

# Reclaiming Youth Seminars Conference Schedule

Augustana University, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, July 20-22, 2023

## Thursday, July 20

7:30AM Registration Opens [Outside of Froiland Science Complex Auditorium, FSC113]  
*Breakfast is on your own before the 8:30 AM start time.*

8:30AM Reclaiming Youth Conference Begins

8:30-10:00 Community Session [Froiland Science Complex, FSC113]

### **Tanya Yahi!**

*Martin Brokenleg, EdD, Professor Emeritus, Victoria, British Columbia*

Tanya Yahi! It is good you came. Martin Brokenleg welcomes us to the traditional lands of the Oceti Sakowin. He will encourage us to know one another as we enter the Circle of Reclaiming Youth.

### **The Bridgemakers: Youth Leading Change**

*Larry Brendtro, PhD, Director, Resilience Resources, Lennox, South Dakota*

*Jon Bacal, Lead Coach, Bridgemakers, Minneapolis, Minnesota, with Bridgemakers staff:*

*Jose Perez, Julian Spencer, Cole Stevens, and Talia Moreno*

Bridgemakers is a Twin Cities nonprofit created and led by youth with justice system experience. These inspiring young people share their experiences creating innovation, democracy, and hope. They are partnering with adults to change their lives, schools, and communities by embracing these restorative Circle of Courage goals:

Belonging—Including all as valued persons in a community of support.

Mastery—Building strengths by using problems as learning opportunities.

Independence—Empowering youth to build positive futures for self and others.

Generosity—Contributing to others as the foundation for a purpose to life.

10:00-10:30 Refreshment Break

10:30-12:00 Workshops

### **The Circle of Courage and Ethical Decision Making**

*Celeste Uthe-Burow, EdD, Assistant Professor, Augustana University, Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

This presentation explores the relationship between the values of the Circle of Courage and the powerful part it provides when working through ethical dilemmas. Participants of the session will review the alignment of ethical virtues and the values of the Circle of Courage with an emphasis on how the wisdom of the circle provides guidance, support, and a focus on wellness for all individuals when dealing with difficult situations.

## **Dive in Together! The CLEAR Support Planning Process**

*Vikki Hennard, PhD, Regis University, Denver, Colorado*

The traditional approach to understanding the needs of children whose behavior impacts their experience is to measure and track behavior, and manipulate variables to promote altered responses. Function-based assessment, a toe-dip in the complex world of the youth in our care, lacks a complete picture, at times falling short of getting at the deeper attitudes that influence how these individuals move in the world. In this session, participants will learn about the CLEAR Support Planning Process, a collaborative approach to taking a deeper dive into the experiences and circumstances that influence how a youth views himself, the world, and others.

12:00-1:00<sup>PM</sup> Lunch

1:00-2:30 Workshops

### **Leaving an Imprint: One Adult, One Student, One Family at a Time...Leading to Systemic Change**

*Susan Jones, MSED, Broome-Tioga BOCES (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services), Binghamton, New York*

This session will provide a shared learning experience on how the belief and embodiment of the Circle of Courage lead this teacher to transform outcomes for students and their families. Topics include trauma and impact on development, social emotional learning, and restorative practices in action, the value of in person home connection, understanding of our role in the conflict cycle, community collaboration, and professional reflection.

### **Fostering Mental Health with the Circle of Courage**

*Tamara Lunday, EdD, Student Health Clinic & Counseling Services Director, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota*

The Circle of Courage develops resilience and well-being in students which impacts academic performance and life success. Recent years have seen an increased need for mental health services, but not all students are receiving these supports. Emotional health and self-esteem increase when students feel successful in school. The Circle of Courage provides opportunities to promote student growth and build climates of respect. The presenter draws on extensive experience and research with Native American students and will discuss implementing the Circle of Courage model in schools.

2:30-3:00 Refreshment Break

3:00-4:30 Workshops

### **Building Relationships with Families**

*Stacy Kelsey, MA, Brainworks Pediatric Group, St. Peters, Missouri*

In this presentation, I will share my experiences of building relationships with families of complex students. Often times when children struggle, parents need just as much support as the students. The building of trust and safety within the family unit and fostering the home/school relationship can do wonders for students' educational outcomes. This presentation will provide personal experiences as well as strategies to use in your educational setting.

