

4:00–6:30 PM — Registration

25 Thursday

7:30 AM — Registration Opens

7:30 AM–8:50 AM — Continental Breakfast (*included with registration*)

8:50 AM–9:20 AM — Performance by *Urban Voices*
Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

9:20–9:50 AM — Welcome & Land/Labor Acknowledgements
– *Nikki Perez, MSW, Mayor of the City of Burbank*
Welcome to the 11th Annual Evidence-based Practices and Community-defined Practices Conference
– *Percy Howard III, LMFT, President & CEO, CIBHS*
Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

10:00–11:00 AM — Keynote Address by Angela Davis
Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

11:00 AM–12:00 PM — **The Impact of Federal Shifts on Care Delivery and California's Strategic Initiatives**
– Moderator: *Percy Howard, LCSW, President & CEO, CIBHS*
– *Jonah Cunningham, MPP, CEO, National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors*
– *Dr. Veronica Kelley, DSW, LCSW, Agency Director, Orange County Health Care Agency*
– *Paula Wilhelm, MPP, MPH, Deputy Director for DHCS Behavioral Health, DHCS*
– *Michelle Doty Cabrera, Executive Director, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA)*
Federal behavioral health priorities are shaping California initiatives like CalAIM, Prop 1, and CYBHI. Policy leaders will share insights on funding, partnerships, and cross-sector strategies transforming care delivery across the state.
Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

12:00–1:30 PM — Lunch (*included with registration*)
Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

EBP

MI for All You Do: Flexible Application of MI in Various and Complicated Settings

– *Kristin Dempsey, EdD., Dempsey Family and Community Counseling and Consultation, Inc.*

The concepts and skills of motivational interviewing (MI) are highly accessible and sensible. So, why is practicing MI so challenging at times? This session will delineate a framework strategy that shows the use of MI in various settings from community mental health, mobile response teams, to telephonic assessments and intakes.

Room: Academy 6

EBP

From Roadblocks to Recovery: Applying DBT in Addiction Treatment (Part 1)

– *Erica Immenschuh, LSCSW, ETI-LLC*

This three-part interactive workshop equips providers with practical Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) strategies and skills. The first session explores the impact of addictions, recovery models, and how DBT is an effective and unique treatment. The core DBT skills of Mindfulness, Distress Tolerance, Emotion Regulation, and Interpersonal Effectiveness will also be applied in the context of addiction.

Room: Academy 5

EBP

From Truancy to Transformation: Healing Youth Through the ARC Framework

– *Natasha Paddock, CEO/Executive Director, Counseling Options and Parent Education Support Center, Inc.*

– *Caitlin Schweller, MPH, Case Manager Specialist, Counseling Options and Parent Education Support Center, Inc.*

– *Sarah Bunch, PsyD., Internship Director, Counseling Options and Parent Education Support Center, Inc.*

This presentation explores C.O.P.E.'s use of the ARC (Attachment, Regulation, and Competence) framework to support truant youth in Contra Costa County. Through targeted therapeutic groups and cross-agency collaboration, C.O.P.E. addresses trauma-related barriers to attendance, fostering emotional healing, school reengagement, and improved outcomes for court-referred and at-risk youth.

Room: Academy 4

EBP

Integrated Healing: Addressing Addiction and Multigenerational Trauma with AIT and Digital Innovation

– *Foojan Zeine, PsyD., LMFT, International Awareness Integration Institute*

This presentation explores Awareness Integration Theory (AIT) as a holistic approach to addiction recovery, addressing both personal and multigenerational trauma. It highlights how the Foojan App and Mira chatbot extend therapeutic support, promoting emotional healing, behavioral change, and sustainable recovery through accessible, technology-enhanced, evidence-based interventions.

Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

EBP

Building Resilience, Bridging Systems: Functional Family Therapy with BIPOC Students and Families in School Communities

– Danielle Lowe, LCSW, Behavioral Health Services, Director; SHIELDS for Families

– Christina Ramirez, LCSW, Behavioral Health Services Administrator; SHIELDS for Families

BIPOC youth face systemic inequities that impact mental health and academic outcomes. This session explores school connectedness as a protective factor & introduces Functional Family Therapy as a culturally responsive, school-based intervention. Attendees will learn strategies to foster resilience, reduce disparities, and support BIPOC students & families through equitable school practices.

