



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
Frank E. Shelp, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner

Division of Mental Health

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Date/Time:

DECEMBER 5, 2011

Start at 10am; Ends at 3pm;
Sign-in begins at 9am

Location:

ATLANTA, GA

The State Bar of Georgia
3rd Floor, Auditorium
104 Marietta Street,
Atlanta, GA 30303

Directions:

http://gabar.org/public/pdf/Map_to_Building1.pdf

Register Online at:

<http://www.cviog.uga.edu/dbhdd/pss.php>

This registration link is dedicated to the
Critical Issues Facing Special Needs and
At-Risk Children and Youth:
9th Annual Seminar Series

Registration Deadline:
December 2, 2011

Audience:

The seminar series is designed to promote interdisciplinary dialogue and to be inclusive of all parties that support children and youth, parents, foster parents and community organizations, local government entities, state departments and their contracted provider organizations.

Cost:

There is no charge to attend.

Questions? Contact

RegistrationMHDDAD@dhr.state.ga.us

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

9th Annual Professional Seminar Series:
**CRITICAL ISSUES FACING SPECIAL NEEDS AND
AT-RISK CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

(Seminar Topic 2 of 6)

**Homelessness and Youth:
Trauma and Domestic Violence, Solutions to
Reduce Homelessness, and Keeping
Homeless Children in School**

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities' Suicide Prevention Program, in partnership with the Supreme Court of Georgia's Committee on Justice for Children, the Marcus Autism Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and the Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness is pleased to announce the 9th Annual Professional Seminar Series. Homelessness and Youth: Trauma and Domestic Violence, Solutions to Reduce Homelessness, and Keeping Homeless Children in School will be the second of six seminars within this series.

See attached training description of this seminar and presenter bios for more details.

Presenters:

Katherine Volk, MA is Co-Director of the T3 Training Institute at Center for Social Innovation.

Tom Plamann is Director of Programs at Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness Inc.

Sonya O. Hunte, MSW works as the Atlanta Public Schools, Homeless Education Liaison and is the CEO of Hunte Community Development Consulting LLC.

CEUs:

CEU application submitted to the School of Social Work at UGA - there will be no charge to participants. We are also seeking Continuing Legal Education Units (CLE's). There is a fee for CLE's. CEU's from the Georgia Psychological Association are NOT available for this training.

Parking:

The State Bar of Georgia has an adjacent parking deck; the fee is **\$8.00 per day**.

TRAINING DESCRIPTION AND PRESENTER BIOS

2011-2012 - 9th Annual Seminar Series **Critical Issues Facing Special Needs and At-risk Children**

The purpose of this series is to provide individuals who work with special needs and at-risk children, including professionals and family members, with an understanding of the experiences of at-risk children and associated interventions; these may include pharmacological, behavioral and family interventions. Each seminar topic will reference the risk of suicide in children and provide resources for suicide prevention. There are six seminars offered in this series. Below is a description of the topics that will be presented in the second seminar titled, *Homelessness and Youth: Trauma and Domestic Violence, Solutions to Reduce Homelessness, and Keeping Homeless Children in School*.

Homelessness and Youth: Trauma and Domestic Violence, Solutions to Reduce Homelessness, and Keeping Homeless Children in School

December 5, 2011

Topic #1 - Domestic Violence and Homelessness: Double Edged Sword...Understanding Homelessness and Trauma with Youth

The prevalence of traumatic stress in the lives of families experiencing homelessness is extraordinarily high. Often these families have experienced on-going trauma throughout their lives in the form of childhood abuse and neglect, domestic violence, community violence, and the trauma associated with poverty and the loss of home, safety and sense of security. These experiences have a significant impact on how people think, feel, behave, relate to others, and cope with future experiences. Families have learned to adapt to these traumatic circumstances in order to survive, but their ways of coping may seem confusing and out-of- place in their current circumstances.

Given the high rates of traumatic exposure among families who are homeless, it has become clear that understanding trauma and its impact is essential to providing quality care in shelters and housing programs. This realization has lead to the suggestion that programs serving trauma survivors adapt their services to account for their clients' traumatic experiences, that is, they become "trauma-informed". In order to respond empathically to the needs of trauma survivors, ensure their physical and emotional safety, develop realistic treatment goals, and at the very least avoid re-traumatization, all practices and programming must be provided through the lens of trauma.

(Presenter - Katherine Volk)

Katherine Volk is the Co-Director of the T3 Training Institute of the Center for Social Innovation in Needham, Massachusetts. T3 is an innovative training institute committed to improving the knowledge and skills of people working in homeless services. Prior to her recent transition to this position Ms. Volk was the Director of Training for the National Center on Family Homelessness for seven years. She managed The National Center's training efforts on

homelessness, traumatic stress, trauma-informed service provision, self-care, and other related topics. In partnership with organizations around the country, Katherine developed the PEACH Initiative, a physical and emotional awareness program for children living in transitional settings.

Katherine received her joint Master of Arts in Child Development and Urban Policy from Tufts University, her Bachelor of Arts in English and peace and conflict studies from the College of the Holy Cross, and her Certificate in Traumatic Stress Studies from the Trauma Center in Brookline, MA.