## **Reclaiming Youth at Risk: An Australian Education Perspective**

*Sheona Motroni, educator and RYAR and RAP trainer, Western Australia*

*Co-facilitators: Leisel O'Keefe and Cameron MacBride*

This breakout session explores over a decade of applying Reclaiming Youth at Risk and Response Abilities Pathways training principles and practices in the Australian education context. The workshop provides a two-way learning opportunity to explore culturally responsive, restorative ways of working across systems to provide targeted and intensive supports for schools.

4:30-6:00 Reception at the Augustana Center of Western Studies [Center for Western Studies]

*Meet other participants and explore the rich collection of Native American and other artifacts from the peoples who populated the Great Plains. Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be provided.*

## **Friday, July 21**

8:30-10:00AM Community Session [Froiland Science Complex, FSC113]

### **Lessons Learned: Pebble Teaching**

*Steve Van Bockern, EdD, Director, Schools That Matter, Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

The Circle of Courage expresses our shared human needs that transcend time and cultures. Humans need to be loved (belonging) and somehow share that love (generosity). We need ownership of our lives (independence) and to express that in our competence (mastery). When our human needs are unmet, the Circle is broken, and we hurt. And as the saying goes, "Hurt people, hurt people". When the Circle is unbroken, we thrive. The Circle, broken or not, is lived in our experiences and the stories we tell. Steve shares stories that have acted as pebbles tossed into a quiet pool of water - no telling where the ripples will go—that have informed his work with youth and schools.

### **Systemic Circles: Partnership with Marginalized Youth**

*Arlene Kee, MA, Education Authority, Belfast, Northern Ireland*

The presenter provides leadership in The Education Authority which includes thousands of professionals and volunteers serving in schools and youth development programs across Northern Ireland. Aspiring young professionals are trained in the Circle of Courage and Positive Peer Culture principles. They, in turn, reach out to vulnerable youth who are at risk of involvement in antisocial behavior. A particularly challenging problem is the resurgence of paramilitary gangs which are vestiges of the earlier era of the "troubles" in Northern Ireland. Arlene describes "Systemic Circles" that create a culture of change by giving young people a voice in their own lives.

### **Resilience and Reconciliation**

*JR LaPlante, Associate Vice President, Wokini Initiative, SDSU, Brookings, South Dakota*

A member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, LaPlante has had a rich career in building resilience and reconciliation. He has been a faith-based youth worker, tribal judge, and the first South Dakota State Secretary of Tribal Relations.

10:00-10:30 Refreshment Break

10:30-12:00 Workshops

**Creating (Balancing) Safety and Adventure**

*Steve Van Bockern, EdD, Director, Schools That Matter, Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

This workshop will explore how we can help children experience their biosocial drives for both safety and adventure. Focused on school safety and adventure from his book *Schools That Matter: Teaching the Mind, Reaching the Heart* (2018), Dr. Van Bockern offers ideas and strategies that balance these seemingly competing needs.

**The Art of Kid Whispering**

*Mark Freado, MA, Director, Growing Edge Training, Westerville, Ohio*

Problem behaviors are often the focus of intervention instead of being recognized as expressions of inner pain and distress. This presentation by the co-author of *Kid Whispering* provides pathways to discovering the private logic and goals of the inside kid. Understanding the private logic of a young person helps caregivers decode troubling behaviors and begin to replace hostile, resistant encounters with respectful bonds.

12:00-1:00<sup>PM</sup> Lunch

1:00-2:30 Workshops

**Systemic Circles**

*Arlene Kee, MA, Education Authority, Belfast, Northern Ireland*

A whole system approach to facilitating a culture of change within an organisation with people and in practice with children and young people. This workshop is for individuals who want to lead transformation in policy, practice and partnership with young people at its core.

**Creating Cultures of Respect**

*Larry Brendtro, PhD, Director, Resilience Resources, Lennox, South Dakota*

*Beate Kreisle, MA, Jugend-Kolleg am See, Moos, Germany*

Negative peer influence fuels conflict and trauma but typical discipline fails to build climates of respect. Positive Peer Culture engages youth in prosocial helping roles to foster social and emotional learning.