Room: Glendale

EBP

Implementing Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) with Latiné Children and Families

– Alison Hendricks, LCSW, MSW, Consultant, Hendricks Consulting

Are you a TF-CBT provider working with Latiné families? Do you face challenges engaging Latiné families in treatment? Come learn about ways to successfully engage Latiné families and how to apply core Latiné values to make TF-CBT more culturally relevant. This training will describe cultural enhancements to the PRACTICE components.

Room: Pasadena

CDEP

Community Defined Evidence-Based Program: Towards a New Paradigm for Latino Mental Health

– Monica Zuniga Fajuri, MA, BCC, Supervisor, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center

– Alberto Perez Rendon, MPH, (he/his) Program Manager, La Clinica de la Raza

This presentation highlights Cultura y Bienestar (CyB), a collaboration of three Latine mental health providers. It summarizes strategies like culturally rooted healing, psychoeducation, and community events to overcome stigma and access barriers. CyB's community-driven, evidence-based approach earned recognition from the California Reducing Disparities Project as an effective mental health model.

Room: Vine A & B

EBP

Maintaining Fidelity to the Peer Support Services Evidence Base

– Dawniell Zavala, Esq., Associate Director, Cal Voices

– Stephanie Ramos, CMPSS, Education Director, Cal Voices

This session explores the effectiveness of Peer Support Services in enhancing behavioral health outcomes and reducing costs. Participants will identify challenges arising from peers operating beyond their scope and evaluate current data collection practices. Emphasis is placed on improving service delivery and ensuring role fidelity within peer support frameworks.

Room: Sunset A & B

EBP

Improving Patient Care Through a Trauma-Informed Network of Care

– *Laura Figueroa-Philips, MD., Director, SHARK Clinic*

ACEs-LA is an initiative to create a network of care serving the pediatric population of LA County. This network screens children for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), expedites evaluation and diagnosis, and connects those needing treatment to a broad range of resources throughout the county.

Room: Producer

2:30–2:45 PM



Break: *Visit the Exhibitors*

2:45–3:45 PM



Session Two — Select One Workshop

EBP

MI to Support Change and Growth Among Youth - in all their Neurodiversity

– *Kristin Dempsey, EdD., Dempsey Family and Community Counseling and Consultation, Inc.*

This workshop will explore ways in which the "spirit" and skills of motivational interviewing (MI) can be prioritized and adapted to best meet the need of youth ages 12-24, with special consideration for youth who have an ADHD or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis.

Room: Academy 6

EBP

From Roadblocks to Recovery: Applying DBT in Addiction Treatment (Part 2)

– *Erica T. Immenschuh, LCSW, ETI-LLC*

This three-part interactive workshop equips providers with practical Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) strategies and skills to support individuals facing mental health and addiction challenges. In part two, participants will engage in mindfulness practice, identify factors that hinder treatment, understand and apply dialectical strategies to enhance engagement and regulate emotions.

Room: Academy 5

EBP

Hope, Resilience, and Community Vitality: A Framework for Assessing Caregiver Readiness in Early Childhood Development

– *Rudiel Fabian, PhD., Research Scientist II, First 5 CA*

Hope, Resilience, and Community Vitality measures into early childhood policy and program development can enhance our understanding of caregiver strengths and challenges. These metrics can inform targeted interventions that support equitable early childhood outcomes.

Room: Academy 4

EBP

Evidence Based Approaches to Increasing & Integrating SUD Providers into CA's BH System

– Robb Layne, Executive Director, CAADPE (CA Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc)

– Erick Guerrero, PhD., Disparities and Implementation Scientist, REHD Corp.

The SPARK-T Project (SUD Providers Access to Resources, Knowledge, & Training) equips small and mid-sized providers to deliver equitable, evidence-based, and community-centered SUD care. This session highlights harm reduction integration, workforce development, and tools from SPARK-T's statewide TA series to expand access and implement innovative EBPs.

Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

EBP

Functional Family Therapy: An Evolving EBP to Support Diverse Communities

– Thomas Sexton, Ph.D., Model Developer, FFT Partners

– Marta Anderson, LCSW, Chief Operating Officer, Senior Consultant, FFT Partners

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is a proven, family-based model for reducing youth recidivism and behavioral issues. This session, led by FFT developer Dr. Thomas Sexton, explores the model's evolution, core phases, community outcomes, and research-based effectiveness in addressing the complex needs of justice-involved youth and their families.

