

Speakers for the 12th Annual / CARE Prevention Summit

January 22, 2025

Speaker: Carmen Jimenez-Pride, MSW, LCSW, LISW-CP, RPT-S, ICST

Brief Bio: Carmen Jimenez-Pride is the creative mind behind Focus on Feelings®, an emotional literacy program and products line, she is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Registered Play Therapist Supervisor, Certified AutPlay® Therapy Provider, Certified EMDR Therapist and Consultant, Registered Children’s Yoga Teacher and Certified Internal Family Systems Therapist, Clinical Consultant, and IFS Lead Trainer.

Carmen is a trauma therapist experienced in the clinical treatment of children, adolescents, and adults with culturally diverse backgrounds addressing a wide range of concerns. Carmen’s career in the mental health field spans more than 20 years. She is trained in Brain spotting and Adlerian Play Therapy.

Carmen is an international speaker, award-winning best-selling author, and business consultant. She is a visionary in the therapeutic community, working to create and develop a wide range of educational tools to assist the clinician, and the client to reach optimum goals. With a focus on cultural humility and cultural diversity, Carmen educates clinical professionals to address racial and cultural trauma within their clinical practices.

Carmen is currently serving on the South Carolina Association for Play Therapy board and the recipient of the 2021 Association for Play Therapy Emerging Leader Award. Carmen also serves as the Director of Multicultural Affairs with the International Sandtray Therapy Association. Carmen is the developer of Diversity in Play Therapy Inc. and the Diversity in Play Therapy Summit.

Topic/Title: “Looking Deeper Underneath the Presenting Problem: Practicing Cultural Humility in the Play Therapy Room” - **3.0 CE Hours**

Summary: This workshop will focus on bringing cultural humility into the therapy setting. The workshop will challenge all therapists and mental health professionals to examine their potential biases, assess how biases show up in their play therapy work, and how they impact the clients served.



Speaker: Korie Leigh, Ph.D., CCLS, CT

Brief Bio: With training as a child life specialist and thanatologist, Dr. Korie Leigh has over 20 years of experience working with children and families experiencing grief and loss. She's an associate professor and program director of the MS Thanatology program at Marian University and the author of the picture book, *What Does Grief Feel Like?*, and the teen book *It Won't Ever Be the Same*. Dr. Leigh speaks and presents at national and regional conferences on issues of grief, loss, and coping. She currently operates a private practice based in Santa Fe, NM and focuses on perinatal, pregnancy loss, sibling grief, and pediatric palliative care.

Topic/Title: "Supporting Children Teens & Children in the Community" - 1.0 CE Hours

Summary: Louisiana ranks as the 4th highest state of childhood bereavement in the country. One out of every nine children will have a parent or sibling die before the age of 18. Add the deaths of peers, community members, and extended family, and that number exponentially increases. This presentation will touch upon childhood grief, how to support grieving children and teens, and how as community members you can build tools and strategies that address grief and loss in your community. Emphasis will be placed on adaptive methods that increase community resilience, foster healthy coping skills, and address individual and collective grieving rituals.



Speaker: Melvin Lawrence Sanders, Jr., M.A., LPP

Brief Bio: Melvin L. Sanders, Jr. is an *I CARE* Specialist with the East Baton Rouge Parish School System and a 21-year educator serving as a model for youth. Melvin received his master's from Southeastern Louisiana University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. Melvin is a Licensed Prevention Professional who has presented at several conferences and challenges his colleagues to remain motivated. His goal is to educate relevant and relatable information to interest groups. Melvin is the proud father to Malia and shares a wealth of knowledge in the professional community as his mindfulness journey is ever-evolving.

Topic/Title: "Relevant Relatable and Reliable: Mindfulness and Self-Care in the Workplace" – **1.0 CE Hours**

Summary: Mindfulness in the workplace allows one to be intentional and present in the moment in both the mental space and the workplace. This aids in reducing employee stress, brings more balance to work-life and improves engagement as well as work performance.



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