

2023

CHILD LIFE LEADER NETWORKING RETREAT & CONFERENCE



WHERE TIME
STANDS STILL

SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2023
SCOTTSDALE, AZ

ASSOCIATION OF
Child Life
Professionals





CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

September 10-13, 2023

JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa
Scottsdale, AZ

This unique opportunity for child life leaders to gather provides participants with:

- Enhancement of child life leadership skills
- Specific actions and involvement to further develop the child life profession
- Support and sharing through networking
- Retreat and rejuvenation as a key component of the conference

(Times and sessions are subject to minor changes due to ongoing planning)





HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Hotel Accommodations

- High-quality restaurants and cafés.
- A world-class spa, fitness center, and two outdoor pools.
- Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West, Old Town Scottsdale, and other attractions are minutes away.
- Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport is an easy 10-mile taxi ride.

Hotel Reservations

Single/double rooms may be reserved at the discounted group rate of \$269 plus tax and daily \$30 resort fee. A credit card is required to hold the room; however, you will be charged at checkout. Your reservation can be canceled up to 3 days before check-in.

The room block typically fills well before the cut-off date (8/31/2023), so book your room as soon as possible to ensure lodging.

[Book your hotel room today!](#)



SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

PROGRAM TIMES & SPEAKER DETAILS

7:00 - 8:30PM Welcome Reception (optional-registration fee required)

MONDAY, SEPT. 11

PROGRAM TIMES & SPEAKER DETAILS

8:00-9:15AM Flash Mentoring (optional-registration fee required)

This breakfast provides an opportunity for new leaders to be partnered with a more experienced program leader for a knowledge and skill exchange based on the immediate needs of the mentee.

9:25-9:50AM Opening & Introductions

10:00-11:20AM Opening Keynote: The State of Children's Healthcare & Strategies for Child Life Leaders

K. Alicia Schulhof, FACHE, President, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital
Kathie Seerup, MSHA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, Chief Nursing and Operations Officer, Children's Hospital Colorado, Southern Colorado Care System
Benard Dreyer MD, FAAP, Director of Pediatrics, Bellevue Hospital Center
John Thomas MD, FACS, FAAP Chief of Staff, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

The last several years have impacted every facet of healthcare and uniquely challenged institutions and individuals to adapt in profound ways. An esteemed panel of healthcare leaders will explore the impact of the pandemic and the most recent pediatric volume surge on children's healthcare and within organizations. Challenges, financial implications, demands on staff and lessons learned will be shared.



MONDAY, SEPT. 11

PROGRAM TIMES & SPEAKER DETAILS

11:30-12:30PM Plenary Session: Child Life Staffing: Current State & Future Direction

Eileen Clark, Cincinnati Children's, Kellye Carroll, UCLA Mattel Children's, Nicole Rosburg, MD Anderson, Jill Koss, Cook Children's

Child Life is experiencing a nationwide atypical staffing vacancy rate. The strain on staffing has led to decreased internship sites (student placements), causing an access gridlock to the profession. This panel will highlight perspective from several key stakeholders in the access paradigm. Audience participation is encouraged: sharing program successes; emphasizing innovative strategies addressing the current climate of healthcare.

2:30-5:00PM Self-selected networking groups

7:00-8:30PM Opening reception (included with registration, fee for guests)



TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

PROGRAM TIMES & SPEAKER DETAILS

7:45-9:00AM Breakfast with ACLP (included with registration): Think Tank: Pathway to the Profession

9:10-10:30AM Plenary Session: The Leadership Challenge: The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership

Janet Cross, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Lauren Thomas, CS Mott Children's Hospital Michigan, Shawna Grissom, Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs

Leadership is a relationship between those who aspire to lead and those who choose to follow. Sometimes the relationship is one-to-one. Sometimes it's one-to-many. Regardless of the number, to emerge, grow and thrive in these disquieting times, leaders must master the dynamics of this relationship. They must learn how to mobilize others to want to struggle for shared aspirations. Facilitators will guide a discussion of the five practices of exemplary leadership (Kouzes & Posner, 2017). Examples of practice strategies shared within each small group will be reported out to generate ideas to support attendees as they evaluate and develop leadership knowledge and skills.

10:40-12:10PM Breakout Sessions: Choose A (limited capacity) or B

Breakout Session A: Reflective Practice for Leaders (max 20 per group)

*Gloria Mattera, Bellevue Hospital
Diane Rode, Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital*

Leaders are faced with professional challenges in their practice on a regular basis. This experiential reflective practice session for leaders can provide a container and a model for addressing burn-out, and compassion fatigue, and can promote the growth and development of leaders on all levels. Offering a supportive environment for reflective leadership practice can provide a much-needed environment for support, validation, and encouragement.



TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

PROGRAM TIMES & SPEAKER DETAILS

10:40-12:10PM Breakout Sessions: Choose A (limited capacity) or B

Breakout Session B:

10:40-11:25: Strategic Planning

Jen Sciolla, Nemours Children's Health, Delaware Valley

Learn the basic steps in the strategic planning process for child life departments including defining vision for the future and identifying goals and objectives. Short term and long term planning processes will be discussed.

11:25-12:10: Framework for Improving Joy in Work

Eileen Clark, Cincinnati Children's

This session will help provide a framework for leader and staff collaboration to cultivate an inclusive, safe and fulfilling environment for staff.



TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

PROGRAM TIMES & SPEAKER DETAILS

12:15-2:15PM Intensive (lunch provided by Authentix): Crushing
Complexities: The Business of Healthcare

Sally Perkins Ph.D. Insight Storyteller

No one can deny the fact that healthcare in the U.S. is complex. But how did we get here? How do patients and caregivers experience that complexity? And are we, in fact crushing it, or is it crushing us? In studying over 100 million interactions from all verticals of healthcare, we at Authentix have a unique view of our healthcare system and its impact. Based on that research, Crushing Complexity is a unique storytelling experience that takes audiences on a journey through time and into the experiences of patients and caregivers, to confront the complexity of the U.S. healthcare system and inspire us all to take a hard look at what we've created and why it must change.

Through round table conversations you will have opportunities to process your responses to the story, discuss specific implications for your work as Child Life Leaders, and identify ways you might initiate next steps in your hospital systems so that in the decades to come we can write a new ending to the story of Crushing Complexity in Healthcare.

3:00-5:00PM Self-Selected Networking Groups



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13

PROGRAM TIMES & SPEAKER DETAILS

8:00-9:15AM Networking Breakfast (included with registration)

9:25-10:35AM Innovations in Child Life Practice

Multiple program leaders will share brief examples of innovations, best practices and program developments.

10:45-11:45AM Plenary Session - Playback Arizona

Using music movement and theatre, an ensemble of actor and musicians bring true stories shared by the audience to artistic life, celebrating common humanity.

11:45-12:15PM Wrap-Up and Farewell



This conference is intended for child life leaders in the healthcare setting who directly supervise a team of child life specialists. The content is designed around those with staff supervision and is not intended for leaders of one-person programs or those working outside the healthcare arena.

Leaders may bring up to two of their managers if they also have direct supervision of child life staff. Programs interested in bringing additional leaders may email Barbara.Romito@rwjbh.org to be placed on a waiting list.

**For further information please contact
Barbara Romito at
Barbara.Romito@rwjbh.org**