Room: Glendale

EBP

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Children and Families in the Child Welfare System

– Alison Hendricks, MSW, LCSW, Consultant. Hendricks Consulting

This session will highlight challenges to implementing TF-CBT with children and families in the child welfare system, including complex trauma, court involvement, changes in placement, and engaging substitute care providers. Strategies, resources, and case examples will be used to illustrate successful TF-CBT implementation with this population.

Room: Pasadena

CDEP

Faith Communities as Catalysts for Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in Underserved Schools

– Mr. Cedric Nelms, MJA, Legacy Bridge CDC

Faith-based organizations are well-positioned to support the social-emotional learning (SEL) needs of students, especially in underserved schools. This proposal will focus on how faith communities can provide SEL programs that promote emotional intelligence, resilience, and community building, which are essential for academic success and personal growth.

Room: Vine A & B

EBP **How Literacy Impacts Mental Health**
– *Steven Angel, Drumming for Your Life*

This presentation explores the Reading & Rhythm program, a multisensory initiative founded in 2001 to improve literacy and mental well-being for diverse Pre-K–12 and adult learners. Discover how early reading deficiencies create psychological landmines that can contribute to long-term mental health challenges—and how this program addresses them effectively.

Room: Sunset A & B

EBP **Mitigating Toxic Stress with Mindfulness and Meditation**
– *Laura Figueroa-Philips, MD., Director, SHARK Clinic*

This presentation will describe the benefits of mindfulness meditation for children suffering from toxic stress. Research data from a pilot study utilizing virtual meditation classes for pediatric patients will be discussed.

Room: Producer

3:45–4:00 PM — Break: *Visit the Exhibitors*

4:00–5:00 PM — **Session Three — Select One Workshop**

EBP **MI for Engagement and Change in SUD Treatment (2025 Update)**
– *Kristin Dempsey, EdD., Dempsey Family and Community Counseling and Consultation, Inc.*

Motivational Interviewing (MI) has been an important tool in effective Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment for 40 years and has changed the SUD treatment game. We will explore current MI practice and its relevance to SUD treatment today and how it can help with current clinical challenges faced by community behavioral health providers.

Room: Academy 6

EBP **From Roadblocks to Recovery: Applying DBT in Addiction Treatment (Part 3)**
– *Erica T. Immenschuh, LSCSW, ETI-LLC*

This three-part interactive workshop equips providers with practical Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) strategies and skills to support individuals facing mental health and addiction challenges. The third segment will focus on DBT addiction-specific skills to enhance behavioral control and the effectiveness of addiction interventions. Attendees will gain a roadmap for applying DBT to improve therapeutic outcomes and support the road to recovery.

Room: Academy 5

CDEP

Housing First: Addressing the Housing Crisis for College Students and Young Adults in Foster Care

- *Maira McKiernan, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor, Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services*
- *Manuel Rivera, Ph.D., Clinical Program Director, Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services*
- *Renon Hodge, Case Manager, Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services*

Optimist's housing programs have provided services to over 165 foster youth, probation, and community college students in Los Angeles County. Using a Housing-First and Trauma-Informed Care lens, clinical staff first address basic needs of shelter and food and then support with mental health, independent living skills and education/vocational options.

Room: Academy 4

CDEP

The Youth Promotor Model: A CDEP Bridging Cultural Gaps in Youth Mental Health Access

- *Stephanie Manieri, MS, Executive Director, Latino Service Providers*
- *Magalli Larqué, MPH, Director of Programs, Latino Service Providers*

Latino Service Providers' Youth Promotor Internship Program disrupts mental health disparities by empowering bilingual-bicultural youth to become community health workers. This innovative CDEP transforms stigma into strength, creating pathways to behavioral and allied health careers while honoring cultural wisdom that traditional services often miss.

Room: Academy 1,2, & 3

EBP

Systematic Contextualization of Functional Family Therapy: Meeting the Needs of Diverse Communities

- *Thomas Sexton, Ph.D., Model Developer, FFT Partners*
- *Marta Anderson, LCSW, Chief Operating Officer, Senior Consultant, FFT Partners*

This session explores how Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is being contextualized to fit diverse cultural and service system settings. Using real-world examples from Puerto Rico and Native American communities, presenters will offer a roadmap for adapting evidence-based models while preserving their core clinical mechanisms and improving cultural relevance.