2:30-3:00 Refreshment Break

3:00-4:30 Workshops

**Healing Our Circles**

*Anna Brokenleg, MAEd, Speaker, Reclaiming Youth at Risk, and Chairperson, Office of Native Education Sioux Falls Public Schools, Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

Healing our Circles will explore the topics of trauma and resilience as they apply to staff members with a focus on supporting everyone in our educational settings. This session will focus on strategies and considerations for creating supportive staff environments through the use of the Circle of Courage model.

**Planning Restorative Outcomes**

*Mark Freado, MA, Director, Growing Edge Training, Westerville, Ohio*

At age 17, Jenard Sharp of Detroit, Michigan, was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Reclaiming Youth gave the court a strength-based assessment using Planning Restorative Outcomes (PRO). After 28 years in prison, Jenard was paroled in April 2022. Mark Freado shares his story and the role of Planning Restorative Outcomes.

## Saturday, July 22

8:30-10:00<sup>AM</sup> Community Session

[Froiland Science Complex, FSC113]

### **The Circle of Courage as Redemption**

*Fred Tully, MSW, former Director of The Black Hills Children's Home, Rapid City, South Dakota*

The presenter shares stories of how people who have experienced broken childhoods, dysfunction, and hopelessness are transformed from having "victim" mindsets into living positive lives serving others.

### **To Treat or To Accompany?**

*Howard Bath, PhD, Senior Consultant, Allambi Care, New South Wales, Australia*

Many of us have heard the adage that the trauma perspective changes the question from, "What is wrong with you?" to "What has happened to you?" In this session, Howard will explore an emerging perspective on developmental trauma that looks beyond what has happened to explore the "relational context" of what happened. The emerging research strongly suggests that it is the level and nature of "relational support" that someone receives around the time of the "wounding" that determines whether or not such adversity becomes embedded as trauma—and further, that ongoing relational support and accompaniment is the critical element in the healing process. So the question is not just, "What has happened to you?" but also, "Who was with you?" and, importantly, "Who is with you now?"

10:00-10:30 Refreshment Break

10:30-12:00 Workshops

### **Movement in the Classroom: Utilizing Movement to Teach the Whole Child**

*Nick Jackson, MA, Instructor of Education, Augustana University, Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

This session will provide an overview of and rationale for implementing a curriculum that integrates embodied learning, or learning that involves the entire body, mind, and spirit. We will explore integrating movement and physical activity into the K-8 classroom and how this connects to the Circle of Courage - particularly the spirit of belonging. We will consider how to integrate movement into core content lessons (mathematics, science, social studies, ELA), socioemotional and character development, relationship building, cultural and self-awareness, classroom culture, and discipline, all with the intention of enhancing learning, promoting student engagement, and increasing overall wellness.

### **What I Wish I Knew Then - A Reflection on 45 Years of Caring for Vulnerable Children and Youth**

*Howard Bath, PhD, Senior Consultant, Allambi Care, New South Wales, Australia*

In this session we will explore some research and thinking about what really matters in child and youth care practice and how emerging research both challenges and affirms the 'received wisdom' in our field. The session will explore and contrast the priorities of the past practice with emerging thinking about the role of safety, the place of connections, and the management of challenging behaviours.

12:00-1:00<sup>PM</sup> Lunch

1:00-3:00

Community Session and Opening of the Circle [Froiland Science Complex, FSC113]

**Indigenous Wisdom: Re-RIGHTING History**

*Larry Brendtro*

Native people have always had the knowledge and skills necessary to survive in good times and bad. All societies need this ancient knowledge now more than ever. Previewing a forthcoming book by Martin Brokenleg and Larry Brendtro, this session highlights emerging research on how humans flourished for hundreds of thousands of years, not by “survival of the fittest” but by caring for one another. By reclaiming Indigenous wisdom, we can transform cultures of conflict into cultures of respect--for one another and our endangered world.

**Why Your Work Matters**

*Martin Brokenleg, EdD, Professor Emeritus, Victoria, British Columbia*

As we near the end of these seminars, Martin Brokneleg will review why your work is necessary and will continue to be. Seeing your value as a youth worker can motivate you in your work ahead.