

***Benchmarks' Partnering for Excellence Conference***  
***August 17 through 18, 2017***  
***Meeting Agenda***

**Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

9am Registration  
9:30 Opening Remarks  
9:40 An Introduction to Benchmark's Partnering for Excellence  
10:10 Permanency through Kinship  
10:20 Break  
10:30 Keynote Presentation: Trauma and Recovery- Tonier Cain  
12:10 Lunch  
1:10 Regional Breakout Session  
1:40 Keynote Presentation: The Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics- Dr. Dawn O'Malley  
2:35 Break  
2:45 Breakout Session #1

- o Herding Cats: Using Collective Impact Principles to Improve Quality in Therapeutic Foster Care-the Alliance Approach: *Leslie Kellenberger, Kate Peterson, Jeannie King, & Rashel Lauret*
- o Theory and Practice of Recovery: *Delton Russell*

  
3:20 Breakout Session #2

- o Improving Access & Care for Trauma through Whole Person Integrated Care: *Martha Kauffman & Jennifer Greene*
- o Peer Support Specialists: Appreciating the Impact of Trauma & Influencing Recovery: *Allison Wolfe, Calvin Harvel, & Jeff Wisdom*

  
3:50 Break  
4:00 Partnering for Excellence: Initial Outcomes for Children Entering in the First 19 Months-  
*Drs. Katie Rosanbalm & Christina Christopolous*  
4:45 Creating an Environment of Self-Care- *Angelina Spencer & Meribeth Robinson*  
5:15 Closing Activity  
5:30 Dinner on your own  
7:00 *Resilience and following panel*



## **Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 Breakfast  
9:00 Welcome back  
9:05 Reunification after Trauma Informed Care  
9:15 Keynote Presentation: Parenting with Adverse Childhood Experiences- Cissy White  
10:10 Break  
10:25 System Breakouts: Departments of Social Services; Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organizations; Private Provider  
11:30 Lunch  
12:30 Regional Breakout Session  
12:50 Local Implementation Panel  
1:35 Break  
1:45 State Impact Panel  
2:45 Closing & Adjournment

---

## **Key-Note Speakers**



### ***Tonier Cain***

One thing you can call Tonier Cain: COMMITTED. During her 19-year commitment to crack cocaine she racked up 83 arrests with 66 convictions, lost custody of four children, and, when she wasn't locked up, she slept on a concrete slab under a bridge. Most friends, family and professionals she encountered thought she was a lost cause.

Determined to maintain custody of her fifth living child, Cain made a commitment to the judge that she would do the right thing if he would send her to a substance abuse program to get treatment for her addiction. He did and she did.

Since exiting T.A.M.A.R.'s Children (Trauma, Addiction, Mental Health, and Recovery) in 2005, the woman once so damaged and traumatized she prostituted herself for drugs, has become a nationally recognized inspirational speaker and trauma care expert that has traveled to every state, including Alaska and Hawaii, to train mental health professionals on how to better serve people like her. Cain travels to prisons committed to uplifting and inspiring inmates stuck in a debilitating cycle of despair caused by trauma. She has testified before Congress, lectured at Yale University and delivered a keynote speech at the United Nations. Tonier Cain defied the odds. [Read more about Tonier Cain Here.](#)



### ***Dawn O'Malley***

Dawn O'Malley, Psy.D. is the Clinical Director of Alexander Youth Network in Charlotte, NC. Alexander Youth Network is the largest non-profit provider of mental health services to children in North Carolina. She was raised in Concord, MA and received her undergraduate education at Bates College in Lewiston, ME. She received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Widener University in 1995. She is a Licensed Psychologist in the state of North Carolina.

Dr. O'Malley has over 20 years of experience working with traumatized children and their families. She has lead the implementation of trauma informed therapies for multiple agencies specializing in residential and community based treatment. She has also developed residential programming for sexually aggressive youth and adolescent girls. Dr. O'Malley is a frequent collaborator with additional public agencies including children's advocacy groups and social services

Dr. O'Malley is a Fellow of the Child Trauma Academy, a non-profit organization dedicated to researching and training on the effects of adverse experiences on the developing brain. Dr. Bruce Perry is the Founder and Senior Fellow of the Child Trauma Academy. Dr. Perry is internationally recognized as an expert in the fields of neurodevelopment and the impact of trauma on children. After consulting with Dr. O'Malley through Alexander Youth Network, Dr. Perry nominated her for Fellowship.



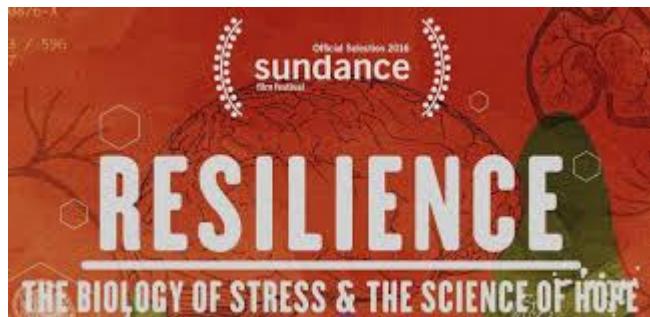
### ***Cissy White***

Christine Cissy is a writer, adoptive mother, health activist and manages the Parenting with ACEs Group on ACEs Connection where she also works as a Community Facilitator for the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Region.

She believes stories are important as statistics are equally important when inspiring and shaping person and social change. She founded Heal Write Now in 2014 hoping to create the survivor-led community she craved her whole life. She was published in The Boston Globe, Spirituality and Health, Ms. Magazine, To Write Love on Her Arms and the Elephant Journal. She's led Parenting with PTSD workshops for trauma survivors and treatment providers. Her survivor-led advocacy has been written about in the Atlantic, Huffington Post, and The Mighty. She believes trauma-informed programs and policies must be informed by trauma survivors.



## Resilience



[Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina](#) is sponsoring a special screening of the film [Resilience](#), an exploration into the developments of medical studies where conditions like heart disease can be linked to childhood experiences. [Watch film trailer here](#). The screening begins at 6:30 pm on Thursday, August 17th.

### Sponsored By



**Benchmarks' Partnering for Excellence** (PFE) is a model that seeks to improve the well-being of children and families in contact with the child welfare system and reduce the need for higher end behavioral services through a more **trauma-informed community, which can reduce in health expenditures**.

- Private providers become more trauma-informed through the use of evidence-based programs, which PFE helps bring to the community.
- MCOs become more trauma-informed in authorization and in policy and practices.
- DSSs and the broader community become more trauma-informed through the use of National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) trainings regarding trauma.

**PFE redesigns the local child welfare/behavioral health system**, changing the way DSSs, MCOs, local providers, and the wider community understand trauma and the need for accessible, appropriate mental health services for children, youth and families who have experienced potentially traumatic events. PFE aims to lead communities to an understanding of the importance of trauma-informed and trauma-responsive communities, to create a lasting change in the identification and treatment of trauma within the community.