

# National Family Week Conference YOUTH IN CRISIS

November 3 | Mohegan Pennsylvania

\$40 per person includes: breakfast, lunch, and 3 CLE credits

MORE INFORMATION: [FSANEPA.ORG](http://FSANEPA.ORG)



Scan to register!



presented by



1

14th Annual National Family Week Conference CLE

Credit for Lawyers Attending Being Provided by  
**The Wilkes-Barre Law & Library  
Association (#53)**

The W-BLLA is an accredited CLE Provider.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE KEYNOTE LUNCH SPEAKER IS  
NOT A CLE CREDIT HOUR.**

**For lawyers attending the full day, the conference provides 3 Hours of LIVE Substantive CLE Credit.**

**Cost of the Conference and CLE Credit is \$40.00**  
**Payable to “FSA NEPA (NFW Conference in memo line).”**

**When Registering be sure to include your Atty. ID number.**

If you have any questions about the Conference, please email Theresa Langan, Executive Assistant at Family Services of Northeastern PA at

[tlangan@fsanepa.org](mailto:tlangan@fsanepa.org)



National Family Week Conference  
**Youth in Crisis**  
*A David & Lillian Thalenfeld Life Series Program*  
 November 3, 2023

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Resource Tables Set Up to Be Open for 8:00 a.m.		
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Registration Check-In/ Resource Tables Open		
8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introductions/Welcomes: Sean Gerow/ Adam Thalenfeld Opening Session: Mentorship: <b>Be the One</b> : Joe DeLuca/Mason Wooldridge		
<b>BREAK &amp; RESOURCE TABLES 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.</b>			
Concurrent Sessions 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Cultural Diversity and Implicit Bias</b>  Pennsylvania State Police- Heritage Affairs Trprs. Jessica Quinn and Tristan Bennett	<b>Youth &amp; Suicide</b>  Sean Gerow, CEO Family Service Association	<b>Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas Diversionary Truancy Court- One Student at a Time</b>  Judge Jennifer L. Rogers, Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas
<b>BREAK &amp; RESOURCE TABLES 11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</b>			
Lunch / Keynote Session 11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Love Is All You Need</b> Presenter- Ed Ackerman- The Optimist		
<b>BREAK &amp; RESOURCE TABLES 1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.</b>			
Concurrent Sessions 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	<b>Understanding the Brain in Crisis</b>  George Butwin, Educational Consultant- LIU #18	<b>Child Trafficking</b>  Atty. Angela Sperrazza & Agent Gabe Fabian AG Office	<b>2023 Needs Assessment</b>  Ryan Hogan Administrator, Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program
<b>BREAK &amp; RESOURCE TABLES 2:15 p.m. -2:30 p.m.</b>			
Concurrent Sessions 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>School Safety</b>  Joe DeLuca/ Mason Wooldridge	<b>Heart Health</b>  Meghan Gagorik, Division Director American Heart Association	<b>LGBTQIA+</b>  Kevin Wheeley, NEPA Pride Coalition Board of Directors

## Conference Agenda

**7:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. Resource Tables/Check-in/Intro/Welcome.**

**No CLE Credit provided for these segments.**

**10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:**

**1 Substantive CLE Credit provided.**

### ***Cultural Diversity and Implicit Bias Awareness***

Presenter(s): Trpr. Jessica Quinn and Trpr. Tristan Bennett-Pennsylvania State Police.

#### **Brief Summary:**

**Implicit Bias Awareness:** This presentation depicts many examples of Implicit Bias within advertisements, hiring practices, lending practices, policing, and more. We use this presentation to show the audience how to recognize implicit bias and how to overcome it.

**Cultural Diversity Awareness:** This presentation discusses the benefits of having diverse cultures in America. Additionally, it depicts many of the cultural practices that people may encounter within their work/community, and how to be more receptive to those practices. This presentation also touches on the topic of Immigration.

### ***Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention***

Presenter(s): Sean Gerow- Family Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

#### **Brief Summary:**

Youth suicide is a public health problem that is preventable. The workshop will explore equitable youth suicide prevention strategies and look at community resources to assist in connecting youth, families, and professionals to resources that can result in reducing youth suicides. It will also focus on the reduction of access to means and how this will lead to improved prevention efforts. Our children should grow, thrive, and live long healthy lives and yet among youth in the United States, who die, a quarter die from suicide. This workshop will focus on breaking that trend and focusing on a Zero Suicide approach.

*Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas Diversionary  
Truancy Court- One Student at a Time*

Presenter(s): Judge Jennifer L. Rogers

**Brief Summary:**

Luzerne County instituted a truancy diversionary court at the commencement of the 2017-2018 academic year. Since its launch, the truancy court has successfully diverted 90 percent of students away from juvenile dependency court through the provision of community-based services to improve school attendance.

