

# *Thirty-first Annual IUN Forum on Child Abuse & Neglect*

## *Partnering for the Power of Prevention*

April 9, 2021 – April 30, 2021

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The 2021 IUN Forum has gone virtual, again. This year we will offer morning webinars on four Fridays in April beginning on April 9. **All sessions will begin at 9:00 AM Central time.**

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### **April 9, 2021 -- Opening Plenary Webinar**

#### **9:00 – 9:30 (Central) -- Welcome / Introductions / Guest Presentations**

Welcome -- IUN Chancellor **Ken Iwama**

Special Guests -- **Sharon Pierce**, President & CEO, The Villages / Prevent Child Abuse Indiana  
**Sarah Sailors**, Deputy Director – Field Operations, Indiana DCS

#### **9:30 – 11:00 - Keynote Address / Q&A -- *ACE's, OK, What Now?***

**Stacey Gagnon**, Trainer, Speaker, and Director, *Trauma Lens Care*

Leaders from both the Indiana Department of Child Services and **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana will once again join us to report on major child and family initiatives currently underway in the state. Indiana recently joined a national initiative, *Thriving Families, Safer Children: A National Commitment to Well-Being*, which is focused on a complete re-envisioning of the child welfare system. Another effort, Indiana's *Strategic Framework for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect*, involves an attempt in a series of pilot communities across the state to identify at the local level, some of the elements that would make up the new child well-being system.

In the keynote address, *ACE's, OK, What Now?* Stacey Gagnon, nationally known speaker, trainer, and co-founder of *Trauma Lens Care*, answers the question posed in the title of her presentation. What happens after we have learned about adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) and determined that the person in front of us has experienced numerous ACE's. How do we carry out the recommended trauma-informed approach? How do we take the science of ACE's and translate it into action in support of those with high numbers of ACE's.

Stacey Gagnon is a foster mom, adoptive mom, blogger, educator, published children's book author, registered nurse, and international speaker. She is creator and Director of *Trauma Lens Care* <https://traumalenscare.org/> where she provides training on trauma-informed practices, substance abuse, and ACE's in schools, jails, and public forums. Trauma Lens Care was created as a way for first responders to communicate with schools when families are involved with the police.

April 9 – Opening Plenary / Stacey Gagnon  
April 16 – Fatherhood / Kyle Pruett

April 23 – LGBTQ+ / Lukich and Watts  
April 30 – Closing Plenary / Melissa Merrick

**Register for the Opening Session and ALL OTHER SESSIONS in the 2021 IUN forum by clicking here:**

[https://iu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_LLXpj3GqQhK1SiH1K5E5jg](https://iu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LLXpj3GqQhK1SiH1K5E5jg)

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.**

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**Program Notes**  
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Preventing trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) – creating conditions so that they never happen -- is powerful and transformational for families and communities. This year's forum focuses on some of the partnerships that are needed to make it happen. The opening and closing sessions will describe national (*Thriving Families, Safer Children*) and state (Strategic Framework for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) partnership efforts that are currently underway with the goal of strengthening families and reimagining child well-being systems. Both of these initiatives have strong parent involvement in decision-making built in. Prevention professionals know that parents are the most important partners to have on board.

Also, in the spirit of partnership, the IUN Forum planning committee is working closely with **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana (PCAIN) on two sessions this year and is encouraging our regular attendees to participate in the PCAIN / DCS Child Abuse Prevention Kickoff events on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Joint events with PCAIN include a session on Fatherhood with an internationally known specialist on the topic, Dr. Kyle Pruett (who touts parenting partnerships) and a webinar on LGBTQ+ issues featuring a partnership of two state experts, one from central Indiana, Jillian ("Jay") Watts, and our own region's long-time forum favorite, Natalie Lukich.

While we are all partnering to eliminate ACE's in the future, we also realize that ACE's are here and must be dealt with in the present time. Today's child abuse prevention advocates always pair "going upstream" to prevent problems with a strong commitment to providing trauma-informed care to those who need it. Stacey Gagnon's opening session keynote address, *ACE's, OK, What Now*, will help us learn about how to fulfill this part of the field's commitment.

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**2021 IUN Forum Webinar Workshop**

**April 16, 2021 (9:00 – 10:30 AM – Central)**

**Can Engaging Fathers Improve Child Outcomes or Not?**

**Kyle Pruett, MD**

*Clinical Professor of Child Psychiatry,  
Child Study Center, Yale University School of Medicine*

In this session, presented in partnership with **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana, Dr. Kyle Pruett reports on his years of study focused on whether or not engaging fathers improves outcomes for children. With his wife Marsha Kline Pruett, a Clinical/Community Psychologist, he is creator of the on-going award-winning 9-year, 900+ family, multi-site/ethnic child abuse and neglect prevention study, ‘Supporting Fatherhood Initiative’ for California’s Department of Social Service, Office of Child Abuse Prevention. The session builds on Dr. Pruett’s lifetime of research and publishing on child development, parenting, and partnership parenting and his dedication to sharing his insights in meaningful ways.

Dr. Kyle Pruett is an internationally known child psychiatrist, a highly sought-after speaker and expert on children, family relationships, and fathers. He is the author of numerous books including the classics, *The Nurturing Father*, *Fatherneed*, and *Me, Myself and I: How Children Build their Sense of Self: 18-36 Months*. A former president of Zero to Three: The National Center for Infants Toddlers and their Families, Dr. Pruett is an award-winning clinician and the author of 90 original scientific articles. He is a frequent guest on radio and television programs and served as a co-host with Oprah Winfrey on her award-winning video for new parents, *Begin With Love*.