Topic #2 - Statistics and Local Resources from Georgia's Plan to End Homelessness

Large numbers of families and children experience homelessness in Georgia. However, current policy, planning, and program responses are unable to meet the need. The Georgia Campaign to End Child Homelessness has created this Plan to help increase awareness, inform policies, and improve programs and services with the ultimate goal of preventing and ending child and family homelessness.

The Georgia Campaign to End Child Homelessness seeks to galvanize the public and political will to end this crisis. Because it is unacceptable for any child in Georgia to be homeless for even one night, we are working with families, service providers, religious organizations, local and state officials, advocates, and citizens across the state to:

- Tell the people of Georgia that thousands of children are homeless here. They are scared, sick, and hungry, and there are things that can be done to help.
- Educate our leaders about effective solutions that can eradicate child homelessness in our state.
- Alleviate the suffering of homeless children by promoting high quality supports and services as we implement a plan to bring them home.

(Presenter - Tom Plamann)

Tom Plamann is the Director of Programs for the Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness (GAEH) and has served in that office since 2006. GAEH is a statewide network committed to fostering strategic initiatives that build a collaborative response to the needs of at-risk and homeless persons in Georgia. In addition to directing the many programs and operations of the Alliance, he also directs the Quality Enhancement Standards and Support Training Program (QESST) which helps nonprofits build sustainable organizations and programs and incorporate systems of best practice. In this role he serves as a resource for nonprofit programs wanting to implement best practice strategies to their plans to prevent and end homelessness. He does this by providing technical assistance, training, strategy development as well as program development, management and evaluation.

Tom has assisted and accredited over 60 organizations throughout the state of Georgia to become recognized Georgia Best Practice Organizations and maintain excellence in administration and operations. Tom has served in the homeless service arena for over 22 years and has held numerous positions and offices in his career. He has served as the Chair of the

Policy Council on Homeless (PCOH) – formerly known as the Cobb Human Services Coalition and was judicially appointed to the Cobb County Commission on Children and Youth. Tom has served the homeless youth population for most of his career beginning as the Program Director of Family Services for MUST Ministries in Marietta, Georgia from 1989 until 1998 and directing the Community Leadership Development Program for the Center for Family Resources from 1998 to 2002. He has also served in several advocacy capacities with juvenile justice and foster care and has maintained his commitment to serving underserved and at-risk youth throughout his career.

Tom currently chairs the Homeless Youth Multidisciplinary Team that coordinates Georgia's Homeless and Runaway System of Care and provides collaborative support and strength to those organizations providing services to homeless and runaway children and youth. Tom earned a Bachelor's Degree in Management from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and is a frequent speaker to non-profit organizations, government agencies, conferences and trainings on topics concerning homeless children and youth, preventing and ending family and youth homelessness, homeless statistics and data, community building and advocacy.

Topic #3 - Keeping Displaced Children in School: Using the McKinney Vento Laws

McKinney-Vento is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools. The McKinney-Vento Act's provisions permit advocates to seek broad, systemic reform, compliance in a particular case, or both. Compliance can often be achieved without resorting to litigation. In other situations, administrative hearings, class actions or multi-plaintiff suits may be necessary to induce compliance. If special education issues are present, advocates may use the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) with the McKinney-Vento Act as powerful tools to assist homeless students with disabilities.

Advocates should review state laws and regulations and school district policies and practices that affect the ability of students in homeless situations to enroll and succeed in school. Since the McKinney-Vento Act clearly requires state educational agencies and districts to develop and revise policies and remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of students in homeless situations, advocates can demand changes to noncompliant policies.

(Presenter - Sonya O. Hunte, MSW)

Sonya Hunte is a Social Work professional with a career focus in serving women and children. Sonya's career is in the public sector with a high level of involvement in the non-profit arena. Currently, Sonya works as the Atlanta Public Schools, Homeless Education Liaison. In this role, she manages the McKinney Vento, Title I and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Homeless Program federal funding, policies and initiatives. Sonya is the CEO of Hunte Community Development Consulting LLC, a company specializing in non profit strategic program development and community partnership planning.

Most recently, Sonya was the Social Services Coordinator for the Fulton County, Office of the Child Attorney. Her primary responsibilities were to provide consultations and comprehensive assessments on families involved with the Fulton County Juvenile Court. Sonya has been

employed as a Social Services Supervisor and direct practitioner for the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services. Since 2005, she has been a Practicum Instructor for Bachelor and Master of Social Work students from the University of Georgia, Georgia State and Clark Atlanta Universities.

Sonya is a requested speaker on the topics of Child Welfare, Homeless Education, Juvenile Justice and Social Work Practice. She has been a guest lecturer and conference speaker with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Juvenile Court Association of Georgia (JCAG), Kennesaw State University and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Sonya's passion for women and children is also evident in her community leadership. Sonya is a member of the Kennesaw State University's, Master of Social Work Program, Advisory Board. She serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Social Workers, Georgia Chapter and the Premier Academy, Child Development Centers. Sonya is a past board member of the My Sister's Keeper Foundation for Women. Sonya has served on the Atlanta Women's Foundation, Grants Allocation Committee (2008) granting over one million dollars to gender directed programming. Sonya's active citizenship includes volunteer work with the Brooklyn Tech High School Alumni Foundation (Ruby's Engineers), Junior League of Atlanta, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta and the White House Project.