

# THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING'S VINCENT J. FONTANA CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

INVITES YOU TO APPLY FOR THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST PROGRAM  
FOR SOCIAL WORKERS, NURSES, MENTAL HEALTH  
COUNSELORS AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICE AND HEALTH  
CARE PROVIDERS IN THE  
PREVENTION OF CHILD MALTREATMENT**

SEPTEMBER 2025 – DECEMBER 2025

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VISIT [WWW.NYFOUNDLING.ORG/FONTANA-CENTER](http://WWW.NYFOUNDLING.ORG/FONTANA-CENTER)



## **ABOUT THE SPONSORS:**

**THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING:** The New York Foundling in the tradition of openness and compassion of its sponsors, the Sisters of Charity, helps children, youth, adults, and families in need through services, supports, and advocacy that strengthen family and community and help each individual reach their full potential.

### **THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING'S VINCENT J. FONTANA CENTER FOR CHILD**

**PROTECTION:** The mission of The New York Foundling's Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection is to prevent child maltreatment and promote the well-being of at-risk children through advocacy, professional development, public education, research and partnering with other like organizations and national leaders.

### **THE WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION OF**

**CHILD MALTREATMENT** is made possible through the generosity of the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. It is a professional development program for social workers, case workers, nurses, school counselors and other professionals interested in learning about the field of child maltreatment prevention. Sessions include presentations on both theory and practice, and provide practical tools for service providers.

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The program consists of 13 courses that are each 90 minutes. Applicants must register for the entire 13-week program. The training program will offer participating professionals the opportunity to acquire or enhance the competencies, skills and insights necessary to effectively work with and for children and families who are at-risk for child maltreatment and/or involved in the child welfare system. Upon successful completion of the program, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion. Successful completion of the program includes attendance at all weekly training sessions with only two allowable absences. However, please note policy below for participants requesting continuing education contact hours.

## **PROGRAM COST**

Each year, the program will select qualified social workers, case workers, nurses and other health care and social service professionals. All participants must pay a \$145.00 enrollment fee. The additional cost of this program is supplemented through the generosity of the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. There is no enrollment fee for New York Foundling staff and APSAC members. If you are not currently an APSAC member, but wish to join APSAC to have the enrollment fee waived please see APSAC membership link. <https://www.apsac.org/membership>

Cancellation Policy: Registered participants can cancel enrollment until one week prior to the program start date and receive a full refund of the enrollment fee. Cancellation request must be submitted in writing to Brittany Morris at [Brittany.Morris@nyfoundling.org](mailto:Brittany.Morris@nyfoundling.org)

## **PROGRAM TIMES & LOCATION**

All sessions will take place from 12:30 pm-2:00 pm ET on Wednesdays, from September through December. The program will be held virtually using the zoom platform.

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS, MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS, AND PSYCHOLOGISTS**

The Fontana Center's Hearst Program is recognized as a provider of New York State social work, mental health counselor, and psychology continuing education credits, for LMSW's, LCSW's, Mental Health Counselors, and Psychologists by the New York State Education Department. Participating licensed social workers, mental health counselors, and psychologists who complete the program will receive 18 contact hours in the course, and the certificate of completion provided will clearly note the credits awarded. Participants looking to receive continuing education contact hours must not miss more than one of the sessions. All missed sessions must be made up by a review of the presenter's power point and submission of a one-page overview of the lecture.

## **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Hearst Orientation & History and Cultural Implications of Child Maltreatment and Child Welfare**

**Wednesday, September 3, 2025**

This is a two-part workshop. The first part will focus on a description of the Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection and a review of the Hearst Program policies and requirements. The second part will highlight the history of the field of child welfare in the United States. A description about how the U.S. child welfare system developed and how it has changed over time will be provided. We will discuss cultural factors and how they have impacted the field of child welfare over time.

**Workshop leaders:** Daniel Tobar, LMSW

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### **Legal Definitions of Abuse and Neglect**

**Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

This workshop will begin with an overview of Family Court as well as the types of cases that are heard by judges. The presentation will then focus on the child protective practice in Family Court and participants will learn the legal definitions of abuse and neglect as defined in the Family Court Act. The discussion will revolve around the evidence lawyers look for when deciding whether to file a case in Family Court or whether a judge can make a finding of abuse or neglect based on the evidence presented.

