RAISING OUR VOICES FOR GIRLS: BUILDING A MOVEMENT

This one day intensive training is designed for anyone interested in learning more and participating in a dialogue about the latest research trends, best practices and advocacy priorities for young women and girls in the juvenile justice system.

Leading the discussions will be Lawanda Ravoira, President and CEO, The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center. Other speakers include Roy W. Miller, President, Children’s Campaign; Linda Alexionok, Executive Director, Children’s Campaign; Vanessa Patino Lydia, Director of Research and Planning, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center.

8:30 - 9:15 am

A Bold New Direction: The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center

The bold vision and strategies of the newly launched Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center: The Voice for Girls will be unveiled. Grounded in the lived experiences of girls in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, The Center merges the power of political science and social science to bring about systemic reforms and to create a movement that is laser focused on ensuring that the voices of and for girls are not only heard but taken seriously.

Presenters: Lawanda Ravoira, President & CEO, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, Linda Alexionok, Executive Director, Children’s Campaign, Inc. and Roy W. Miller, President, Children’s Campaign, Inc.

9:15 -10:15 am

Getting the Facts Straight: A Look at the Latest Research Trends

Misconceptions abound regarding girls that are detained and incarcerated. A lack of understanding of what drives girls offending behaviors can compound an already volatile situation and lead to further negative consequences for girls in care. Rigorous research findings are critical to establishing policies and practices that will lead to the equitable treatment of girls. The latest research trends will be presented as a critical foundation for improving our response to girls and young women.

Presenters: Vanessa Patino Lydia, Director of Research and Planning, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center and Lawanda Ravoira, President & CEO

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FJJA
10:30 am - Noon

**Shared Power: Girls as Equal Partners**

Wilma Rudolph reminds us that we must “Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion, the potential for greatness lives within each of us.” What is your definition of power? How is power shared with girls and young women in a way to helps them reach their greatness? Learn to recognize the difference between power with versus power over. This workshop will challenge participants to think about their personal power and how power is used in a constructive or destructive way. We often talk about the need to empower girls and young women. Come ready to explore strategies and best practices in truly empowering girls and young women by “sharing power” and establishing policies and practices to create the opportunities for girls to be equal partners.

Presenters: Lawanda Ravoira, President & CEO, Delores Barr Weaver Policy.

1:15 - 4:00 pm

**Voices for Girls: The Movement**

In 2008, Children’s Campaign released the *Justice for Girls: Blueprint for Action* which called for comprehensive reform in how Florida responded to girls in the juvenile justice system. Endorsed by 125 stakeholders across the continuum of juvenile justice services, this Blueprint included the following fundamental rights for all girls:

*Girls have a fundamental right to:*

- Fair and equitable treatment
- Freedom from violence and exploitation
- Be valued and respected by those who interact with them
- Be able to trust the system
- A system advocate

Five years later, a review of the Blueprint underscores that there is much work to be done. Learn how you can be part of the Voices for Girls movement to ensure that these rights and bold reform initiative happen. This session is highly interactive and will include a conversation about the nuts and bolts of advocacy, active participation in “café dialogues” about the vision for girls, introduction of pivots/ turning points to move from being reactive to proactive in pursuit of a bold vision for girls, and an invitation to move forward together to strengthen our collective voices for girls and young women.

Presenters: Lawanda Ravoira, Roy Miller, Linda Alexionok, Vanessa Patino Lydia
DISCUSSION LEADERS

LAWANDA RAVOIRA
President & CEO, the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center

Dr. Lawanda Ravoira is a national expert, advocate, author, researcher and trainer on issues specific to justice-involved girls and young women.

She is the founding President & CEO of the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, the voice for girls. Launched in January 2013, the Policy Center provides cutting edge advocacy, research, training/technical assistance and direct services to bring about systemic reforms for girls and young women in or at risk of entering the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

The Policy Center is focused on giving a voice to girls and bringing about unprecedented systemic reform to make Duval County, Florida the model for the nation in addressing the disparate treatment of system-involved girls and young women. She previously served as the founding Director of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency’s (NCCD) Center for Girls and Young Women. The NCCD Center launched the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s National Girls Institute (NGI). NGI provides a range of training, technical assistance and resources to state, tribal, community and private organizations that serve at risk and delinquent girls.

