JOIN US TO HELP ADVANCE EQUITY IN YOUTH MENTORING
FEBRUARY 18/19, 2021 ON ZOOM
FEBRUARY 18, 2021

8:30 am – 9:00 am
Open Registration

9:00 am – 9:15 am
Welcome and Opening Remarks
Kelly Juleson-Scopino and Roland Harmon,
The Governor’s Prevention Partnership //
Nathalie Joseph, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

9:15 am – 10:00 am
Legislative Roundtable: The State of Mentoring in Connecticut

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm
Waterbury’s Youth Talk BACK!

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm
Stepping into Virtual Mentoring

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm
Unleashing the Power of Data:
Program Evaluation for Mentoring Providers

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Emerging Technology for Mentoring Programs

10:15 am – 10:30 am
Advancing Mentoring for Youth Awards

10:45 am – 12:15 pm
Building Youth Power Through Mentoring

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm
Lunch Break

Afternoon Breakout Sessions (Run Concurrently)

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm
Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity Diversity and Empowerment through Mentoring

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm
Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity Diversity and Empowerment through Mentoring

Learn More

Learn More

Learn More

Learn More

Learn More

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Learn More
FEBRUARY 19, 2021

8:30 am - 9:00 am
Open Registration

9:00 am - 9:15 am
Welcome to Day 2!
Roland Harmon, The Governor's Prevention Partnership

9:15 am - 10:45 am
Opportunities and Challenges: Mentoring Strategies to Advance Social Equity

Breakout Sessions (Run Concurrently)

11:00 am - 11:45 am
Mentoring Systems-Involved Youths: Where Do We Go From Here?

11:00 am - 11:45 am
Student 5.0 @ReadyCT: Using Problem-Solving Frameworks for Quality Improvement

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
Harnessing the Power of Everyday Mentoring

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
The V.E.T.T.S.” Program: Training Veterans as Mentors Using Urban Trauma Framework

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Closing Conversation: Moving Forward with Mentoring
Kelly Juleson-Scopino and Roland Harmon
The Governor’s Prevention Partnership
DAY 1 PLENARIES

February 18, 9:15 am – 10:00 am
Legislative Roundtable Discussion:
The State of Mentoring in Connecticut

Featured Legislators: The Hon. Brandon McGee, Connecticut State Representative, Hartford and founder of Ascend Mentoring //
The Hon. Pat Dillon, Connecticut State Representative, New Haven //
The Hon. Tony Hwang, Connecticut State Senator, Fairfield //
The Hon. Hilda Santiago, Connecticut State Representative, Meriden

Also Featuring: Shirley Ellis-West, Urban Community Alliance //
Jasmine Prezzle, Norwalk Mentoring Program //
Yakeita Robinson and Yvonne Temple, Phenomenal I Am, Inc.

February 18, 10:15 am - 10:30 am
Advancing Mentoring for Youth Awards

Award Recipients:
Excellence in Mentoring - Charlene Russell-Tucker, Connecticut State Department of Education
Mentoring Ambassador - Larry Selnick, Webster Bank (Retired)

Special Presentation By: David Shapiro, MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership

February 18, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm
Building Youth Power Through Mentoring

We live in unprecedented times; the pandemic, racial events of the past summer, and the economic downturn highlighted social inequities show up every day in our communities and affect the mental health and well-being of the youth we serve. This keynote presentation will be a lively dialogue on how mentoring can build youth power, culturally specific resources for young people to help them impact system change.

Speakers: Steve Vassor, Campaign for Black Male Achievement // Brian Sales, Transformative Training & Technical Assistance LLC

Also Featuring: Faith Villegas, Bridgeport Public Education Fund, Inc. //
Kyrinda Richardson, The Urban League of Greater Hartford //
Randi McCray, Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut //
Ellie Cuifalo, Klingberg Family Centers
DAY 1 SESSIONS

February 18, 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm (Session A)
Waterbury's Youth Talk BACK!

Presenter: Roslyn Sotero, Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership

In this workshop, educators, providers, families and youth will learn (1) the importance of creating spaces for youth of color to speak honestly and critically about their racialized experiences and (2) how to create equitable and effective spaces that leverage young people's lived experiences as a key strategy to enhance youth voice in racial equity and anti-racist work.

February 18, 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm (Session B)
Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Diversity and Empowerment through Mentoring

Presenters: Robin McHaelen, LGBTQ+ Leader and founder of True Colors, Inc. “Mentoring Our Youth’s Whole Self: Intersectionality Questions to Consider.”