**Workshop leader:** Vineet Chawla, Esq.

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### **The Stress of Caring for a Child with a Disability: Supporting Caregivers to Prevent Child Maltreatment**

**Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

Parents and other caregivers of children with disabilities are confronted on a daily basis with many stresses that can lead to abusive behaviors, emotional turmoil, and family chaos and in some cases even family dissolution. This workshop will explore and discuss the stressors themselves, as well as strategies, systems and services that can help caregivers of children with disabilities feel supported and empowered to bring up their child or children in a safe and nurturing environment.

**Workshop leader:** Gary Shulman, MS. Ed.

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### **The Neurobiology of Trauma**

**Wednesday, September 24, 2025**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's landmark Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study shows a clear link between the occurrence of traumatic events and negative health and behavioral outcomes throughout the lifespan. Everything from mental illness to addiction and violent behavior is more likely when a person has suffered abuse or neglect during childhood and beyond. Trauma affects us cognitively, emotionally and socially as well as physically and is even at the roots of the devastating opioid crisis. Using a purely medical model falls short in addressing the results of complex trauma. Anthony Zenkus will present evidence that much of what we call addiction and mental illness is actually rooted in childhood and adult experiences that have caused us pain and affected our healthy development. Participants will be presented with a framework for approaching complex disorders that goes beyond the medical model and will be shown how embracing a multidimensional view of human behavior as well as having a trauma-informed approach can foster more compassionate and effective interventions and bring better outcomes.

**Workshop leaders:** Anthony Zenkus, LCS

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## **Discovering Ubuntu: Exploring Bias in Mental Health Care & Potential Solutions**

**Wednesday, October 1, 2025**

The therapeutic alliance is the sacred cornerstone upon which treatment thrives. Surveys show that the majority of mental health clinicians in the United States self-identify as white, yet the United States population is becoming increasingly divergent. These differences can pose unique challenges during treatment by increasing the likelihood of an alliance rupture that can be overcome through an emphasis on our shared interconnectedness as people. This workshop will integrate effective strategies that clinicians can utilize to engage with patients and families of diverse backgrounds. We will explore the broader societal context, that can impact clinician-client interactions. Upon completion, participants will be empowered for rupture resolution through embarking on the journey of more deeply engaging with clients and families of varied intersectional identities.

**Workshop leaders:** Akeem Marsh, M.D. and Kristy-Lee Jean-Pierre, Ph.D.

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## **Psychological Maltreatment**

**Wednesday, October 8, 2025**

The workshop will focus on the following six points: (1) Why it is important to study and understand psychological maltreatment (PM) (2) What are the major types and forms of PM (3) How common is PM (4) What are the child/caregiver/family risk factors for PM (5) In what ways is PM harmful to children, and (6) How to approach intervention.

**Workshop leader:** Amy J. L. Baker, Ph.D. and Roslyn Murov, M.D.

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## **Effective Program Models for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment**

**Wednesday, October 15, 2025**

This workshop will highlight effective program models for the prevention of child maltreatment. There are quite a few prevention methods used to effectively address and mitigate various types of child maltreatment. Understanding the differences in these models according to maltreatment type is useful for practitioners in conducting child and family assessments and recommending services. Additional focus will be on reviewing the factors related to child maltreatment and prominent evaluated prevention models. We will review the risk factors, the absence of which could be considered protective factors. Examples of highlighted models are home visiting interventions, parent education programs, school and child-care based interventions, and community level interventions. Finally, there will be a discussion regarding barriers to child maltreatment prevention programming.

**Workshop leader:** Darcey H. Merritt, Ph.D.

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## **A Clinician's Guide to Corporal Punishment**

**Wednesday, October 29, 2025**

The workshop will review the history of corporal punishment use and acceptance in society throughout the ages, describe the current laws which address the issue in various regions in the U.S. as well as other countries, discuss the current literature about the effects of corporal punishment on children, review risk factors for corporal punishment, describe alternatives to corporal punishment and strategies to promote safe discipline practices. Dr. Hoffman-Rosenfeld will use case vignettes to engage participants in an interactive discussion.

**Workshop leader:** Jamie Hoffman-Rosenfeld, M.D.

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## **Online Exploitation Prevention: Risks, Realities, and Responses for Youth, Caregivers & Professionals**

**Wednesday, November 5, 2025**

In today's hyper-connected world, young people are increasingly exposed to risks through social media, gaming, and other online platforms. This workshop is designed to equip youth, caregivers, and professionals with critical awareness about online exploitation and the dangers young people may encounter in digital spaces.

Participants will explore school-based prevention strategies tailored to each of these audiences, learning how to engage youth in conversations about online safety, support caregivers in monitoring and protecting their children, and prepare professionals to recognize warning signs and intervene effectively. The session will highlight recent research and statistics underscoring the urgent need for prevention work, share lessons learned from pilot workshops, and offer practical tools and takeaways for those looking to implement or enhance online exploitation prevention programs in their own schools and communities.

