

The Campus School at Boston College

Presents a Virtual Conference for Families and Professionals:

Parenting, Communication and Emotions: Perspectives on Our Children with Extensive Support and Medical Needs

Saturday, November 5, 2022

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

RSVP FOR LINK & SEND QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL DISCUSSION:

Karalyn Hardiman, Campus School Social Worker: kmh94@bc.edu

INTRODUCTION:

Dean Stanton Wortham, Ph.D.

9:00 - 9:05 AM



Dean Wortham is an award-winning teacher, scholar, and documentary film producer, Stanton E. F. Wortham, Ph.D., is the Lynch School's inaugural Charles F. Donovan, S.J., Dean. A linguistic anthropologist and educational ethnographer with a particular expertise in how identities develop in human interactions, Wortham has conducted research spanning education, anthropology, linguistics, psychology, sociology, and philosophy. He is the author or editor of nine books and more than 80 articles and chapters that cover a range of topics including linguistic anthropology, discourse analysis, "learning identity," and education in the new Latino diaspora.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

**The Emotions of Inclusion: Supporting
Our Children and Families to Belong**

9:05 - 9:45 AM

If the signals around us tell us we don't belong here, we won't learn here. In this talk, Dr. Cipriano will discuss the pivotal role of emotion science in supporting our children, families, and school community to thrive, sharing insights from her research advancing social and emotional learning (SEL) access and outcomes for students with disabilities and her personal experiences as a mother of a student at the Campus School with a rare regressive disease.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Christina Cipriano, Ph.D.



Christina Cipriano, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at the Yale Child Study Center and Director of Research at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence (YCEI) at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Cipriano's research focuses on the systematic examination of social and emotional learning (SEL) assessment and intervention for marginalized student and teacher populations. Chris received her Ph.D. in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College and her Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Chris is a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar and the mother of four beautiful children who inspire her each day to take the moon and make it shine for everyone. Learn more @drchriscip

Promoting Communication Development through Literacy Activities

9:50 - 10:30 AM

Literacy activities support communication and language development. This presentation will address how literacy activities that reflect shared emotions and experiences can be created and implemented in the home. Participants will learn how to create and implement (1) story boxes (2) experience books, and (3) shared reading.



PRESENTER:

Susan M. Bruce, Ph.D.

Susan Bruce, Ph.D., is a professor of special education at Boston College. She coordinates the Masters Degree Programs in Special Education: Extensive Support Needs and Global Perspectives: Teaching, Curriculum, and Learning Environments. Susan's research interests are the development of communication and early language in learners with multiple disabilities, assessment, and collaborative action research. She is the mother of four adult children, including a daughter with multiple disabilities.

Parents of Children with Medical Complexity and Traumatic Stress

10:35 - 11:15 AM

Children and young adults living with medical complexity live with serious chronic conditions, significant functional limitations, and the support of technologies and equipment. Their parents can face caregiver burdens, advocating for their child's essential healthcare needs, coordinating services, and the possibility of facing their child's limited lifespan. Parents often experience psychological distress in the form of anxiety and depression; chronic and traumatic stress; increased rates of health problems; and the possibility of complicated and traumatic grief. The purpose of this talk is to highlight the population of parents as long-term caregivers who sometimes experience significant psychological distress and trauma; to offer guidance to parents about how to navigate 'the system' and care for their own physical and mental health; and to describe our own leadership experiences within the hospital setting to improve care for parents and families.

PRESENTERS:

Sandra Clancy, Ph.D



Sandra was Program Manager and Patient Advocate in the Coordinated Care Clinic (CCC) and Supportive and Palliative Care Service at MassGeneral for Children (MGfC) for 15 years. Before that, she was teaching at a university when her then 5 year old son was diagnosed with a rare and always fatal blood disease. After his death she helped to found the CCC and has worked at the hospital since. Currently, she is overseeing a grant-funded project in which these two services more closely collaborate. She is part of a research team in the MGHfC Center for Child and Adolescent Health Policy Research, Chair of the hospital's Patient and Family Advisory Council, co-authored several academic articles, served

as Chair of the Professional Advisory Board of The Courageous Parents Network, a non-profit dedicated to supporting parents of children with life-limiting illnesses and is an active member of Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Research Network.

Justine Dellaria, LICSW



Justine holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Boston College, worked at Boston Medical Center and continued her career working for Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). In her role with the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Justine spearheaded a reorganization of the multidisciplinary response to a child passing, focusing on the coordination of care and resources provided to families. Continuing at MGH, Justine worked on the Pediatric Palliative Care Team and then transitioned to the Child Protection Program, providing expert consultation to staff around concerns of child maltreatment. Justine has been recognized as a Clinical Scholar at MGH and has extensive experience working with

families in crisis and coping with the emotional and social impact of illness. Justine currently teaches a medical social work course at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work and has a private practice in the community.

PANEL DISCUSSION MODERATOR:

Associate Dean Teresa Schirmer, LICSW

11:20 AM - 12:00 PM



Teresa Touhey Schirmer is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker who has over 25 years of experience working with adolescents, adults and families. Throughout her career, she has worked with individuals who have struggled with addiction and major mental health issues. Teresa has a private therapy practice where she primarily focuses on Depression, Anxiety and Autism Spectrum Disorder through a strengths based, and resilience focused approach. She has been an outspoken advocate and speaker for evidenced based interventions for children in school settings particularly those who have Dyslexia and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Teresa is the Associate Dean of Student

Experience at the Boston College School of Social Work, and she has taught a number of courses at Boston College. Teresa earned her Bachelors of Arts from Boston College and her Masters in Social Work from Boston University.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Tom Miller



Tom Miller is the Interim Director of the Campus School. Previously, Tom was the Director of the Kevin O'Grady School at the Northshore Education Consortium and prior to that he was the Director of Infant and Toddler and School Age Services at Perkins School for the Blind. In addition to being the Interim Director, Tom is also an Adjunct Faculty member and Practicum Supervisor in the Lynch School of Education and Human Development at Boston College. Tom has presented nationally and internationally developing programs and advocating for specialized services for learners with low incidence conditions and their families.

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