Every human being is made up of multiple social identities: race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, abilities, etc. Within each human, there can be a mix of identities that have privilege as well as identities that are marginalized or oppressed. All of those identities matter; all of those identities impact people's experiences in the world. Although we will not have time in this brief session to focus on the nuances of intersectionality, we will explore an intersectionality tool that will help you think about and support your mentee's whole self.

John Mark Wiginton, Johns Hopkins University
“Leveraging mentorships to facilitate the sexual health of Black sexual and gender minority youth at risk for HIV.”

This presentation will explore the potential of mentoring relationships to promote HIV prevention among Black sexual and gender minority (SGM) youth. In-depth interviews with 37 Black SGM youth mentees and mentors in 3 Mid-Atlantic cities revealed sexual health discussions occurred in mentorships but could be facilitated more easily with support and resources. Mentors meet a crucial need for Black SGM youth, and a sexual health-focused mobile application could optimize HIV prevention efforts.
**February 18, 2:00 pm - 2:45 pm (Session C)**

**Stepping into Virtual Mentoring**

**Presenters: Susan Weinberger, The Mentor Consulting Group**

“Virtual Mentoring During the Pandemic: A Silver Lining”

This presentation will address how programs across the country have used the pandemic as a silver lining to meet in a hybrid fashion every week virtually using different platforms: zoom, face time, text, telephone. The advantage is that after the return to normal, we will be able to recruit more mentors who can alternate between in-person mentoring and virtual mentoring. The presentation will examine successful approaches and future implications.

**Aristede Hill, The Governor’s Prevention Partnership**

“Tools and Resources for Virtual Mentoring”

The applications for virtual mentoring can provide great opportunities for mentoring programs. From career exploration to virtual college visits, this opens a new world in mentoring. Both mentors and mentees can schedule time to work together and strengthen their relationship. It is a new world with a hybrid model that takes into consideration new activities, virtual schedule, and the possibility for a deeper connection! In this presentation, we will explore what are the tools to make this possible.

**Devin McCrorey, The Wellness Initiative**

“Innovations for Virtual Mentoring Program to Address Issues in the Black Community”

For the Black community, the year 2020 was marred with a series of multidimensional issues that require multi-faceted techniques to provide solutions. There are four issues discussed here: racism, mental health, physical health and political stability. Our mentor program strives to address each issue and provide specific strategies to confront and overcome them. The means by which we address the issues are as follows: Allowing mentees weekly engagement with local politicians; virtual health classes; virtual mindfulness classes; a curriculum that educates mentees on the causes, effects and solutions to systemic racism.
February 18, 2:00 pm - 2:45 pm (Session D)

Unleashing the Power of Data: Program Evaluation for Mentoring Providers

**Presenters:** Josephine Hawke, The Governor’s Prevention Partnership  
“Key Components of Program Evaluation”

Service providers often approach program evaluation with fear and interpretation. This presentation will be a simple straightforward discussion of key components of evaluation and quality assurance designed to empower mentoring programs to design quality assurance and program evaluations that strengthen their programs. We will tackle issues such as using administrative data for quality assurance and evaluation, measuring the mentoring relationship, and demonstrating effects on youth outcomes.

Ann McIntyre-Lahner, Action2Outcomes  
“Stop Spinning Your Wheels”

This presentation will provide a brief presentation about Results-Based Accountability, and its focus on outcomes. We will look at three types of performance measures, and how you can use them to stop spinning your wheels and start steering your program to success. This approach works to measure, manage, and market your mentoring program!

Damion Grasso, UConn Health  
“Mentoring Stories: A Qualitative Approach”

This presentation will describe how the use of pre- and post-surveys and qualitative stories to support the implementation and development of the Youth Excellence Project (YEP), a volunteer-run adventure and leadership program that strives to empower teen boys who have faced significant life challenges to build resilience, navigate life obstacles, and emerge as young adults committed to bettering society.
DAY 1 CLOSER

February 18, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Emerging Technology for Mentoring

Presenters: Harrison Haigood & Jeremy Astesano, MentorHub
“Streamlining Virtual Mentoring - a Live Demonstration”

The enormous potential of apps to bridge gaps in educational and mental health services has been hampered by low engagement, improper use, and high rates of non-completion. In fact, as many as three-quarters of users don’t complete the recommended number of app or online sessions once they start.

MentorHub consists of an app and integrated web dashboard that enable mentors and programs to track students’ use of the world’s best educational and mental health programs. It is a highly accessible, effective, and scalable way to address student well-being, performance, and persistence. Mentors take the time to listen to goals, help users make the most of apps, and provide the encouragement and accountability mentees need to achieve their goals.