**Workshop leaders:** Trevor Raushi, M.S. and Marion White, M.S.

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## **Medical Evaluation of Child Maltreatment: Focus on Medical Neglect, Failure to Thrive and Sexual Abuse**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2025**

Participants will understand the medical evaluation for child maltreatment, including procedures for obtaining history, physical examination findings and laboratory tests. This workshop will provide an overview of normal general and anogenital anatomy and variants as well as changes that can occur after sexual abuse and neglect. The role of documentation, multidisciplinary approaches to assessment, and current guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and reporting will be reviewed. The assessment and ramifications of failure to thrive and medical care neglect will also be discussed, as well as cultural practices and alternative or complementary medical practices.

**Workshop leader:** Vincent Palusci, M.D., M.S.

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## **Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation: Prevention and Intervention**

**Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

In this webinar we'll examine what research and professional experience has taught us about child sex trafficking and exploitation (CSE/T). We will discuss definitions and dynamics, the health and mental health impact of CSE/T, potential indicators of exploitation and a practical, trauma-informed and rights-based approach to working with children and adolescents who are experiencing or at risk for CSE/T. The presentation focuses on a practical application of what is known about trafficking and exploitation.

**Workshop leader:** Jordan Greenbaum, M.D.

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## **What's New in Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and How to Make it Work for You**

**Wednesday, December 3, 2025**

From Erin's Law to Sex-Wise Parenting, innovations in child sexual abuse prevention policy and practice are available to help keep children safer. This workshop will review current innovations in policy and practice, and end with a focus on how professionals in child welfare and protection can support parents to promote sexual health and safety in their homes and community

**Workshop Leader:** Janet Rosenzweig, M.S., Ph.D., MPA

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## **Managing Secondary Traumatic Stress**

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**

This workshop will discuss the risk, symptoms and impact of secondary traumatic stress (STS) on professionals from working with clients after the violence of child abuse, domestic violence, homicide, or other critical incidents. The symptoms of STS can look similar to post-traumatic stress symptoms professionals see in their clients and can negatively affect their personal and professional lives. This workshop will help participants learn how to recognize, respond to, and prevent STS using reflective activities, self-assessment tools, and interactive group exercises designed to engage participants and create an atmosphere of support and involvement. Participants will gain concrete skills to utilize immediately to prevent and offset secondary traumatic stress and develop a stronger capacity for longer-term self-protection and self-care.

**Workshop leader:** Samantha Alvarez Benowitz, LCSW

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## FACULTY

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**Samantha Alvarez Benowitz, LCSW** is the Director of Clinical Services at The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NYSPCC). Ms. Alvarez Benowitz has close to 20 years of experience working with underserved children and families in New York City and Philadelphia. Prior to working at The NYSPCC, Ms. Alvarez Benowitz was the Senior Director of Mental Health and Anti-Human Trafficking at Covenant House New York, the largest youth shelter in New York City and held clinical and managerial roles at Good Shepherd Services, a foster care agency based in New York City. Ms. Alvarez Benowitz holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology from Boston College and a Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Amy J. L. Baker, Ph.D.** is Director of Research at Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection of The New York Foundling. She earned her doctorate in Developmental Psychology from Teachers College of Columbia University in 1989. Dr. Baker is the author or co-author of over 115 articles and 9 books, including "Research Methods in Child Welfare" (Columbia University Press) and "Bonded to the Abuser" with Dr. Mel Schneiderman (Rowman & Littlefield). Areas of research expertise include parent-child attachment, early intervention, parent involvement, mental health of youth, and child welfare.

**Vineet Chawla, Esq.** is an attorney with the Family Court Legal Services Training Division of NYC Children's Services. He has been working with NYC Children's Services for over 10 years. Starting as an entry level litigation attorney, he soon moved into the role of senior staff attorney, handling over 100 cases at a time, then being promoted to litigation supervisor. He now trains new attorneys and CPS workers on legal issues surrounding child abuse and child welfare. He graduated Cardozo Law School in 2003, and attended New York University for his undergraduate degree.