Room: Glendale

EBP

Implementing Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Using Telehealth

- *Alison Hendricks, MSW, LCSW, Consultant. Hendricks Consulting*

Are you a TF-CBT provider who works with children and families using telehealth? Come learn about special considerations, strategies, interventions, and resources for implementing TF-CBT via telehealth. Specific resources will be demonstrated for children of varying ages.

Room: Pasadena

CDEP

Expanding Peer Mental Health Support in Community Colleges through a Navigator Program

– Gabriela Aguilar, BS, Program Coordinator, Ohlone College

This session will present the Alameda County Mental Health Navigator Program as a scalable community-defined evidence practice. Through peer-led navigation, students from underserved backgrounds receive culturally responsive mental health support, reducing stigma, improving access, and strengthening campus-community partnerships within California's behavioral health workforce pipeline.

Room: Vine A & B

EBP

Family Centered Treatment (FCT): Integrating Evidence-Based Practice with Sustainable Community Impact

– Kathleen Schenk, MA, Lead Development Director, Family Centered Treatment Foundation

– Poletta “Shay” Cunningham, MSW, LCSW, LISW-CP, Lead Implementation Director, Family Centered Treatment Foundation

Family Centered Treatment (FCT) is an evidence-based, home-based trauma treatment model that provides practical solutions for families. Serving diverse populations, FCT integrates Implementation Science to ensure sustainable service delivery. FCT works to support fidelity and adaptability through community-informed adjustments, demonstration projects, and pilot initiatives to address families' needs.

Room: Sunset A & B

CDEP

Cultural Effectiveness in Practice: Strengths and Resilience of Asian Americans Amid Diversity and Complexity

– Matthew Mock, PhD., Professor of Psychology & Independent Practice, JFK School of Psychology of National University

Cultural competency, responsiveness and humility are imperatives in clinical and service practices in working with Asian American individuals, families, and communities. This means understanding the diversity and complexity of Asian Americans. As well as understanding ourselves, evidence-based practices and practice-based or community defined practices supported by research must be appreciated.

Room: Producer

5:00–6:30 PM

— Networking Reception with Exhibitors (*included with registration*)



Angela Davis

Renowned Scholar, Author, and
Global Thought Leader

” Angela Y. Davis is a distinguished professor emerita of history of consciousness and feminist studies at University of California, Santa Cruz. An activist, writer, and lecturer, her work focuses on prisons, police, abolition, and the related intersections of race, gender, and class.

She is the author of many books, from *Angela Davis: An Autobiography* to *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle*.

Day 1

Keynote Speaker

Her most recent books include *Abolition.Feminism.Now.*, written with Gina Dent, Erica Meiners and Beth Richie, and a book of essays entitled *Abolition: Politics, Practices, Promises, Vol. 1*.

She is a founding member of Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex.

7:30 AM — Registration Opens

7:30–9:00 AM — Continental Breakfast (*included with registration*)

9:00–9:15 AM — Opening Remarks

Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

9:15– 10:45 AM — **CDEPs in Action: Improving Outcomes from Community-Driven Solutions**

- Moderator: Jennifer Clancy, MSW, Vice President of Strategic & Equity Initiatives, CIBHS
- Stacie Hiramoto, MSW, CRDP Consultant, REMHD/CO/Safe Passages
- J. Kho, Project Director, Third Sector
- Ghia Xiong, PsyD, Director of the Living Well Center, The Fresno Center
- Phanit Dy, Director of CDEP Implementation, CIBHS
- Ahmad Bahrami, MBA, Division Manager, Planning and Quality Management, Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health

CDEPs are driving measurable impact by centering culture, lived experience, and community healing. Learn how CDEPs compare to traditional EBPs and why they're gaining traction among funders and systems committed to equity, access, and culturally responsive care.

Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

10:45–11:00 AM — Break: *Visit the Exhibitors*

11:00–12:00 PM

Session One — Select One Workshop

DAY 2 Session 1

EBP

Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation as a Universal Practice for Upstream System's Change

- Sandy Avzaradel, M.S. Ed., Executive Director, Start Well Charitable Ventures
- Kim Vershuis, M.A. Ed., Senior IECMH Consultant, Start Well Charitable Ventures
- Rhysa Suh, M.S., BCBA, Senior IECMH Consultant, Start Well Charitable Ventures

Engage with a panel of Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants (IECMHC) to understand how IECMHC can be used as an upstream approach to system change. Participants will see how IECMHC can be used as universal workforce development practice to ensure all our children are set on a positive trajectory.