<http://kylepruettd.com/>

**To register for this session, see the single link on the first or last page of this flyer and choose “April 16”**

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**2021 IUN Forum Webinar Workshop**

**April 23, 2021 (9:00 – 10:30 AM – Central)**

**Creating LGBTQ+ Affirming and Empowering Child Welfare Spaces**

**Natalie Lukich, LMHC**

*LGBTQ Program Coordinator, Crown Counseling Services*

**Jay Watts (She / They)**

*Vice President of Equity and Impact*

*National Domestic Violence Hotline*

*President, Diversifirm Group, LLC*

In this session, presented in partnership with Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, two LGBTQ+ experts join together to present a detailed review of ways to affirm and empower LGBTQ youth in the child welfare system. Research suggests that LGBTQ youth in Indiana, and in the country generally, are more likely to wind up in the child welfare system, more likely to be homeless, and more likely to be bullied in school than other youth. The presenters will detail this research and address the difficulties faced by LGBTQ youth including the special challenges faced by LGBTQ youths of color. The session will conclude with a panel discussion with LGBTQ youth.

Jay Watts (She/They) is an Affrilachian Queer Sexuality & Diversity scholar and the new Vice President of Equity and Impact for the National Domestic Violence Hotline. She has a Bachelors degree in Social Studies Education from the University of Louisville; Masters of Art in Human Services: Student Personnel Services in Higher Education from Eastern Kentucky University; Master of Education in Cultural Foundations of Education; and is in the process of completing a PhD in Mental Health with a focus in Race, Sexuality & Healing from Walden University. They have over a decade in the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion field with experience in working with numerous K-12 school districts, higher education institutions, and National Conferences amounting to over 60,000 touchpoints in training. Her research and writing can be found in the *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*; *Encyclopedia of Social Justice & Diversity*; *Journal of Social Research*; and *ScholarWorks*. She is a mother, a board member for the Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana, a community advocate specializing in interpersonal violence prevention and healing, President/CEO of DiversiFirm Group, LLC., and a consultant for faith and political leaders.

Natalie Lukich, LMHC is LGBTQ Program Coordinator, Therapist, and Supervisor of Resource Family Support Services for Crown Counseling. A graduate of Purdue University Northwest with degrees in Sociology (BA) and Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MS), her theoretical base for therapy is Cognitive Behavioral, but she also utilizes Expressive Arts, for which she holds certification, and other methods in her practice. She is founder and co-facilitator of an affirming support group, Pride Initiative, which provides support and education for the families, friends, and allies of the LGBTQ community. She also provides training on LGBTQ+ issues for DCS workers, foster and adoptive resource parents, and social service providers.

**To register for this session, see the single link on the first or last page of this flyer and choose "April 23"**

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**April 30, 2021 (9:00 – 10:30 AM – Central)**  
**Closing Keynote: Growing a Better Tomorrow for All Children**  
**Melissa T. Merrick, PhD**  
*President and CEO, Prevent Child Abuse America*

Among other things, this session will provide a description of the thinking behind the *Thriving Families, Safer Children* initiative, a ground-breaking effort led by the US Children's Bureau, **Prevent Child Abuse America**, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Casey Family Programs. The premise of the initiative is that the child welfare system needs to be transformed into a child and family well-being system. Using a community garden metaphor, Dr. Merrick will urge her listeners to join the movement to help positive childhood experiences take root for all children. Her presentation will challenge individuals, organizations, and communities to proactively create the conditions and contexts for strong families and communities across the country.

*Melissa T. Merrick is President and CEO of **Prevent Child Abuse America**. Prior to this position she served as a senior epidemiologist at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC in Atlanta. She is recognized as one of the country's foremost experts on adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) and is one of the principal architects of the *Thriving Families, Safer Children* initiative. <https://preventchildabuse.org/team/melissa-merrick/>*

**Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA)**, founded in 1972, is the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect. Through its nationwide network of state and local chapters and nearly 600 Healthy Families America home visiting programs, the organization provides services and resources that improve child health and well-being. PCA's basic message is:  
*Together we can prevent child abuse, America...because childhood lasts a lifetime.*

**To register for this session, see the single link on the first or last page of this flyer and choose "April 30"**

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### **Registration / CEU's / Certificates of Participation**

All registrations will be handled through Zoom using the single link on page one (and repeated below). Social Work CEU credits for the events are as follows:

- April 9 -- Opening Plenary session -- 2 units
- April 16 – Fatherhood / Kyle Pruett -- 1.5 units
- April 23 – LGBTQ+ / Watts and Lukich – 1.5 units
- April 30 – Closing Keynote / Melissa Merrick – 1.5 units

Access to the CEU certificates and Certificates of Participation will be granted through a link in the chat box at the end of the event. Session moderators will provide detailed instructions on getting the certificates at the beginning and end of each session.

Some sessions may be recorded and made available for review later. CEU credit CANNOT, however, be granted for viewing a recorded session. For further information about CEU's please contact Elena Mrozinske at [emrozins@iun.edu](mailto:emrozins@iun.edu). For problems with printing certificates contact Chitona at The Villages -- (219) 762-3465.

**Register for ANY one or ALL of the sessions in the 2021 IUN forum by clicking here:**

[https://iu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_LLXpj3GqQhK1SiH1K5E5jg](https://iu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LLXpj3GqQhK1SiH1K5E5jg)

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