attachment disruptions.

Learning Objectives: 1) Define and apply the current evidence base for clinical formulation and case conceptualization in OT. 2) Critically interrogate the theoretical and clinical reasoning behind "occupational formulation." 3) Integrate trauma-responsive care and attachment theory into formulation and case conceptualization. 4) Produce a trauma-/attachment-informed clinical formulation and case conceptualization. 5) Identify practice gaps and responsive action items to improve formulation in your work setting.

Presenter(s): Dr. Heidi TenPas, Dr.OT, OTD, OTR/L, DIR-Expert, IFECMHS | Masada Community Mental Health Services | Gardena, CA
Rebecca Berg, OTR/L, IMHM-C | Corvidae Therapy and Consultation | Seattle, WA

7C: Attachment Wounds: Understanding Their Impact on Safety, Connection, and Relationships. ***Intermediate Professional Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*

This workshop delves into the profound influence of attachment wounds on how individuals navigate safety and connection in their relationships. Participants will explore the critical distinction between attachment wounds— specific emotional injuries often rooted in early relational experiences—and broader attachment styles (secure, anxious, avoidant, and disorganized). The workshop illuminates how attachment wounds are formed in childhood and beyond, and how they manifest in adulthood as protective strategies that can inadvertently create barriers to intimacy and trust. Diagnostic distinction and clarity for treatment planning is provided.

Learning Objectives: 1) Differentiate between attachment wounds and attachment styles. 2) Explain how attachment wounds form in early relationships. 3) Identify how attachment wounds present in adult relationships. 4) Describe wounds' influence on safety and connection strategies. 5) Apply diagnostic considerations to support treatment planning for attachment wounds.

Why Attend?

This conference is so much more than just a conference; it's coming together as a community of like-minded folks. Yes, fabulous, informative sessions on developmental trauma, adoption and foster care, but it also feels like a retreat.
My favorite things: Yoga on the beach, each morning, before sessions getting us ready for a day or learning.
-Educational & Therapeutic Placement Consultant

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ATTACh partners with CIAO Seminars to provide occupational therapy licensing board-approved continuing education credit for OTs and COTAs who attend this conference and follow the eligibility criteria. Pending approval for 16.5 NBCOT CE hours.

ATTACh (Association for Training on Attachment and Trauma in Children) has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 7481. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. ATTACh (Association for Training on Attachment and Trauma in Children) is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.
NBCC ACEP No. 7481.

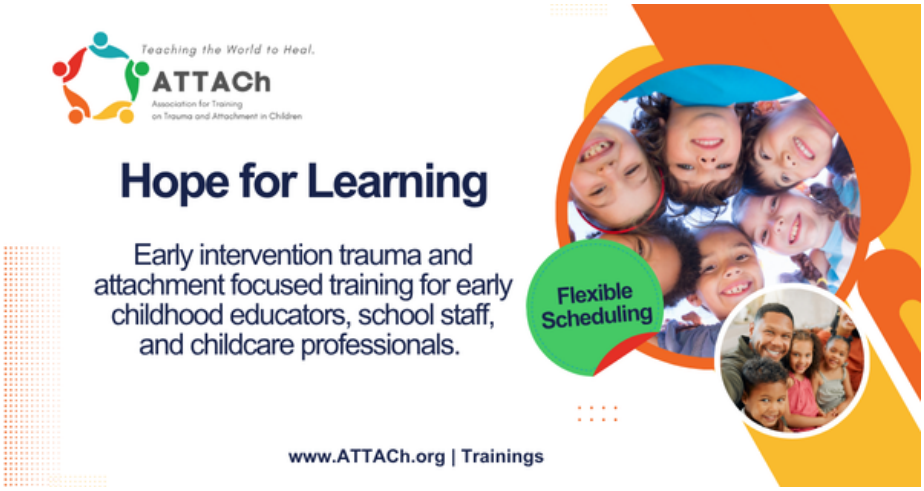
This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886914008-7115) for continuing education contact hours.
The following states do not accept National CE Approval Programs and require individual program/provider application processes:
New York, West Virginia
The following Board does not have Continuing Education Requirements:
Puerto Rico