**Jordan Greenbaum, M.D.** is a retired physician in Atlanta, GA. She is the medical director of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and past medical director of the Stephanie Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. She has worked in the field of child maltreatment for over 20 years. Dr. Greenbaum is a board member of the International Society on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) and a past president of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. She has provided training and technical assistance to health professionals globally to improve the health sector response to child abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

**Jamie Hoffman-Rosenfeld, M.D.** started her Child Abuse Pediatrics career over 30 years ago at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx, where she developed the Family Advocacy Program, running it for a decade before joining the Child Protection Team at Montefiore Hospital. Dr. Hoffman-Rosenfeld was the Medical Director of the Queens Child Advocacy Center for 13 years but then returned to her professional roots in the Bronx to serve as the co-medical Director of the Child Abuse Program at Montefiore and the Bronx Child Advocacy Center. Dr. Hoffman-Rosenfeld served as a consultant to NYC's CPS intra-agency Child Fatality Review. She is past-president and board member of the NY Chapter of APSAC. For four years, Dr. Hoffman Rosenfeld served as co-chair of the Ray E. Helfer Society Conference Planning Committee. The education of professionals on topics related to Child Maltreatment is one of the most fulfilling aspects of her career.

**Kristy-Lee Jean-Pierre, Ph.D.** is a licensed clinical child psychologist, who serves as the current Senior Vice President of Specialized Clinical & Psychiatric Services at the NY Foundling. Before joining the Foundling, Dr. Jean-Pierre served as Clinical Director of the Child and Adolescent Outpatient Psychiatry Department at Bellevue Hospital where she coordinated, organized, and supervised psychological service programs for children, adolescents, and young adults. Prior to this, she worked as a Clinical Consultant with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS)/Bellevue Mental Health Team, where she conducted evaluations and risk assessments for children and young adults arriving at the ACS Children's Center. She is additionally a current Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine and a former Adjunct Professor at St. John's University, where she received her doctorate. Her research has primarily explored the effects of perceived racial discrimination on minority mental health outcomes.



**Akeem Marsh, M.D., DFAACAP** is an expert on the link between trauma and disruptive behavior disorders, as well as the impact of biases in mental health treatment. Dr. Marsh currently serves as the Vice President of the Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection and the Medical Director of the Home for Integrated Behavioral Health at The New York Foundling. He is a consultant member of the Verywell Mind Review Board and maintains a faculty appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine. Dr. Marsh is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the New York Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (NYCCAP), as well as on the Board of Directors for American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC). He has presented locally, nationally and internationally at numerous professional conference settings including the iHeart Radio/MWA Mental Wealth Expo and a Presidential Session at the APA Annual Meeting by invitation. In January 2022, Dr. Marsh had published his seminal work that he co-edited, *Not Just Bad Kids: The Adversity and Disruptive Behavior Link*. In August 2023, Dr. Marsh was appointed by Mayor Eric Adams to serve on the city's first-ever Juvenile Justice Advisory Board to advise and provide recommendations to the mayor, the City Council, and ACS on issues related to juvenile justice.

**Darcey Merritt, Ph.D.** is a Professor at the University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice and a Research Affiliate at the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP). She is also a Co-Editor in Chief for Children and Youth Services Review and a member of the Board of Directors of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC).

**Roslyn Murov, M.D.** has worked for over 30 years in clinical and managerial leadership positions in organizations serving children and adolescents with complex health, mental health and psychosocial problems. Dr. Murov is currently the Medical Director of the Developmental Disabilities Division at The New York Foundling. She is the former Senior Vice President of Mental Health Services at the New York Foundling. Previous leadership positions include Medical Director at Abbott House Child Caring Agency and Director of Psychiatry Outpatient Services at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Murov is a board-certified pediatrician with specialized training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, who has promoted integration of pediatric primary care and mental health services. Dr. Murov is a past board of directors of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

**Vincent Palusci, M.D., M.S.** is a Professor of Pediatrics and Forensic Medicine at New York University Grossman School of Medicine. He is Editor in Chief of Child Maltreatment and a member of the board of directors of APSAC-New York and Prevent Child Abuse-New York. He has edited books and written peer-reviewed articles on topics ranging from child maltreatment fatalities, child death review, medical issues in child abuse and neglect, to prevention. He is a former board member of APSAC and Editor in Chief of the APSAC Advisor and APSAC Alert.

**Trevor Raushi, M.S.** is the Assistant Vice President of The New York Foundling's Preventive Education Programs, overseeing the agency's Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) and Adolescent Health Education Initiative (AHEI). He earned a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in LGBTQ Studies from Syracuse University and a M.S. in Cultural Foundations of Education from Syracuse University. Prior to working with CAPP, Trevor worked with the Queering Education Research Institute where he focused on the implementation of trans-inclusive antibullying and harassment policies in New York State public schools. Trevor Raushi is co-chair of The New York State Initiative to Prevent Child Sex Abuse and sits on the Board of Directors for APSAC-NY.

