



15th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

Supporting Promising Practices and Positive Outcomes: A Shared Responsibility

APRIL 18 - 23, 2005 ■ Boston, Massachusetts

❖ CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families is pleased to announce that the Fifteenth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held April 18-23, 2005, in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Conference theme, *Supporting Promising Practices and Positive Outcomes: A Shared Responsibility*, reaffirms our belief in the importance of connecting practice and research to improve outcomes for children and families. It supports prevention-focused, evidence-based practice and the provision of quality intervention and treatment services through the practical application of research. We believe that preventing and appropriately responding to child maltreatment is a responsibility shared by researchers, practitioners, policymakers, communities, and families. The Conference theme promotes interagency collaboration, as well as collaboration across disciplines, in order to maximize resources and provide more effective services to protect children and strengthen families.

❖ GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE

The goals of the 15th National Conference include:

- **Highlighting** the positive contribution of research to practice
- **Reaching out** to strengthen and sustain collaboration
- **Disseminating** state-of-the-art information on research, practice, policy, and system reform
- **Facilitating** the exchange of information across disciplines and among individuals, groups, and institutions

❖ WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The Fifteenth National Conference is designed for child protection workers and administrators, social workers, educators, law enforcement professionals, health care practitioners, researchers, child advocates, members of the clergy, parents, volunteers, and others committed to ensuring the protection of children.

Plan to join the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect and our more than 40 National Co-Sponsors in Boston to forge new partnerships, exchange cutting-edge information on research, review model programs, and learn innovative techniques that hold promise for mobilizing communities on behalf of children and families.

❖ CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Office on Child Abuse and Neglect and our National Co-Sponsors of the Fifteenth National Conference are committed to featuring the best speakers the field has to offer, from new voices not widely heard to speakers long recognized for their contributions. We invite individuals from the field of child protection to submit abstracts for presentations related to the Conference theme and supportive of the areas outlined in the six Learning Clusters.

❖ CONFERENCE LEARNING CLUSTERS

Learning Cluster 1: Bridging Child Maltreatment Research and Practice

This learning cluster focuses on research that has been incorporated into practice as a means to improve outcomes for children and families, as well as program evaluation strategies to improve the quality and effectiveness of services. Workshops in this cluster will highlight research findings together with their practice applications and influence on policy; innovative and evidence-based models of practice; program evaluation techniques and approaches; and efforts to broaden the evidence base. In addition, workshops in this cluster may describe models that demonstrate the value of researchers and practitioners working together to share their research and practice knowledge.

Learning Cluster 2: Protecting Children through Strengthening Families

This learning cluster encourages new approaches in the prevention of child abuse and neglect by strengthening families, as well as research-based, state-of-the-art intervention and treatment models that demonstrate positive outcomes for children and their families. Workshops in this cluster will describe programs and policies designed to facilitate the development of

responsible parenting, help fathers establish positive relationships with their children, and coach couples in the skills necessary to form and sustain healthy marriages. Additionally, workshops in this cluster may feature faith-based and community initiatives organized to support families and nurture children.

Learning Cluster 3: Developing and Sustaining Collaboration

This learning cluster emphasizes successful models for developing and sustaining interagency collaboration, as well as public-private partnerships to provide effective programs and practices in preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect. Workshops will describe strategies and practices for multidisciplinary alliances between experts in the fields of child welfare and child abuse and neglect and those representing the fields of substance abuse prevention and treatment, mental health, education, health care, child care, law enforcement, and other specialties to provide effective services and positive outcomes for children and families. Workshops in this cluster may represent collaborations that integrate research, practice, and policy; involve nontraditional partnerships; describe cross-systems cooperation; and identify innovative funding strategies to support sustainability and remove barriers to working across disciplines and systems.

Learning Cluster 4: Focusing on the Frontline

This learning cluster identifies recruitment, retention, training, safety, and support services designed to increase the skill level and well-being of frontline child welfare workers. Workshops in this cluster will consider a variety of practices intended to address frontline worker-related issues, including: strategies for recruitment and retention; approaches to managing stress, preventing burnout, and dealing with secondary trauma; models for incorporating cultural competence and outcome-focused practice in training programs; and methods for ensuring worker safety and protection. In addition, workshops may focus on professional development, mentoring, and wellness efforts, as well as the use of best practice models that are strength-based and family-centered.