Session 7 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

7D: Consultation in Attachment Focused Treatment: Dyadic Developmental. ***Advanced Clinical Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Participants will present cases for discussion within the framework of DDP and receive consultation, which can be used for certification in Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy. Phases of treatment and the differential use of components will be presented during case discussion. Demonstrations, video recordings, and role-playing will be used. Those wanting to present, contact Mr. Clark two weeks before the workshop.
Learning Objectives: 1) Participants will demonstrate ability to describe the stated principles, components, and interventions of Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy to their clinical casework. 2) Participants will demonstrate ability to practice psychotherapeutic interventions using the principles of Attachment-Focused Family Therapy during the workshop. 3) Participants will be able to describe how they will use the principles, components, and an understanding of the phases of treatment in their clinical work. 4) Participants will demonstrate their use of Attachment-Focused Treatment principles and components. 5) As the result of participating in this workshop, clinicians will be able to revise their treatment plans to consider the phase of treatment and the differential use of components of DDP treatment.
Presenter(s): Craig Clark, MA, LMFT | Attachment Center of Monterey Bay | Capitola, CA
Dr. Norm Thibault, Ph.D., LMFT |At the Crossroads, LLC | Washington, UT

7E: The Power of Your Voice: Turning Adversity Into Purpose and Impact. ***Multidiscipline/Young Adult Track****, ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Through lecture, case study, and experiential activities, this presentation will engage participants through top-down learning and bottom up strategies. Whether you work with animals, are a professional who may refer clients, or you are a parent/caregiver, this workshop will provide new opportunities for learning in the dynamic field of animal assisted interventions. Practitioners will focus on their work with horses and clients with a trauma history.
Learning Objectives: 1) After completing this workshop, participants will be able to identify 1-3 key principles of integrating attachment therapy with animal-assisted interventions to support trauma recovery. 2) Illustrate how occupational therapists and mental health clinicians can collaborate and deliver services in animal assisted interventions. 3) Explain the 5H Model for Trauma Recovery (Herd and Horses Helping Humans Heal).
Presenter(s): Dr. Sheryl Butler, Dr.OT | OT Connections Minnesota & Feeling Herd | Maple Grove, MN
Molly DePrekel, MA | Cairns Healing, Amidst the Trees, & Feeling Herd | Eden Prairie, MN

7F: Healing in Relationship: A Continuum of Care for Adoptive and Guardianship Families. ***Child Welfare Track,*** *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
This workshop examines how attachment focused, trauma-informed, and adoption competent services promote long-term family well-being. Participants will explore the impact of loss, grief, identity, and relational challenges while learning how continuity of care, lived experience support, and relationship-centered approaches strengthen attachment, resilience, belonging, and permanency stability.
Learning Objectives: 1) Describe at least 3 ways trauma, attachment disruption, loss, grief, and identity development impact adoptive and guardianship families and their long-term relational well-being. 2) Explain how continuity of care through pre-permanency therapy, post-permanency clinical services, Parent Mentor support, and caregiver education strengthens attachment, engagement, family stability, and long-term well-being. 3) Identify at least three relationship-centered strategies that strengthen caregiver-child attachment, increase felt safety and belonging, and support regulation, resilience, and family stability.
Presenter(s): Melanie Geddings-Hayes, MSW | Paths for Families | Pasadena, MD
Jennifer McLeod, MSW | Paths For Families | Greenbelt, MD



Session 8 | 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

8A: Helping Children Know, Understand, and Navigate Their Stories. ***Parent/Caregiver Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
We are storymakers and storytellers, making sense of who we are and how the world works through stories. What does that mean for children whose stories include neglect, abandonment, substance use, sibling loss, etc.? Come explore how caring grownups around children can help them navigate their stories in healing ways.
Learning Objectives: 1) Describe how knowing their story is important to healthy child development. 2) Compare and evaluate child-led and grown-up led approaches. 3) Develop strategies for helping children know and navigate their stories in healing ways.
Presenter(s): Kelly Raudenbush, MA | The Sparrow Fund | Phoenixville, PA