This presentation will 1) provide an overview of the truancy court model; 2) discuss challenges and successes experienced as the court has evolved; and 3) address plans for additional interventional initiatives.

**11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Lunch/Keynote Session.**

**No CLE Credit provided for this segment.**

**1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:**

**1 Substantive CLE Credit provided.**

*Understanding the Brain in Crisis*

Presenter(s): George Butin- Educational Consultant, LIU#18.

**Brief Summary:**

This session will examine the Neurosequential Model of the brain and consider best practices for intervention during crisis. We will examine preventative strategies to support youth who require frequent de-escalation and exhibit frequent crisis behavior. We will discuss high-quality verbal competencies and safety considerations to maximize safety.

*Human Trafficking- Unfiltered.*

Presenter(s): Angela Sperrazza-Deputy Attorney General & Gabriel Fabian- Special Agent Child Predator Unit.

**Brief Summary:**

This presentation will address the reality of human trafficking while identifying common risk factors and red flags. The goal is to educate different disciplines on how to be aware of interactions between human trafficking and everyday life. Throughout this training, hypotheticals and real case studies will be broken down by presenters. This offers the listener the chance to step into the reality of combatting the human trafficking problem step by step.

***Luzerne County's Youth Drug & Alcohol Use, Prevention & Treatment Needs Assessment.***

Presenter(s): Ryan Hogan, Administrator- Luzerne/Wyoming Co. Drug & Alcohol Department.

**Brief Summary:**

The “Youth Drug & Alcohol Use, Prevention, and Treatment Needs Assessment” session will take a deeper dive into youth drug and alcohol use and the current drug trends affecting our young people. The session will also explore Risk and Protective Factors that contribute to Youth Substance Abuse. We will examine direct reporting and feedback from middle school students and high school students about drugs and alcohol and what leads young people to use drugs and alcohol. The session will also compare local trends versus statewide trends and what can be done locally to address growing issues related to youth drug and alcohol use.

**2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:**  
**1 Substantive CLE Credit provided.**

***School Safety & Security: Truths & Falsehoods.***

Presenter(s): Joe DeLucca and Mason Wooldridge.

**Brief Summary:**

Since Columbine, the school safety and security of our schools has been on the forefront of Americans' Minds. How far have we come in better protecting schools since the late 90's, how far do we still need to go, and where are Pennsylvania's schools currently situated when compared to other states and their educational environments?

***Cultivating Resiliency & Protective Factors in “At-Risk” Youth.***

Presenter(s): Kevin M. Whelley, MS, C.A.G.S.- Program Director, YMCA & Board of Directors, NEPA Pride Coalition.

**Brief Summary:**

Through this presentation we will examine many of the current challenges and risk factors that face the youth today, especially in the post-COVID-19 era, and how these challenges provide our “at-risk” youth with an increased likelihood of developing a mental health-related disorder and/or a substance use disorder at this time.

Additionally, during this presentation we will pay special attention to the challenges and risk factors that our youth within the LGBTQIA+ community are currently facing, and how the youth within this community are at an increased risk of developing a mental health-related disorder, a substance use disorder and/or ending their life by suicide. Finally, and most importantly through this presentation, we will discuss how we (*as individuals, community members, and professionals*) can work to cultivate and enhance both resiliency and protective factors in our youth so that they can have an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills to better manage their mental and emotional well-being and have an increased ability to manage the challenges and risk factors they will continue to face in the coming years.

***Nutrition Insecurity: Impacts on Youth in NEPA.***

Presenter(s): Meghan Lennox Gagorik, Division Director- American Heart Association.

**Brief Summary:**

Nutrition security means getting enough healthy food consistently. Food insecurity disproportionately impacts NEPA's under-resourced communities, and it is estimated that about 1 in 10 households experience it. The results can be devastating, with increased risk of:

- Obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and some types of cancer;
- Trouble in school for children and teens;
- Increased stress and poor mental health.

Many existing policies and programs focus on improving access to enough food. However, there is growing consensus that the focus should instead be on the broader concept of improving nutrition security, which includes having equitable and stable availability, access, affordability, and use of foods and beverages that promote well-being and prevent and treat disease. There are opportunities for making an impact in any setting including clinical sites, health systems, community locations, and more.

Good nutrition is at the core of good health. The American Heart Association believes in the right to healthy food for all people to live their best lives. Nutrition security is our priority. Let's build a future of healthy eating. You can help us improve access to nutritious food for all of our area's youth.