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Child and Youth Care

A Journal for Those Who Work With Children and Youth at Risk and Their Families

Primary Care in Secondary
Settings - Inherent Strains
By Henry W. Maier

The importance of Reflection
in Child and Youth Care Work
By Nkwapa D Moloto

The Impact of Organizational
Culture in Child and Youth
Care Agencies
By Varoshini Nadesan



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Making Magic

By Merle Allsopp

A *ÔconferenceÕ* says the Chambers dictionary, is *Òan appointed meeting for instruction or discussionÓ*. The verb *ÔconferÕ* means, according to this reference, *Òtalking or consulting togetherÓ*.

And this is exactly what is on the agenda for early July in the South African child and youth care sector! We will gather together to share thoughts and ideas about our work for the fifteenth time in the history of South African child and youth care. Coming from far and wide, we will ask our questions and tell of our successes. And together we will celebrate successes - our own, as well as those of our colleagues. Certainly we will look back on the achievements of our Association over its thirty-year lifespan. Together we will look ahead, and contribute to building the NACCW agenda for action for the coming two years.

It is likely that there will be more of us coming together than ever before - probably a thousand or so of us. Colleagues from our sister organization, the Zambian Association of Child Care Workers will celebrate the extraordinarily rapid path of development that the child and youth care field is taking in their country. We will hear from Congolese colleagues living in South Africa about establishing a Congolese Association of Child and Youth Care. And the happenings in Northern African and European countries will be shared by representatives of the international body, FICE.

Chosen to set the tone for our process of consulting together is Dr Thom Garfat from Canada. A child and youth care worker with many years of experience, Dr Garfat consults and teaches internationally on child and youth care. He is a writer and a *ÔthinkerÕ* in our field, but it is for his depth of knowledge and skill in the realm of *child and youth care*

practice that he has been asked to play this important role of keynote speaker, getting us started in our being together.

And in an unprecedented vote of confidence in the child and youth care sector, four Chief Directors from four directorates in the Department of Social Development have agreed to share the stage, to contextualize the role of child and youth care in the continued fight for social justice in our country.

And while we are talking about matters unprecedented, the Association is proud to be hosting the first national NACCW Youth Conference which will articulate with the Biennial Conference. Building on the foundations laid by the Northern Cape and Gauteng regions of the NACCW, the Western Cape region has planned to bring together 120 youth from child and youth care programs across the country for a five-day period. Partnering with Educo Africa, the conference planners have organized an exciting program to ensure that the voices of youth are spoken strongly in the setting of the agenda of the Association. Benni Gool and Roger Friedman are set to capture the event on camera, as poet and veteran South African activist, Don Materra accompanies the youth on a trip to Robben Island!

Over the years we have come to know that there is a certain magic in that concept *ÔtogetherÕ*. NACCW conferences have a reputation for being more than the sum of their parts. Our conferences have always been an important source of inspiration in our work - that offers us daily challenges, and often little recognition. Time and again over the years, colleagues have been sustained from one conference to another - by the power of our being together; by our collective connection to the *Ôbigger pictureÕ*; by the magic that the child and youth care field makes every two years as it gathers. You are invited to come to Cape Town to make magic with your colleagues at the NACCW 15th Biennial Conference. ●

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NACCW

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE WORKERS

The National Association of Child Care Workers is an independent, non-profit organisation in South Africa which provides the professional training and infrastructure to promote healthy child and youth development and to improve standards of care and treatment for troubled children and youth at risk in family, community and residential group care settings.

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