Dr. Ravoira lead the development and implementation of this national resource. Dr. Ravoira is often invited to present testimony at U.S. Congressional hearing on justice-involved girls and related issues. Additionally, she is leading the Justice for Girls Campaign, a major reform effort in Florida for girls and young women in the juvenile justice system. Dr. Ravoira is the co-author of the State of Florida: Blueprint for Action (2009). She was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to serve as the Co-Chair and special advisory to the State of Florida Blueprint Commission.

In 2004, she authored and was successful in the passage of HB 1989 which amends the juvenile justice statutes and requires gender specific services to girls in the justice system. Florida became the second state in the nation to pass such groundbreaking legislation. She has authored the Girl Matters: Training of Trainers Curriculum© that is used as the cornerstone for teaching professional about the core building blocks for a gender responsive continuum of services.

She has co-authored the SAVVY Sister© curriculum which is a resource for professional to use in providing individual counseling, care management and psycho-educational groups for girls and young women in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. For over 13 years, Dr Ravoira served as the President & CEO of PACE Center for Girls, Inc.
ROY MILLER
President and Founder, The Children’s Campaign

He is a political strategist, lobbyist, media spokesman and commentator, and, more important, an unapologetic watchdog for children. Miller got his start in direct services to children then was engaged in a political consulting firm where he managed both candidate and issue campaigns. The Children’s Campaign was built on the knowledge and information acquired from both of those experiences. In 2005, Miller received the statewide Champions for Children award from the Early Childhood Association of Florida and his work was featured for the launch of the national website for PreK Now, a project of Pew Charitable Trusts. In 2006, Miller received the statewide Presidents Award from the Florida Network of Youth & Family Services, an award that has been bestowed only four times in the previous 30 years. In 2008, the statewide Youth Advocacy Award was presented to Miller by the Florida Juvenile Justice Association. Miller serves on the Membership Leadership Committee of Voices for America’s Children and is a member of the Partnership for America’s Economic Success advisory board.

LINDA ALEXIONOK
Executive Director, The Children’s Campaign

A former community banker, Linda Alexionok serves as the chief lobbyist for The Children’s Campaign, a statewide advocacy organization for children that is based in Tallahassee. She puts a business-focused imprint on public policy and legislation to improve the health and well-being of Florida’s children. Working closely with service providers, policy experts and lobbyist and corporate counsel, Linda projects a strong and ever-present voice to the Legislature and key stakeholders in advancing legislation and related appropriations for children’s programs and industry service providers. Linda’s combined business and public policy background has earned her credibility and respect among legislative leaders from both parties. She has guided efforts to secure bipartisan sponsors for legislation implementing high-quality pre-kindergarten programs in Florida, including support of degreed teachers in pre-K classrooms. Linda was a gubernatorial appointee and chair of the Florida School Readiness and Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend. She is a recipient of the Early Childhood Association of Florida’s 2007 Champion for Children and the 2010 Florida Family Child Care Home Association Advocate Hall of Fame. She has chaired or been a member of several state and local nonprofit boards and served as a community bank CEO from 1996-2000. She was recognized by the American Institute of Banking as “Banker of the Year.” Prior to her career in banking, Linda was a public school teacher.

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VANESSA PATINO LYDIA
Director of Research and Planning, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center

Vanessa Patino Lydia is a researcher, mother, and advocate. Her research interests focus on the juvenile justice system’s response to girls and minority youth, policy development, organizational assessment and capacity building. She is particularly interested in bridging the gap between research and practice. She is the Director of Research and Planning at the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center (the voice for girls). Launched in January 2013, the Policy Center provides cutting edge advocacy, research, training/technical assistance and direct services to bring about unprecedented systemic reform for girls and young women in or at risk of entering the juvenile justice and child welfare systems in Duval County, FL. Previously, Ms. Patino Lydia was a Senior Researcher at the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and led the research and development efforts of the NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women to affect systemic change for justice involved girls. She has over 10 years of research and project management experience including: Stanislaus County Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative evaluation (2011-present); National Girls Institute listening session research (2011-12); Girl Matters: Its Elementary evaluation (2010-present); PACE Center for Girls evaluability assessment (2008-10); Florida Rallying Cry for Change girls study (2005-06); Florida juvenile detention reform study (2005); Florida juvenile justice system cost benefit study (2004); and the Children of Incarcerated Parents process evaluation (2003). She has co-authored numerous publications on critical issues facing justice involved girls and developed evaluation and gender-responsive assessment tools. Ms. Patino has also worked at a Neighborhood Justice Center as a research assistant and in a local court system as a case manager for a juvenile diversion program. She received her Bachelor degree in Criminology and Master in Public Administration, specializing in juvenile justice policy from the Florida State University.