Room: Academy 6

CDEP

Open Doors: Integrating Restorative Justice to Advance Social Justice in Youth Programs

- Tia Cochran-Otis, LCSW, Director of Community Restoration and Consultation, Catalyst Center
- Crystal Blanton, LCSW, Senior Integrated Care Advisor, Catalyst Center

Rooted in diverse Indigenous cultural practices, Restorative Justice (RJ) fosters community connection and accountability across settings. This workshop explores how RJ promotes social justice with youth by centering their needs and experiences. Participants will gain tools to support youth autonomy, inclusion, and equity through the integration of restorative approaches.

Room: Academy 5

EBP

Integrating Mindfulness into Parenting Support: Insights from the California Parent & Youth Helpline

- Lisa Pion-Berlin, PhD., President and CEO, Parents Anonymous
- Elizabeth Harris, PhD., Faculty Associate, Arizona State University

The California Parent & Youth Helpline (CPYH) has demonstrated that the integration of mindfulness-based strategies into helpline interventions can positively influence emotional well-being and overall outlook. This presentation will detail the specific mindfulness approaches employed by CPYH counselors, with an emphasis on their theoretical underpinnings and practical application

Room: Academy 4

EBP

Enhancing Patient Outcomes with Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT): A Data-Focused Approach

- Amanda Martinez-Cutler, MPH, CHES, Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Supervisor, Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc.

Learn about how Tarzana Treatment Centers leverages Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT), an evidence-based practice combining FDA-approved medications with counseling, to improve outcomes for individuals with substance use disorders. This session explores the Care Cascade Model and using data-driven strategies to identify care gaps and enhance long-term recovery.

Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

EBP

Strength Tenacity Acceptance Resilience (STAR) program: Trauma-Focused Intervention for Children and Adolescents

- Nancy Herrera, PhD., Postdoctoral Scholar, University of California, Riverside
- Mikaela Pulse, MS, MA, University of California, Riverside
- Kimberley D. Lakes, PhD., Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Neuroscience, University of California Riverside

Our presentation is guided by work, partnerships, and care we provide to youth under our CYBHI grant-funded program, STAR. Therefore, we will describe what informed our passion for trauma/culturally informed services, the process of building capacity/relationships, our interdisciplinary team approach to TF-CBT training, and our approach to cultural adaptation.

Room: Glendale

EBP

Empowering Youth Through Early DBT: Early DBT Fosters Emotional Resilience, Effective Coping Skills, and improved Relationships.

– Tamilyn Bonney, BA/Behavioral Science, DBT Outreach Director, Reach to Win Youth Home & Family Services

– Shilana Williams, LMFT, Director of Clinical Services/Certified DBT Therapist, Reach to Win Youth Home & Family Services

Discover how Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) equips young individuals with essential skills for emotional regulation, resilience, and effective communication. This presentation explores the transformative impact of early DBT intervention, highlighting its role in fostering healthier relationships and empowering youth to navigate life's challenges with confidence and competence.

Room: Pasadena

CDEP

Erasing the Stigma of Opioid Use Disorder in the Black & Brown Community

– Teri Carlyle, Director of Finance & Operations, Urban Strategies Council

– Veronica King, Substance Use Disorder Counselor, Urban Strategies Council

Erasing the Stigma of Opioid Use Disorder in the Black & Brown Community invites open dialogue, promoting awareness and empathy in opioid overdose prevention. Expect engaging and interactive discussions on respectful communication, learn how to administer NARCAN to reverse an overdose, and learn how to use fentanyl test strips.

Room: Vine A & B

CDEP

Gender-Affirming Care: Navigating Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders working with Transgender, Gender Nonconforming Folks

– Kristina Padilla, MA, Counseling Psychology & BS, Criminal Justice Administration; LAADC, ICAADC, CGS, C-SAT Candidate, VP of Education & Strategic Development, California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals

This session delves into the needs of LGBTQIA2/transgender, genderfluid, and Gender Nonconforming individuals who seek treatment for mental health and/or substance use disorders. The presentation covers best practices for trans youth and adults, gender dysphoria, gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT), and more

Room: Sunset A & B

CDEP

Cultural Strategies for Therapeutic Healing of Traumas: Serving Community Needs & Self-of-the-Healer Accountability

– Matthew Mock, PhD., Professor of Psychology & Independent Practice, JFK School of Psychology of National University

The promotion of culturally responsive practices with families must include the self-of-the-therapist's experiences and understanding of cultural humility – truly bearing witness – to address historical trauma. Best strategies and practices shown and acknowledged to be effective, including community cultural healing practices, will be discussed and dynamically represented.

