

HOTEL REGISTRATION

*Please make your reservations directly
with the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel
by calling*

757-425-9000

Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel
36th and Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
(757) 425-9000

Room rates \$99 - \$139 plus tax when you
identify yourself as a VALCPA participant.

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR
HOTEL
RESERVATIONS IS**

August 21, 2009

Please reserve early for a
guaranteed room and
discounted rate.

VALCPA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Brenda Doremus-Daniel

Vice President

Meg Cosby

Secretary

Kim Lewis

Treasurer

Jermaine Johnson

At-Large

Mary Struzinsky

Foster Care Chair

Charlie Laslie

Adoption Chair

Marge Savage

Past President

Nancy Holcomb

VALCPA

**VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF
LICENSED
CHILD PLACING AGENCIES**

2009 FALL CONFERENCE



September 21-22, 2009
Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel
36th and Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Monday, September 21, 2009

8:00 am – 9:00 am

- Registration/Coffee and Breakfast

9:00am–12:30pm (10:30am–10:45am Break)

- Keynote Presentation: **Taking the Permanency Plunge**. Permanency is NOT just a philosophical process, a plan, a placement, a family or an institutional relationship that lasts until age 18 or 21! From an early age, presenter Aj Sanders understood the need for permanency and staying connected to those whom a child loves or to those who have provided care for them. During her youth, Aj spent several years in and out of numerous foster homes, shelters and group homes. She has found that without “permanent connections” to caring and responsible adults after children leave care, most return to the same communities from which they were removed, living their lives in a state of survival. This workshop cuts through the rhetoric and gets to the heart of what Permanency is, what Permanency means to children in care and what it is going to take to make Permanency a reality and not just a new buzz word. Come prepared to share challenges, ask questions and leave appreciated, rejuvenated and motivated to “Take the Permanency Plunge” every day for every life you touch. **Presenter: Aj Sanders, President, Aj Sanders Training & Consulting, LLC, and National Spokesperson for its Youth Division, Beating the Odds (BTO), Richmond, Virginia.**

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

- **Lunch** (Provided by VALCPA)

1:45 pm – 4:00 pm (2:45 pm-3:00 pm Break)

- **Foster Care Committee Meeting/FFTA-VA Meeting**
- **Adoption Committee Meeting**

Workshop: **Personal Elemental Profile (PEP)**.

Engaging, Fun and Insightful best describes the journey you will take while discovering how the elements Earth, Wind, Water and Fire influence and shape how we think, communicate, respond, work and relax. This workshop guarantees that you will see yourself and others in a new light and leave with a new understanding of everyone you come in contact with, making life easier at work and at home. PEP is also a valuable tool to help foster and adoptive parents to better understand and interact with children in their care. **Presenter: Aj Sanders.**

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

- **Networking at the Beach**: Come enjoy fellowship, food, and beverages overlooking the ocean.
**Co-Sponsored by:
Braley and Thompson, Inc. &
First Home Care**

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

8:00am – 9:00 am

- Registration/ Coffee and Breakfast

9:00 am – 9:45 am

- **VALCPA Business Meeting**

(9:45 am – 10:00 am Break)

10:00 am – 12:00 pm (11:00 am – 11:15 am Break)

- Workshop 1: **“Somebody Wants Me!”**
Transracial and biracial foster homes and adoptions remain controversial today. Some believe that children should only be placed with families of the same race or culture. Others feel that race should not be considered at all when selecting a family for a child in need. This “Straight Talk” workshop dares to address real concerns and challenges and provide answers from different perspectives and realities. The presenter, a

former foster child and mother to several diverse foster and adoptive children, will share her story, answer tough questions, and offer strategies for success for foster and adoptive parents.

Presenter: Aj Sanders.

- Workshop 2: **Changing Directions: Moving from Managing Behaviors to Healing Relationships**. This presentation will trace the evolution of the paradigm shift of an agency providing Treatment Foster Care services for over 30 years in Virginia. The presenter, a longtime trainer and experienced foster parent, will explain the transition from interventions based primarily on behavior modification to a multi-pronged approach that embraces interventions based upon attachment theory with the goal of providing healing to the relationships. The presenter will offer suggestions for pre-service orientation, ongoing in-service training, treatment interventions, resources and ways to encourage staff and foster parents to rethink their ways of providing services. **Presenter: Patricia Ronk, M.S., M.A.Th., Supervisor/Training Coordinator, DePaul Community Resources, Roanoke, Virginia.**
- Workshop 3: **Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Programs in Virginia**. Children coming into care are often appointed a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. This workshop will provide a detailed overview of the CASA program in Virginia with an emphasis on the role of CASA volunteers in foster care and adoption cases. Participants will be provided with information on local CASA program management, volunteer recruitment and screening, training requirements for volunteers and collaboration of members of the children’s treatment team with local CASA program staff members and volunteers. **Presenter: Melissa O’Neill, MSSW, Criminal Justice Analyst and State CASA Program Coordinator, Department of Criminal Justice Services, Richmond, Virginia.**

12:00 pm – Adjourn