are hard
to hear:
Creating
an audience
for girls'
voices

Chapter 15
Can You Hear US Now?!

May 19 – 20, 2011
The Hotel at Gateway Center
Ames, Iowa

The Hotel at Gateway Center
2100 Green Hills Drive
Ames, Iowa

Reservations: 800/FOR-AMES

A block of rooms have been reserved for those attending the conference, so please mention it when making your reservation!

Conference Schedule

THURSDAY

7:30am – 8:45am Registration & Breakfast
8:45am – 10am Welcome & Keynote
10:15 – 11:45am Workshops
11:45am – 1pm Courageous Advocacy Awards & Lunch
1pm – 4:15pm Workshops

FRIDAY

8am – 8:45am Registration & Breakfast
8:45am – 10am Welcome & Keynote
10:15am 11:45am Workshops
11:45am – 1:15pm Lunch & Closing

THURSDAY MAY 19 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"Bias: Impact on Decision-makers"
RITA CAMERON WEDDING, PhD

This session will discuss how stereotyping, implicit bias and colorblindness can influence decision-making resulting in disproportionality in Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Education and other youth serving systems and the resulting impact on outcomes for girls of color. Much of the bias that occurs in public systems is unintentional. Even people who believe they treat everyone the same can discriminate in subtle but consequential ways. Bias reflected in language, attitudes and actions, however slight, can affect the application and interpretation of policies, procedures and the law in ways that can contribute to racial disparities. By discussing the impact of implicit bias on decision making, practitioners learn how to have dialogues about race and racism that make them more effective in their decision-making and offer the possibility of improving outcomes for all children.

RITA CAMERON WEDDING

Rita Cameron Wedding, Ph.D. is the Chair of the department of Women's Studies and a professor of Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies at Sacramento State University. Her scholarship focuses on race, gender and social class disparities in institutions like child welfare, education and juvenile justice. Dr. Cameron Wedding has taught courses and developed curricula addressing implicit racial bias for over six years.

Dr. Cameron Wedding has conducted training throughout the United States. She is a national consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, one of the largest child advocacy programs in the country. In 2009, she was awarded a grant from the California Department of Corrections to assist public schools in reducing decision-making bias which lead to disparities in school suspensions and expulsions and disproportionate minority contact in juvenile justice.

Her work on gender, diversity and social justice is international in scope. As a Fulbright Scholar she conducted research in Tanzania and South Africa. In 2008 she taught at the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica and the United Nations University International Leadership Institute Conference on the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict in Amman, Jordan. In 2003, she co-edited a textbook, Ethnic America: Readings in Race, Class and Gender. In 2004, she co-authored Institutions, Ideologies and Individuals: Feminist Perspectives on Gender, Race and Class. This book revised in 2008 includes a Bias: Impact on Decision-Makers in Child Welfare. Dr. Cameron Wedding served two terms as a Governor's appointee to the California Commission on the Status of Women.

FRIDAY MAY 20 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"Boosting Protective and Promotive Factors to Prevent and Deter Justice Involvement Among Girls"
MARILYN VAN DIETEN, Ph.D.

This session will focus on the transformation of knowledge into action. Participants will be provided with a summary of risk, promotive, and protective factors that are linked to justice involvement among girls. Implications for prevention and intervention will be explored and innovative practices that demonstrate promising outcomes will be highlighted. Finally, an emphasis will be placed on identifying strategies that mitigate or buffer risk for girls from diverse cultural backgrounds.

MARILYN VAN DIETEN

Marilyn Van Dieten, Ph.D. is a senior partner with Orbis Partners, Inc. She received her doctorate in psychology from the University of Ottawa in 1989 and is known throughout Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom for her experience in implementing evidence-based practices with criminal justice, homeless, and health care clients. She has been recognized for contributions made to the field and received the Maud Booth Award from the Volunteers of America at the American Correctional Association in 2003 & the Brian Riley Award from the International Community Corrections Association in 2006.

Initially she worked in a detention center with incarcerated male and female offenders. She then served as the Director of Adolescent and Family Services for the John Howard Society of Ottawa as the principle investigator for two nationally funded programs designed to address family violence. Since that time, she has worked as a consultant with a variety of non-profit and state-agencies to encourage the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs for high-risk clients.

Over the last 12 years she has devoted her attention to the development of gender specific programs for women and girls. In 1998 she published Moving On, a program for women in conflict with the law and has co-authored an intensive program for acquisitive female offenders at the request of probation services in the United Kingdom. This program was recently accredited in the United Kingdom and has been featured by the BBC as an alternative to incarceration. Her most recent program- Girls- Moving On was released in 2005 and is designed to meet the needs of criminal justice-involved girls between the ages of 12-21.

In 2006, she was contracted by the National Institute of Corrections to design and evaluate a gender-responsive case management approach for women. This model has been implemented in Connecticut, Iowa, Maine and in Larimer County, Colorado. Preliminary outcome data from this project shows significant and positive results in reducing recidivism and in contributing to favorable outcomes across a range of intermediate targets.

Workshops

16 workshops will be offered
(12 Thursday and 4 on Friday)

Topics will include, but are not limited to:

~ Trauma-informed care and attachment difficulties
~Empowerment groups
~Strength-based approaches and resiliency factors
~Transition issues for girls of color moving from urban areas
~Unique ways to address teen dating violence
~Female responsive strategies in co-ed and school settings
~Disproportionate minority contact
~How technology is changing what we do
~Substance abuse

Check our website in the coming weeks for full descriptions of workshops
www.women.iowa.gov/girls

Courageous Advocacy Awards

Thursday, May 19

Awards for

Service Provider
Administrator
Policy Shaper
and
Young Woman

who create meaningful, comprehensive
and lasting change for girls

Silent Auction

A portion of the silent auction proceeds will go to the Young Woman Courageous Advocacy Award winner.

New this year…

Conference participants will vote for the girl-serving program to which the rest of the silent auction proceeds will be donated!!!

Grand Prize Drawing

Each participant registered for Whispers & Screams will be eligible to win a FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION for the 2012 conference!