

# Be The Light!



## 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### **Wednesday May 7th**

8:00 am Registration | Conference 9:00 am - 5:45 pm

### **Thursday May 8th**

8:00 am Registration | Conference 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

**Younes Conference Center - South | Kearney, NE**

# Wednesday May 7, 2025 Agenda

Exhibitors / Break Service are located in Crystal 3 & 4  
Lunch / Networking Reception are located in Diamond 4, 5, 9, 10

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## Crystal 1 & 2

- 9:00 - 9:15 am **Welcome and Introductions**  
**Opening remarks - BeThe LIGHT!**
- 9:15- 10:45 am **KEYNOTE - Nathan Harmon**  
Navigating Mental Health, Substance Use / Abuse  
& Resilience Skills
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**10:45 - 11:00 am Exhibits Open | Transition to Session A**

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## SESSION A - 11:00 am - 12:15 pm


- Diamond 1 Ignite Your Inspiration: Rekindling Your Authentic Identity**  
Miranda Stoll, LMHP, LADC | Dr. Dave Tuck, D.C.,C.D.M.F.
- Diamond 2 Self-Reflection: Learning Through Experience**  
Tammy Sassaman, LCSW
- Diamond 3 Youth Homelessness System Improvement Project**  
Chad Gressley | Brittany Brakenhoff | Angela Gebhardt  
Sarah Cruz, CSW | Eric Maly
- Diamond 6 Current Drug Trends**  
Bradley Butler, Captain
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**12:15 - 1:00 pm Lunch | JJI Certificate Program**

**1:00 - 1:15 pm Exhibits Open | Transition to Session B**

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## SESSION B - 1:15 - 2:30 pm

- Diamond 1 Burn Bright, Not Out: The Art of Attuning to Self and Others**  
Dayna Goff, J.D., MSW | Tracey Kock, MSW
- Diamond 2 Look Up to Gain Digital Platform Health, Safety & Wisdom**  
Jay Martin
- Diamond 3 Be The Change You Want to See**   
Monica Miles-Steffens, MPA

**Diamond 6 Trauma Capability: The Foundation of Effective Restorative Practices**

Cheryl Turner

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**2:30 - 2:45 pm Exhibits Open | Transition to Session C**

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**SESSION C - 2:45 - 4:00 pm**

**Diamond 1 The Intersection of Special Education and Student Discipline in Nebraska**

Lauren Micek Vargas, JD | Erin Dolph, JD

**Diamond 2 Touchdown for Change - Passing Flexibility to Build Community and Block Gang Activity**

Tianna Etes

**Diamond 3 Supporting Kids of Incarcerated Parents**

Tamicka Monson, MA, MS, LPC, CCTP

**Diamond 6 Who Am I in Helping At-Risk and High-Risk Youth Thrive**

Monica Kindle

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**4:15 - 5:45 pm Networking Reception - Please join us!**

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**Be sure to stop by and visit the exhibitors, and take a moment to thank our sponsors for their support!**

**Thursday May 8, 2025  
Agenda**

**Exhibitors / Break Service are located in Crystal 3 & 4  
Lunch / Networking Reception are located in Diamond 4, 5**

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**Crystal 1 & 2**

**8:30 - 8:45 am Welcome and Introductions**

**8:45 - 10:15 am KEYNOTE - Stephen Hill**  
Transforming Youth Discipline & Justice with Restorative Practices

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**10:15 - 10:30 am Exhibits Open | Transition to Session D**

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## **SESSION D - 10:30 - 11:45 am**

- Diamond 1** **Rethinking Support for System-Impacted Youth: A Nonprofit Approach to Addressing Generational Trauma and Building Community Partnerships**  
Candias (Candi) Jones
- Diamond 2** **Fostering Cultural Humility in Addressing Sexual Violence and Sex Trafficking Among Youth**  
Stephanie Olson
- Diamond 3** **Pivoting Current Youth and Family Engagement Practices to Create Better Outcomes Through Authentic Relationships**  
Meggie Studt | Cindy Reed
- Diamond 6** **Understanding Addiction and ADHD: Key Insights for Supporting Youth**  
Trevor Bixler, Ph.D
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**11:45 - 12:00 Exhibits Open | Transition to Lunch**

**12:00 - 12:45 pm Lunch | Awards**

**12:45 - 1:00 pm Exhibits Open | Transition to Session E**

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## **SESSION E - 1:00 - 2:15 pm**

- Diamond 1** **From Recklessness to Resilience: My Journey to Entrepreneurial Success**  
Justin Coleman
- Diamond 2** **Lived Experience as a Superpower: Lessons from the Experts**  
Monica Miles-Steffens, MPA, | Maddie Hagan |  
Tommie DeLeon
- Diamond 3** **Fake it Til You Make It- Using Performance Art Skills to Teach Teens How to Regulate Emotions, Communicate, and Practice Skills!**  
Christine Allen
- Diamond 6** **From Disconnection to Genuine Understanding**  
Miranda Stoll, LIMHP, LADC
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**2:15 - 2:30 pm Exhibits Open | Transition to Session F**

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## **SESSION F - 2:30 - 3:45 pm**

- Diamond 1** **Working With Difficult Youth: Interventions for Working With Youth Diagnosed With ADHD and ODD Co-Morbidity**  
Caleb Green, PLMHP | Paul Davies, LIMHP, CPC, ADHD-CCSP
- Diamond 2** **Ethics and Boundaries: Upholding Professional Integrity in Juvenile Justice**  
Crystal Rush Cardenas, MS, BS
- Diamond 3** **Promoting Mental Wellness Using Mindfulness/Mental Health Apps and Strategies**  
Julie Lanz, PsyD | Krista Fritson, PsyD
- Diamond 6** **Power of Collaboration, Lived Experience, System Involved to Prevention**  
James Schulte | Chase Francl | Kacee Zimmerman

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**3:45 - 4:00 pm Transition to Youth Panel**

**4:00 - 4:30 pm Youth Panel | Call to Action | Raffle Drawing**

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**Join us for the Networking Reception**  
**Wednesday 4:15 - 5:45 pm**

**You can make reservations at the hotels listed below  
using the NJJA Conference Rate of \$124.95**

**Fairfield #308-236-4200**

**LaQuinta #308-237-4400**

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)**