Learning Cluster 5: Reframing the System to Promote Positive Outcomes

This learning cluster considers organization, administration, and practice strategies at the local, state, and federal level designed to respond to current and emerging issues in the child welfare and child maltreatment fields. This cluster also focuses on the implementation of new federal legislation, particularly regarding the most recent Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) requirements. Workshops in this cluster will address a broad range of system reform efforts, including new approaches to maximizing and targeting resources in the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child maltreatment; the changing role of government in legislation; the implementation of new federal legislation; new paradigms in CPS system response; the reform of court practices; and the impact of system change on the achievement of positive outcomes for children and families.

Learning Cluster 6: Treating and Intervening with Children to Improve Outcomes

This learning cluster presents treatment and intervention services for children that produce positive outcomes and, consequently, act to improve the future health and well-being of these children as adults, as well as prevent child abuse in future generations. Workshops in this cluster will address models that are strengths-based, treatment approaches best-suited for a particular outcome, and interventions for special populations. Selected treatment and intervention services may include art therapy, cognitive processing therapy, early childhood development programs, supportive services, treatment foster care, attachment-trauma therapy, cognitive-behavioral and dynamic play therapy.

❖ CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF ABSTRACTS

All abstract submissions will be peer-reviewed by at least three professionals in the field of child abuse and neglect. Acceptance for presentation will be based on the extent to which abstracts satisfy the following selection criteria:

- The clarity of writing in the abstract, especially the ability to express ideas in a clear and concise manner;
- The responsiveness and relevance of the abstract to the Conference theme and one of the Learning Clusters;
- The degree of innovation and/or contribution to the field represented by the abstract;
- The extent to which the proposed session creates or generates new knowledge, awareness, and approaches to practice; and
- The empirical basis for the findings or initiative represented in the abstract.

The Office on Child Abuse and Neglect and the National Co-Sponsors encourage people of diverse backgrounds and communities to submit abstracts for presentations. For individuals unfamiliar with submitting a presentation abstract, coaching is available by contacting Kim Amos at 703-528-0435 or by e-mail at kamos@pal-tech.com.

❖ PRESENTATION FORMATS

Verbal Presentation Formats

Pre-Conference Seminars: A series of Pre-Conference Seminars will be offered to highlight critical issues in the field of child maltreatment from multidisciplinary perspectives. Seminars of 3.5 hours in length will be offered and will take place on Monday afternoon and all day Tuesday.

Workshops: Conference workshops are designed to increase understanding, convey information, and provide practical applications for a broad range of programmatic issues. One to four presenters will provide information on a single topic; the format may combine lecture, panel discussion, and audience questions and answers (Q&A). Workshops are 1.5 hours in length and will be held throughout the day on Wednesday through Friday and on Saturday morning.

Skills Seminars: Skills Seminars are intended to provide an opportunity for participants to engage in intensive training sessions that will enhance proficiency in an area of job performance. Presenters will use various formats, including dialogue, role-play, brainstorming, and other active learning modes. Seminars are 3.5 hours in length, limited to 30 participants, and will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons and on Saturday morning.

Roundtables: Roundtable Sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to debate views, raise questions, and develop policy recommendations on critical issues with national and regional political figures and child welfare professionals. The Roundtable Sessions will be 1.5 hours in length and will be offered on Wednesday and Friday.

Experiential Learning Opportunities: Attendees will have an opportunity to visit local programs to learn first-hand about innovative practices and to participate in alternative methods of serving families and children, supporting program staff, and engaging community representatives.

Visual Presentation Formats

Poster/Photographic/Artistic Presentations: Organizations will have an opportunity to provide visual presentations or poster sessions to illustrate the result of an innovative program, method, photographic/artistic record, or other concept that addresses one or more of the Learning Clusters. Presenters will have the option of giving brief presentations of 5 to 10 minutes and also may provide handouts with more detailed information on successes, lessons learned, or problems solved.

NOTE: Presenters are expected to register for the Conference and to pay the appropriate registration fee. The Conference is unable to underwrite or reimburse any travel or hotel expenses for presenters.