Room: Producer

12:00–1:00 PM — Lunch (included with registration)
Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

1:00–2:00 PM — Keynote Address by Dr. Thema Bryant: *Healing, Hope, and Liberation for Individual and Collective Transformation*
Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

2:00–2:15 PM — Break: *Visit the Exhibitors*

2:15–3:15 PM

Session Two — Select One Workshop

CDEP **Implementing a Strength-based Life Coaching/Case Management Approach Tailored to Southeast Asian American Youth in Sacramento**
– David Kakishiba, Executive Director, East Bay Asian Youth Center
– Mayte Cruz, MPP, Senior Associate, HTA Consulting

This presentation will highlight the implementation of a community-defined evidence practice (CDEP) of a Sacramento-based early intervention program for Asian American youth using the CANS tool to monitor program fidelity and evaluation outcomes. The session will highlight culturally responsive and youth-centered strategies that will be relevant to other youth programs.

Room: Academy 4

EBP **A Systemic Approach to Empowering Adolescents Through Community Building, Fostering Mutuality, and Bridging Marginalization Gaps**
– Nicole Jafari, MBA, ED. D, CPC, CMC, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

This presentation focuses on a systemic approach to the theoretical and conceptual framework for the Youth-Led Program (YLP) and Education for Sustainability (EFS) strategies. These strategies aim to empower marginalized adolescents by fostering communities that promote equity, mutuality, and sustainability while collaborating with community-based organizations as liaisons and resources.

Room: Vine A & B

CDEP **Welcome Home: The Vital Role of Peer Support in Stabilizing Community Members Experiencing Homelessness**
– Michael Reynolds, Peer Division Director, West County Community Services
– Danielle Tucker, Transitions Program Manager, West County Community Services
– Maura Somersall, Internship Supervisor, West County Community Services
– Shannon McEntee, Assistant Manager/Onsite Supervisor, Petaluma Peer Recovery Center, West County Community Services

Transitions Into Housing has achieved unparalleled success in helping formerly homeless individuals maintain housing. 100% of graduates-maintained housing stability and 62% took a positive step. Join us as we discuss what works and how you can create similar programs in your community!

Room: Academy 5

CDEP

Leading Optimism Los Angeles Clubhouse: Designed By and For Young Adults Experiencing Mental Health Challenges.

– Jodi Reneaud, M.S., Human Services in progress Walden University, Director, Wellness, Education, Relationships, Careers Initiatives, Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services

– Jacqueline Atkins, Ph.D., Chief Program Officer, Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services

The LOLA Clubhouse is an evidence-based transformative space designed entirely by and for young adults. The Clubhouse provides a sanctuary for teens and young adults facing serious mental health challenges with an emphasis on building self-confidence, fostering social support, overcoming economic isolation, and developing crucial life skills.

Room: Academy 1, 2, & 3

EBP

Beyond Case Management: The FOCUS on Evidence-Informed Tiered Care Coordination

– Lisa J Spera, MS, LCPC, NBCC, National Training Manager, Innovations – Institute, University of Connecticut, School of Social Work

– Kimberly Estep, MS, Faculty & Director, Systems Design and Implementation Strategies Innovations Institute Director, National Wraparound Implementation Center (NWIC), Innovations Institute, University of Connecticut, School of Social Work

Traditional case management has fallen short in addressing the evolving and complex needs of children, youth, and families. This session advocates for tiered care coordination, integrating FOCUS Intermediate Care Coordination and Wraparound to transform child-serving systems. Leave this session with implementation insights and practical strategies that improve outcomes for families.

Room: Glendale

CDEP

Measuring, Monitoring and Continually Improving the Delivery of Evidence-Based Programs Using Fidelity Scorecards

– Christine Schaeffer, Ph.D., MBA, MPH, Program Evaluator, Center for Healthier Communities, Dignity Health Northridge Hospital

– Diane Valasquez, MPH, Program Manager - Community Benefits Program, Center for Healthier Communities, Dignity Health Northridge Hospital

– Jasmine Martinez, MPH, Program Coordinator, Center for Healthier Communities, Dignity Health Northridge Hospital

Fidelity in an EBP's content, pedagogy, and implementation are essential to achieving positive outcomes. A Fidelity Scorecard that captures adherence, competence, and participant engagement is an effective tool to monitor fidelity, promote continuous improvement in program delivery, advance professional development, and can help to scale and sustain your EBP.