8C: When Caregivers Hold Trauma: Secondary Exposure and System Breakdown. ***Intermediate Professional Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Caregivers in child welfare and attachment based systems are routinely exposed to secondary trauma without adequate containment or support. This workshop examines how chronic exposure impacts caregiver functioning, placement stability, and burnout, and offers practical, regulation-based strategies to reduce system breakdown and strengthen caregiver sustainability.
Learning Objectives: 1) Define secondary traumatic stress and differentiate it from occupational burnout in the caregiver system. 2) Identify nervous system responses associated with chronic trauma exposure in caregiving environments. 3) Analyze system-level contributors to caregiver dysregulation and placement instability. 4) Apply regulation-based strategies to reduce caregiver escalation during high-stress interactions.
Presenter(s): Madhuri Govindu, MA | Soul Steps Counseling PLLC | Sugar Land, TX

8D: Cut From the Herd: Understanding Childhood Trauma and Addiction Development. ***Advanced Clinical Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
The research is conclusive: childhood trauma is strongly associated with the development of addiction. This presentation examines that connection and explores what many traditional addiction treatment approaches may be missing when working with people whose substance use developed alongside early trauma, attachment disruption, and relational injury.
Learning Objectives: 1) Describe the research-supported relationship between childhood trauma and addiction development. 2) Identify ways attachment disruption and early relational experiences can contribute to vulnerability to addiction. 3) Explain how addictive behaviors can function as adaptations to distress, disconnection, and unmet needs. 4) Recognize the role of shame in addiction, relapse, and recovery. Identify limitations of addiction treatment approaches that focus primarily on stopping the behavior. 5) Apply a developmental trauma lens to understanding relapse and recovery. 6) Describe the importance of regulation, connection, and relational experience in supporting recovery.
Presenter(s): Steve Sawyer, MSW, LCSW, CSAC | Dynamic Interventions LLC, Developmental Trauma Training Institute | Bend, OR

8E: The Missing Piece is Mattering. ***Multidiscipline/Young Adult Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Mattering is a powerful yet often overlooked component of attachment and relationships. This workshop explores why the experience of being seen, valued, and significant shapes children's sense of safety and connection. Participants will examine the science behind mattering, explore relational ruptures, and develop practical strategies to strengthen relationships when connection feels difficult.
Learning Objectives: 1) Describe the role of mattering as a core relational need. 2) Identify behaviors and relational patterns that may communicate a child's unmet need for connection. 3) Develop strategies for repairing relational rupture following moments of conflict. 4) Apply mattering-based practices.
Presenter(s): Kerrie Bremner, M. Ed | Riverside School Board | Beaconsfield, QC

8F: Beyond the Therapy Room: Applying Attachment Theory to Organizational Culture. ***Child Welfare Track***, *ELIGIBLE FOR 1.5 NBCC & NASW. CE Credit Eligibility Pending for NBCOT.*
Attachment theory has transformed care for children and families, yet its principles are less often considered in how organizations support the professionals providing that care. This workshop introduces an attachment-informed framework for organizational culture and professional development, offering practical strategies to strengthen relationships, regulation, and resilience across high-stress care settings.
Learning Objectives: 1) Describe how attachment theory can inform organizational culture. 2) Analyze organizational practices through the lens of attachment principles. 3) Apply attachment-informed strategies to strengthen organizational culture.
Presenter(s): Kaylee Morford, MA, LCPC | Chaddock | Quincy, IL

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Sample of Topics

Back to School We Go: Preparing for a Successful School Year
Getting Real about the Taboo Topic: Sexual Behavior in Children
Understanding and Addressing Sleep Issues in Children
Drugs and Teens: Risky Use and Addiction
Happy Holidays? Coping with Stress and Triggers the Holidays Often Bring

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Our coalition brings together professionals, parents, caregivers, families, and advocates who share a common understanding: healing happens through connection, and meaningful change happens when we work together. By joining ATTACh, you help build a community where knowledge, lived experience, resources, and support are shared across communities.

Together, our members help ATTACh expand access to high-quality trauma and attachment training, workshops, and resources for professionals and families across the globe. Membership also provides access to discounts on live and online workshops and other opportunities to learn and connect.