❖ INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

■ **Prepare an ABSTRACT COVER PAGE for each submission. Abstracts must be in English.**

■ **Prepare a ONE-PAGE ABSTRACT (APPROXIMATELY 500 WORDS) that summarizes the substantive content of your presentation.**

Include:

- Session title (subject to editing, maximum 15 words)
- Learning Cluster the session addresses
- Format for presentation (e.g., pre-Conference seminar, workshop, skills seminar, roundtable)
- Main points to be covered in your presentation
- Relevance to Conference attendees
- Intended audience level (e.g., beginners, experienced practitioners, both)
- How the session is unique from others that might address the same topic
- Methods you will use to engage your audience

■ **Submit an ORIGINAL ABSTRACT AND FOUR COPIES**

For each presenter, include name and affiliation (e.g., agency or organization, tribe, academic institution, etc.), address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address on the Abstract Cover Page and on the original Abstract only. Do not include the names of the presenters, their affiliations, or other identifying information on the four copies of the Abstract.

Material developed under a grant or contract with the Administration on Children, Youth and Families must be so identified in the Abstract. Include the date funded and stated purpose of the grant or contract as described in the Federal Register or other announcement under which the project was funded.

■ **Provide ONE COPY of a FIFTY-WORD BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH for each presenter identified in the Abstract.**

■ **Enclose ONE SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED, LEGAL-SIZE ENVELOPE for notification of the decision by the Abstract Review Committee.**

ABSTRACT COVER PAGE

This form must be used for all proposals. It may be photocopied. Abstracts must be postmarked NO LATER THAN July 15, 2004. PLEASE DO NOT FAX ABSTRACTS. Incomplete submissions and Abstracts sent by fax or e-mail will not be considered. Mail Abstracts and accompanying materials to:

FIFTEENTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
c/o Pal-Tech, Inc.
1901 North Moore Street, Suite 204
Arlington, VA 22209

Notification of whether your Abstract has been selected will be mailed to the Primary Presenter no later than September 30, 2004.

Title of Presentation: (Please limit the title to fifteen (15) words or less.)

* Only the Primary Presenter will be notified directly by Conference organizers regarding the status of the submission. Please list additional co-presenters on a separate page using the format found below. Sessions are limited to a total of four (4) presenters, including the Primary Presenter. **Each presenter will be responsible for his/her own registration fees, travel, hotel, and other expenses.**

* Primary Presenter: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Co-Presenter: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I would like to receive information about being a Conference Exhibitor.

I would like to receive information about the Resource Table.

PRESENTATION FORMAT:

- Pre-Conference Seminar (PC) - 3.5 hours
- Workshop (WS) - 1.5 hours
- Skills Seminar (SS) - 3.5 hours
- Roundtable (RT) - 1.5 hours
- Experiential Learning Opportunity (ELO) - 3 hours
- Poster Session (PS) - 1.5 hours

AUDIOVISUAL NEEDS:

I do not require any audio-visual equipment.

LEARNING CLUSTERS: Please mark ONE Learning Cluster, which best characterizes your Abstract.

- 1. Bridging Child Maltreatment Research and Practice
- 2. Protecting Children through Strengthening Families
- 3. Developing and Sustaining Collaboration
- 4. Focusing on the Frontline
- 5. Reframing the System to Promote Positive Outcomes
- 6. Treating and Intervening with Children to Improve Outcomes

AUDIENCE LEVELS: Please indicate the experience level with child abuse and neglect issues that participants should have in order to gain the most from your presentation. Conference staff reserves the right to amend your selection. Choose only one.

- Beginner (Participants have less than five years experience in the field.)
- Intermediate (Participants have five to ten years experience in the field.)
- Advanced (Participants have more than ten years experience in the field.)

LEVEL OF CONTENT:

- Beginner (Participants will have little or no basic information about the topic.)
- Intermediate (Participants will have some knowledge and information about the topic.)
- Advanced (Participants work in the topic area and/or have extensive knowledge about the topic.)

TARGET AUDIENCE: Please indicate which occupation(s) would gain the most from your presentation.

- Child Advocacy
- Education
- Law Enforcement and the Courts
- Medicine/Nursing
- Mental Health
- Research
- Social Work
- Faith Community
- Other _____

ENCLOSURE CHECKLIST: (For Office Use Only) FORMAT ____ CLUSTER ____

- Cover Page
- Original Abstract
- 4 Abstract Copies
- Presenter Bios (Total number of presenters _____)
- Envelope

Submit Abstract by June 15, 2004, to:

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Save the Date

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