Room: Pasadena

EBP

Promoting Access to Treatment and Health Equity (PATH) for Substance Use Care Curriculum

– *Jose Lechuga, MS, Clinical Research Coordinator, Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, UC Riverside School of Medicine*

– *Michelle Porche, EdD, Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, UC Riverside School of Medicine*

– *Lisa Fortuna, MD, MPH, Mdiv, Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, UC Riverside School of Medicine*

This workshop, informed by the SAMHSA-funded UCR SOM PATH curriculum (“Promoting Access to Treatment and Health Equity for Substance Use Care”), describes lessons learned from the development and first year implementation of comprehensive trainings on substance use disorder diagnosis and treatment. We emphasize approaches for teaching key SUD treatment approaches while addressing health disparities and equity-driven care. Participants will learn practical strategies for discussing motivational interviewing, harm reduction, and family-centered care, focusing on engaging learners, reducing stigma, and integrating culturally responsive approaches into SUD education.

Room: Academy 6

CDEP

Thriving Beyond Labels: Centering Support in LGBTQIA2+ Trans and Gender-Diverse Mental Health Communities

– *Kristina Padilla, MA, Counseling Psychology & BS, Criminal Justice Administration; LAADC, ICAADC, CGS, C-SAT Candidate, VP of Education & Strategic Development, California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals*

Transgender, genderfluid, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming individuals often face unique challenges in peer support, mental health, and substance use recovery, exacerbated by systemic barriers and societal stigma. Support emerges as a transformative approach, offering culturally responsive care rooted in shared experiences and mutual understanding.

Room: Sunset A & B

CDEP

Bridging the GAP: Empowering Youth Through Culturally Responsive Behavioral Health Support

– *Edwina Thomas, CHW, Program Coordinator, Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy*

This presentation explores the GAP Program's impact across four campuses, focusing on culturally responsive and trauma-informed behavioral health strategies. Attendees will gain practical tools for implementing programs that support youth growth, healing, and empowerment in underserved educational settings through mentorship, emotional wellness, and community engagement.

Room: Producer

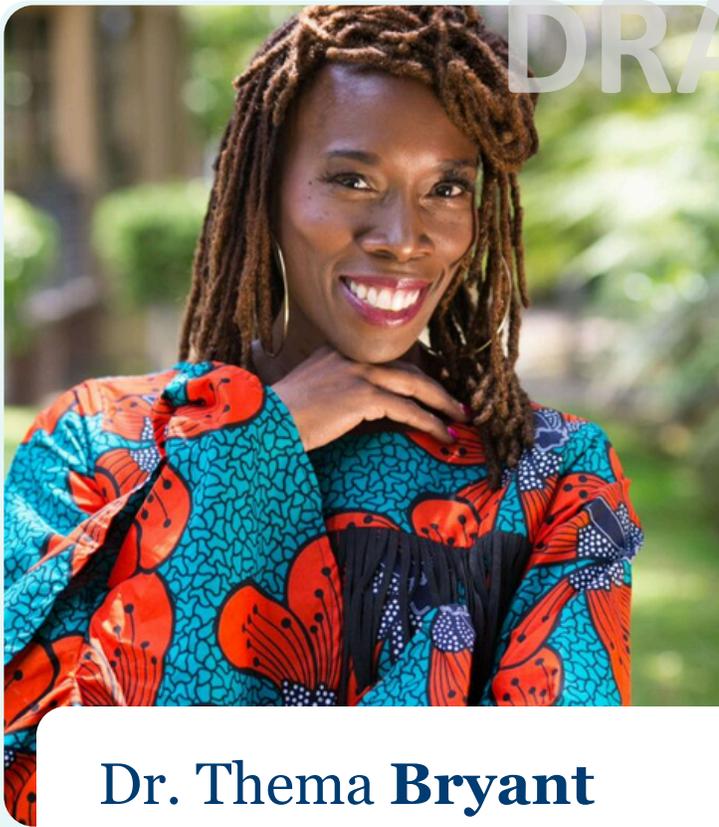
3:00–3:15 PM

— Adjourn

DRAFT

Day 2

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Thema Bryant

Psychologist, Podcaster, Bestselling Author, and American Psychological Association 2023 President

” Dr. Thema Bryant is a psychologist, author, professor, sacred artist, and minister who is leading the way in creating healthy relationships, healing traumas, and overcoming stress and oppression.