Josh Carbajal, GEAR UP CT //
Nathan Lannan, The Governor’s Prevention Partnership
“Fun From a Distance: Utilizing Available Platforms to Bring Fun, Engaging, and Safe Activities during the Pandemic and Beyond”

With the pandemic continuing to keep young people apart from family and friends, mentors have never had more challenges keeping their matches engaged, while maintaining a safe and responsible environment. This presentation will showcase some of the available platforms for mentors and mentees to stay connected with fun activities. It will include information on the accessibility, inherent risks, and parental controls available across each discussed platform, so that mentoring programs can make informed decisions about which options they may want to introduce into their matches.
February 19, 9:00 am - 10:45 am
Welcome and Opening Remarks
Speaker: Roland Harmon, The Governor's Prevention Partnership

Opportunities & Challenges:
Mentoring Strategies to Advance Social Equity
Speakers: Jean Rhodes, University of Massachusetts, Boston //
Torie Weiston-Serdan, Youth Mentoring Action Network

The plenary will be lively dialogue between two leaders in the field of mentoring on opportunities and challenges to advance social equity through mentoring today's youth. Dr. Jean Rhodes is a leading mentoring expert, Director of the Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, and the author of the new book, “Older and Wiser: New Ideas for Youth Mentoring in the 21st Century.” Dr. Torie Weiston-Serdan is an emerging leader in the youth mentoring field, founder of the Youth Mentoring Action Network, and author of Critical Mentoring: A Practical Guide, a handbook for culturally sustaining programming and advocacy to work with diverse youth populations, i.e., Black, Latinx, LGBTQQ, first-generation college students and low-income youth.

Day 2 Sessions on Following Page...
DAY 2 SESSIONS

February 19, 11:00 am - 11:45 am (Session E)
Mentoring Systems-Involved Youth:
Where Do We Go From Here?

Presenter: Josephine Hawke, The Governor's Prevention Partnership
Featuring: Patricia Nicolari, Children's Community Programs //
Ron Huggins, City of New Haven Youth and Recreation Department //
Lyne Landry, Guilford Youth and Family Services //
Stephan Palmer, Youth on Fire

This presentation will be a dialogue between stakeholders who refer youth for mentoring and mentoring providers about strategies that programs can use to support mentoring for systems-involved youth in Connecticut. This will address the characteristics of youth who are served by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, as well as the skills and knowledge that mentors need to effectively engage youths, family engagement strategies, and emerging roles for mentoring.

February 19, 11:00 am - 11:45 am (Session F)
Student 5.0 @ReadyCT:
Using Problem-Solving Frameworks for Quality Improvement

Presenters: Tami Christopher, EdLD, Student 5.0 Program Manager
Aliyah Brogdon, Student 5.0 Peer Mentor Supervisor

Problem-solving frameworks can be used by program teams to identify challenges and to design, implement, and evaluate solutions during the program lifecycle. Continuous improvement practice encourages timely response to the shifting needs of participants in a rapidly changing world and should be used in conjunction with end-of-program evaluations. In this workshop, participants will learn a problem-solving framework and practice the strategy in small breakout groups on a relevant problem of practice.
**February 19, 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm (Session G)**

Harnessing the Power of Everyday Mentoring

**Presenters:** Michelle Thomas and Sophia Duck  
Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania

This workshop is designed to provide youth-serving adults with the tools they need to continue a successful, high quality relationship with the youth in their lives through experiential learning. This workshop will call attention to the importance of a strong youth-adult relationship and enhance the skills necessary to support a young person.

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**February 19, 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm (Session H)**

The V.E.T.T.S.™ Program: Training Veterans as Mentors Using Urban Trauma Framework

**Presenters:** Maysa Akbar, American Psychological Association // Anthony Stanley, Alexander Warden, Olivia Henderson, Jayden Thompson & Yonelix Thompson, Urban Community Alliance

V.E.T.T.S.™ matches honorably discharged veterans with at-risk/high risk youth. Our restorative framework advocates and promotes reconciliation, restoration, and rehabilitation between youth, their family and the community. Each V.E.T.T.S.™ mentor is trained on the Urban Trauma® framework. The Urban Trauma framework unpacks how people of color live in a state of crisis due to oppressive societal systems, resulting in feelings of anger, rage, and hopelessness.

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**DAY 2 CLOSER**

**February 19, 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm**

Closing Conversation, Moving Forward With Mentoring

**Speakers:** Kelly Juleson-Scopino & Roland Harmon, The Governor's Prevention Partnership