Your membership strengthens the collective work of ATTACh. Together, we can equip more communities to create healthy attachment, support healing from trauma, and help children and youth of every age thrive.

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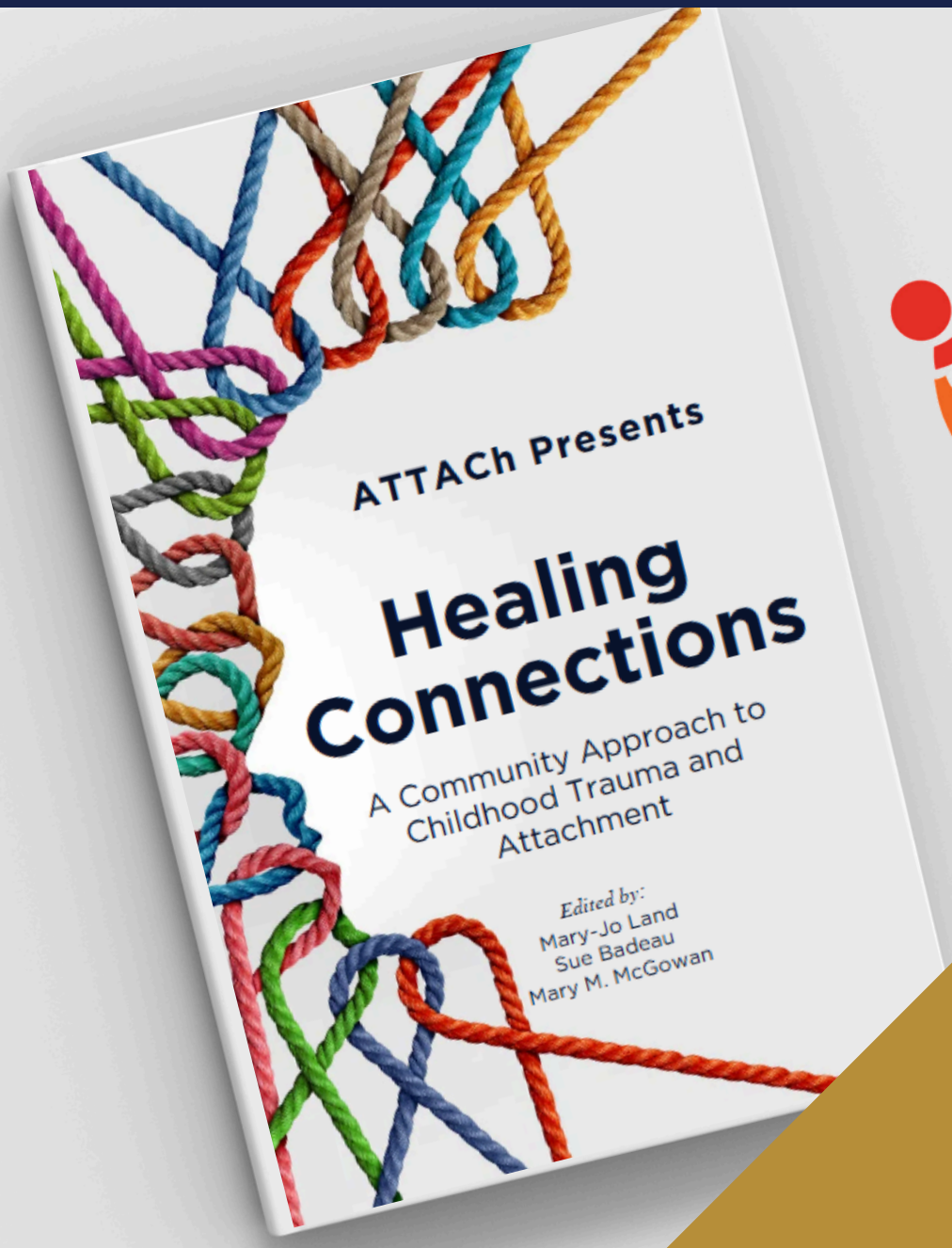

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