Dr. Thema is the author of recently released book *Matters of the Heart* (February 4, 2025; Penguin Random House), which aims to empower readers to connect with themselves and to others, delving into topics such as: control issues, emotional unavailability, practical activation activities, case studies, and teaching how to shift mindset and patterns around romance.

Dr. Thema Bryant completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Duke University and her post-doctoral training at Harvard Medical Center’s Victims of Violence Program. Upon graduating, she became the Coordinator of the Princeton University SHARE Program, which provides intervention and prevention programming to combat sexual assault, sexual harassment, and harassment based on sexual orientation. She is currently a tenured professor of psychology in the Graduate School of Education and Psychology at Pepperdine University, where she directs the Culture and Trauma Research Laboratory. Dr. Thema is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and leads the mental health ministry at First A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles. Most recently, she was the 2023 president of the American Psychological Association (APA) and is the host of The Homecoming Podcast.

POSTER SESSION

Just People Helping People: The Desirability of Adoption of Peer Support by Youth

– Shannon McEntee, Assistant Manager, West County Community Services

Youth mental health is a rising crisis that remains to see the acknowledgement it deserves. In this youth-led research project we explore the potential of youth Peer Support as a solution.

Community-Based Diversion Programs Supporting Justice-Involved Youth and Their Families

– Sierra Cheung, M.A., Research Specialist, Five Acres

– Vincenty Front, B.S., Clinical Data Analyst, Five Acres

Project Youth OC's SHORTSTOP and STOP SHORT of Addiction programs use community-defined practices to reduce recidivism among justice-involved youth. Our poster highlights trauma-informed engagement, legal education, and family-centered interventions that build accountability and healing while promoting equity within the juvenile justice system.

Client Treatment Outcomes on the PSC-35 by Degree of EBP Utilization

– Silvestre Lopez, MLFP (Master in Legal & Forensic Psychology), Department Manager, Project Youth OC

– Manuel Gutierrez, Director of Program Strategy, Project Youth OC

We looked specifically at client outcomes by degree of EBP usage (complete, incomplete, and no EBP). We found that improvement on the PSC-35 from intake to discharge was positively correlated with the degree of EBP utilization. However, we are also planning to look at moderating factors that may impact this.

Scaling Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Evidence Practices through a Virtual Learning Collaborative: A Statewide Approach

– David Salinas, MPH, Sr. Associate, CIBHS

– Ryan Mertz, Psy.D, Sr. Associate, CIBHS

– Antoinette Manuel, MA Ed., Sr. Associate, CIBHS

The Virtual Learning Collaborative (VLC) supports over 450 CYBHI grantees in scaling evidence-based and community-defined practices. Through three pillars—Implementation Science, Equity Integration, and Data Evaluation—the VLC utilizes interactive digital tools to promote practice change, equity, and data-driven outcomes, fostering sustainable transformation in behavioral health services across California.

POSTER SESSION

Substance Use Prevention Evidence-Based Resource to Support CDEP/EBP Implementation in California

– Howard Padwa, Ph.D., Research Scientist, University of California, Los Angeles
Integrated Substance Use and Addiction Programs

The Substance Use Prevention Evidence-Based Resource (SUPER) is a free online repository of EBPs and CDEPs specifically designed for youth behavioral health prevention in California. SUPER includes practical information about EBPs/CDEPs, overviews of various EBP/CDEP's scientific evidence of effectiveness, and California providers' perspectives on the strengths/weaknesses of different prevention EBPs/CDEPs.

Like a Bridge Over Troubled Waters, We Will Lay You Down: The African-American CRDP Hub

– Carlene Davis, MPA, Director of Strategy and Evaluation, California Black Women's Health Project

This presentation will highlight the collective impact of the community-defined evidence-based prevention and early interventions innovated by the African-American Hub organizations of the California Reducing Disparities Project to demonstrate the effectiveness and need for race-based and culturally-specific programming to address and mitigate mental health disparities in the Black community.