**Janet Rosenzweig, M.S., Ph.D., MPA** holds a MS in Health Education from The Pennsylvania State University, a Ph.D. in Social Work from Rutgers University and an MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School. She earned certification as a sex educator in 1978 and brought that perspective to one of the first child sexual abuse programs in the country, in East Tennessee. Her focus on sexual abuse and its prevention continued throughout many subsequent roles in managing child welfare programs in Tennessee, Texas, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. She served as Vice President for Research and Programs for Prevent Child Abuse America, where she managed a national technical assistance center for sex abuse prevention, and served for five years

as Executive Director of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC). In 2012, she authored the book *The Sex-Wise Parent* to support parents in being the primary sex educator of their children. She is currently a Senior Policy Analyst at The Institute for Human Services, a lecturer at The University of Pennsylvania, and serves on the Executive Committee of The National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.

**Gary Shulman, MS. Ed.** has spent a lifetime supporting vulnerable families and children. He began his career working with children with and without disabilities in an inclusive Head Start program in Brooklyn NY. He then transitioned to become the Special Needs and Early Childhood Coordinator for the Brooklyn Children's Museum for 10 years. His passion for advocacy grew as he worked more and more with parents of children with disabilities. For over 24 years he passionately advocated for the needs of these parents as the Social Services and Training Director for Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc. in NYC. The last years of his working life, Mr. Shulman served as a private Special Needs Consultant conducting hundreds of training sessions throughout NYC and beyond to help parents and professionals find and access the services and systems required to facilitate maximizing the potential of their children with disabilities. Now retired in Arlington VA but still supporting vulnerable families serving as an Advisory Commissioner for the Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, Gary continues his workshop presentations and now also enjoys sharing his poetry that he passionately writes with the goal of leaving this world a better place one word at a time.

**Daniel Tobar, LMSW** is a licensed social worker, who serves as an Assistant Vice President at the NY Foundling. He oversees the operational management, data performance management, budgeting, and policy & workflow development for the Specialized Clinical and Psychiatric Services division. Daniel has worked at the NY Foundling for eight years and has held a variety of roles within the Foster Care, Mental Health, and Program Quality programs. He has also worked at Fostering Change for Children where he served as a Support Specialist, where he provided ongoing support to a cohort of NYC Child Welfare employees as they navigated the child welfare system. Daniel also serves on Nido De Esperanza's associate board. Daniel attended Rutgers University where he earned a BA in Psychology with a minor in Criminology and Master of Social Work with a Management and Policy concentration and Social Policy Area of Emphasis."

**Marion White, M.S.** is a retired Senior Program Director, founded the Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) in 1986 and was responsible for the program's content and implementation in schools throughout NYC. Ms. White has lectured on child abuse to law enforcement groups, legislative bodies, and other child welfare organizations nationwide. She received the Excellence in Prevention Award from Prevent Child Abuse New York State and special recognition from the Special Victims Unit of the NYPD, the American Probation and Parole Association and the NYC Administration for Children. She is a Governor's appointee to the New York Citizen's Review Panel for Child Protective Services. She holds a master's degree in Developmental Disabilities from Long Island University.

**Anthony Zenkus, LCSW** has over 30 years of experience in the fields of trauma, child welfare and victims' services. As a director at The Safe Center and VIBS, he oversaw clinical programs for survivors of child sexual abuse as well as having trained professionals both regionally and nationally on the impact of trauma. Anthony Zenkus was a featured plenary speaker at the NY State Office of Victims Services 2017 Conference, the Prevent Child Abuse NY Conference 2015, and for the NY State Judicial Institute where he trained over 1,000 NY State judges on trauma. In February of 2022, he presented expert testimony on trauma to a session of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. Anthony Zenkus sits on the board of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children – NY Chapter, and in 2016 he did a TEDx talk on the effects of poverty and inequality on the developing brains of children. He teaches at the Columbia School of Social Work and in the social work department at Adelphi. He is also an activist who was an organizer with Occupy Wall Street as well as being involved in the Climate Justice Movement and the Movement for Black Lives.

### **Hearst Program Registration**

1. Complete the registration form: <https://forms.office.com/r/280pPfjNc6>
2. An enrollment fee in the form of a check for \$145.00 made out to The New York Foundling. The New York Foundling staff and APSAC members do not have to pay the fee.

Please send all checks to:

Brittany Morris  
The New York Foundling – Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection  
590 Avenue of the Americas, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10011

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Brittany Morris, Director of Program Development and Advocacy for the Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection at [Brittany.Morris@nyfoundling.org](mailto:Brittany.Morris@nyfoundling.org)