

Social Media, Smart Phones, and Safety: How Technology is Changing Child Welfare Practice

AGENDA

8:00am-8:30am: Registration

8:30am-8:45am: Welcome and Introductory Remarks

8:45am-10:00am: Featured Presenter, Dale Fitch, Ph.D.

Dr. Dale Fitch received a Master of Social Work and a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Texas at Arlington. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Missouri. Dr. Fitch has a broad range of social work experience including private practice, institutional mental health, and hospital social work. He uses both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies addressing topics that include management of information systems in human service organizations, systems theory, and decision-making. Dr. Fitch serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Technology in Human Services, as well as, a consulting editor for numerous journals.

10:00am-10:15am: Break

10:15am-11:15am: Adoptee Advisory Committee

Our Own Words: Minnesota's Adoptee Advisory Committee aims to share stories of foster care and adoption, encourage positive change in the adoption community, and offer hope for waiting peers. For this conference the youth panel will share their experiences with technology in foster care and recommendations for how social workers/foster parents can help youth navigate the world of technology.

11:15am-11:30am: Break

11:30am-12:30pm: Technology Innovations in Practice

Frances Allegra and Pat Smith from Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Munroe, Inc. in Florida, the local lead agency for child welfare in Miami and the Keys, will discuss innovative uses of technology for child welfare workers in the field. In order to address the concern for the state's system for tracking abused and abandoned youths, Our Kids partnered with AT&T to launch OK Connect, a cutting edge mobile device for child welfare caseworkers. Using software and equipment supplied by AT&T and Samsung, dozens of case managers now have laptops (equipped with Wi-Fi) and smartphones which allow them to manage cases from the front lines.