Conference Agenda Summary

Over the 3 days there will be speakers/presenters from across the United States as well as several international representatives. Elizabeth Manley, Deputy Commissioner, NJ Children’s System of Care will be opening Plenary Speaker. She will be speaking on “Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health: The New Jersey Experience.”

There will be areas focused on clinical information for those who work in direct service. Workshops have been planned to focus on the use of the CANS Tools in treatment planning, trauma-informed care, strength-based work, integration with various evidence-based practices.

Also included in this year’s conference will be trainings on program management and supervisory skills building which include workshops for supporting staff development and managing overall programmatic effectiveness.

In addition, there will be workshop/trainings designed for system administrators which focus on the use of information collected with these tools to support system management, quality assurance and quality improvement.

Eric Bruns, Director, University of Washington Wraparound Evaluation & Research Team, will be the closing Plenary Speaker at this year’s conference. Dr. Bruns is also Co-Director, Washington State Children’s Mental Health Evidence Based Practice Institute; Associate Director, UW School Mental Health Assessment, Research, and Training (SMART) Center.
A Note from Ken McGill-
Senior Training Consultant Specialist
Rutgers University-UBHC-BRTI

The picture of me and Dr. Lyons brought back some amazing memories and experiences that I have had over the eight (8) years serving as the NJ Statewide CANS/IMDS Trainer.

Ken is pictured above with Dr. John Lyons May 21, 2008 at the IMDS SuperUser’s Training/Meeting held at the Mercer County Children’s Mobile Response & Stabilization Office in Hamilton.

A poignant recollection was my first CANS Conference I attended and presented back in 2007. The conference was held in Boston, Massachusetts (the year the Red Sox won the World Series). I recall seeing my very first ‘duck boat’ and meeting some remarkable people.

I presented on ‘Increasing Family Involvement with the Use of the IMDS/CANS Tools.’ I was incredibly nervous and feared no one would attend my session. It turned out that the attendees were very excited to learn about what New Jersey was doing, being one of the first states to develop/implement a statewide system of care with use of the CANS Tools and Wraparound.

From that point forward I knew that I was in the ‘right spot’ and felt a strong duty to learn as much as I could about how others (other trainers, agencies and states) were utilizing these communication tools. I was not really aware that many of people I would meet would develop from colleagues to valued and dear friends.

Over the next six (6) years I would attend and present (from 2010 through 2015) at CANS (TCOM) Conferences all over the country. Woven in these years, Dr. Lyons revisited New Jersey, but
more importantly mentored me in the process. I was extremely fortunate to also develop an extremely valued friendship as well with Dr. Lyons. In addition, I would meet and befriend many wonderful people over the years; Care Managers, Family Support Partners, Mobile Response Worker, Intensive In-Home Counselors.

My sharing this journey is two-fold, one to get you interested in attending the TCOM/CANS Conference this year and possibly presenting at future conferences. But also to let you know that it is more than just a conference, it is being a part of something larger than the sum of its parts...it is a mass collaboration, a share collaborative and a movement consisting of compassionate, intelligent and creative group of individuals spanning this ‘third rock from the sun’ attempting to improve the lives of children/youth and families, increasing effectiveness of systems and generally helping others to improve.

I will be attending and presenting at this year’s TCOM/CANS Conference along with Marg Cox, Executive Director-A Point in Time, Haliburton, Canada. The topic of our presentation is, "Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM): Incorporating the CANS Tool from a Therapist’s Perspective: Use of Technology in Developing Comprehensive Individual Service Planning and Coordination.

A Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, is a charitable, not-for-profit organization offering a wide range of supports and services to children, youth and families in Haliburton County. They offer most services at no charge to families and provide these services at their office locations, at a family’s home, at schools, in child care programs or at appropriate community locations.

I hope that I have encouraged you to register and attend this year’s TCOM/CANS Conference. It will be an exciting three (3) days in Princeton! Please let me know if you have any questions. See you in November! Be well,

Ken

Please email all comments & questions to Ken McGill at kenneth.mcgill@rutgers.edu

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