



CHILD WELFARE ACADEMY

## Resource Parent Conference

Registration is FREE

5 credit hours available (no CEUs provided)

Saturday, October 4th, 2025

9:00am-3:00pm EST

The Child Welfare Academy, Maryland Resource Parent Association, Maryland Department of Human Services, and your local Departments of Social Services invite Caregivers to our

## Fall Conference Agenda

[Click here to register](#)

### 9:00-9:15am: Welcome

- Laura Teetermoran, Child Welfare Academy
- Stefany Lang, Maryland Resource Parent Association
- Dr. Alger Studstill, Executive Director, SSA

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### 9:15-10:15am: Keynote: A Constellation of Caregivers – Understanding KinFirst in Maryland (Becky Rice – Director of Out of Home Services and Jillian Jasper, Out of Home Care Supervisor - SSA)

*This session will highlight how kin caregivers and non-kin resource parents form a vital network of support and healing. This presentation also recognizes the essential role of non-kin resource parents, who continue to provide safe, loving, and consistent care when kinship placements are not immediately available or appropriate. This training will deepen your understanding of how Maryland is reimagining care—family matters, with every caregiver shining as part of the constellation. Becky Rice, Director of Out of Home Services, Social Services Administration and Jillian Jasper, Resource Homes Specialist, SSA*

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### 10:15-10:30am: Break

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### 10:30am- Session 1 (choose one):

12:30pm:

- ✓ **Responding to Children in Crisis – (Carey Tompkins) (Meets Behavior)** - *This training will equip caregivers with strategies to help children become regulated while de-escalating crises and help children and families feel physically and psychologically safe. Caregivers will also understand the importance of partnering with other professionals and entities around a crisis (police, Department of Juvenile Justice, mental health professionals).*



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- ✓ **What to do If your Child Lies, Steals, or Hoards Food (Paths for Families) (Meets Behavior)** – *For parents to understand how to help make sense of their child's behaviors, it is essential to understand what is behind the behavior. When children behave in this way, it is an indication that they are not feeling emotionally safe because they are traumatized and in "blocked trust." This training will help parents make sense of lying, stealing, and hoarding and will provide strategies that will help their children develop healthier behaviors.*

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**12:30-1:00pm: Lunch Break**

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**1:00-3:00pm: Session 2 & Closing (choose one):**

- ✓ **Improving Communication with Your Teens (Paths for Families) (Meets Behavior)** – *Adolescence is a trying time for both teenagers and their families. While all teens struggle with issues related to identity formation, these concerns are often compounded for teens in foster care or who have been adopted. This interactive workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of typical vs. atypical teen development. Some difficult behaviors that might be encountered such as defiance, lying/stealing, and control battles will be explored, and parents will gain a better understanding of why their teens behave the way they do. Caregivers will learn skills to support their teens and establish a more peaceful and cooperative relationship.*
- ✓ **Anxiety from a Child's Perspective (Dr. Deidra Sorrell)** – *What is anxiety like from a child's perspective? What are the sneaky causes of childhood anxiety that might be frequently overlooked? From the pandemic to school violence to bullying, our children are facing so much. Because parents are extremely busy these days, they may often overlook the subtle signs of anxiety in children. If anxiety is not treated, it can lead to life-threatening situations including suicidal ideation and drug abuse. Caregivers will be educated on the definition of anxiety, the various types of anxiety, and how anxiety can be good in certain situations. This interactive workshop will help parents become empowered in creating a home that can help reduce anxiety and other mental health challenges in their children.*

**Resource Parent Conference registration is restricted to Maryland resource and kinship caregivers.**

Questions? please contact Laura Teetermoran, [lteetermoran@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:lteetermoran@ssw.umaryland.edu).