

AAFSLW LIAZER

Alberta Association of Family School Liaison Workers Newsletter

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24th Annual AAFSLW Conference

Foundations for the Future Charter Academy will be hosting the 24th Annual AAFSLW conference **October 1st and 2nd, 2015** in Calgary, Alberta. This conference will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre—2120 16th Avenue NE. To register visit: <http://www.aafslw.ca/our-conference.html>

Conference Keynote: Dr. Jeff Chang

Key note: Six Principles for Working with Children, Youth and Families: Thirty Years of Mistakes and Occasional Wisdom

As a child and youth care worker, in-home family worker, family therapist, psychologist, program director, and professor, I've learned a great deal in spite of myself. My greatest teachers have been my clients – children, youth, and families – and the best learning environment has been actual practice. In this keynote presentation, I share six principles that guide my work, illustrated with stories and vignettes from over thirty years of practice. Keeping these six key ideas in mind will anchor your practice and help you figure out what to do with tough cases.

Dr. Jeff Chang is Associate Professor in the Graduate Centre for Applied Psychology at Athabasca University, Directory of the Family Psychology Centre, and a clinical supervisor at Calgary Family Therapy Centre. He is a Registered Psychologist in Alberta, and an Approved Supervisor and Clinical Fellow of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For indeed, that's all

who ever have

—Margaret



Conference Keynote:

Vanisha Breault

Key Note: All stories were created to be told; but this story was meant to be heard!

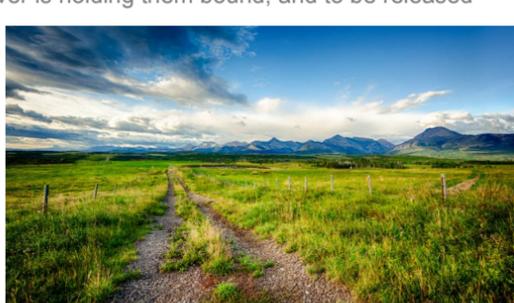
Vanisha Breault is an absolute powerhouse of inspiration, and integrity, and insight. It is rare to find a person who has experienced the difficulties and challenges she has faced, and yet not only has she handled them with grace and dignity, but she has come out the other side, full of wisdom and depth for others! She has shown incredible strength, resilience and compassion in her life's journey. She has a gift for helping others transform their lives, providing moments of inspiration, hope and pure awe through her storytelling. Vanisha's capacity is exceptional to support clients with respect to setting goals, finding authenticity, discovering their voice, breaking barriers, supporting healthy relationships. She is also an outstanding communicator who speaks with clarity, passion, and effectiveness. She has worked for many years in the Not for Profit Sector, including The Calgary Drop In & Rehab Centre, and now you will find her working in a recovery home for women; The Narrow Road Home in High River.

Vanisha has been instrumental in impacting change and promoting the work of Habitat for Humanity within the community. She has also organized and facilitated this year's Adolescent Addiction Awareness Run/Walk with 100% of the proceeds going towards off setting treatment fees for families through AARC, (Adolescent Addiction Recovery Centre). She is an inspiration to her community as she works to provide hope and a better, brighter future for those in need. Vanisha resides in Calgary where she lives and has raised four children, three of whom are still living with her, and one which is now married. It is Vanisha's personal goal to encourage women to break free from the shame of whatever is holding them bound, and to be released into wholehearted living!

Conference Keynote:

Dr. Joan Besant

Key note: Gender Issues for students within our School Systems



Dr. Joan Besant has extensive knowledge in mental health as an Adolescent and Family Psychiatrist she has been consulting in Strathmore Connections Clinic over the past 8 years and has been in and out of many schools at all grade levels in Calgary since 1998. Additionally in Calgary she has worked in the past in the full range of inpatient, day patient, outpatient, and urgent care within Alberta Health Services. Currently most of her time is taken up by Shared Mental Health Care, where she has the opportunity to offer a teaching program for Family Physicians interested in mental health care. She worked as a Family Physician before training in Psychiatry.



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<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/AAFSLW-6609871>

<http://www.aafslw.ca/helpful-links.html>

<http://www.aafslw.ca/helpful-links.html>

Looking for some helpful links? The AAFSLW has a section on the webpage to help you out:

<http://www.aafslw.ca/helpful-links.html>

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Additional Conference Sessions include...

Session#1 Children's Stories, Children's Solutions: Collaborative Counselling with Children and Families — *Dr. Jeff Chang*

Session#2 Anxiety - What is it, what does it look like and what we can do to help kids cope with it — *Gina Grace*

Session#3 "That student is just soooo challenging": Neuro-atypical students, what helps at school, and what their parents need to help these students be more successful — *Mary-Catherine Bailey-McKenna*

Session #4 Living on Purpose — *Christine Payne & Vanisha Breault*

Session #5 Rachel's Challenge — *Cydney Wallace,*

Session#6 Mental Health in the High School Setting — *Kayla Lewis*

Session # 7 Clinical Supervision within the School System — *Deb Hinds-Nunziata*

Session#8 Making Diversity and Inclusion Relevant: Organization Workplace and Community — *Ricardo Morales*

Session# 9 Writing for Publication: It's Easier than You Think — *Dr. Jeff Chang*

Message from the President

We are excited about the strides we are making as an Association. We have officially confirmed our Advisory Committee and there will be an official introduction during our 2015 AGM.

We would like to encourage you to consider getting involved on the AAFSLW Executive. The following positions are coming available in Oct 2015

President Elect

Membership Worker

Treasurer – Eva Rasmussen is willing to let her name stand for another two years

Newsletter/Web Page – This position is supported by Christine Payne for Web Development

Serving on the executive provides an opportunity for Professional Growth as well as allows for the further development of our vision in expanding our membership as well as the services we can provide to our membership. Take some time to think about making a commitment to the AAFSLW and school counsellors and youth workers across the province.

This next Conference will be our 25th Celebration and this is an exciting time to step up and help support the AAFSLW by serving on the Executive.

We the current executive wish you the most amazing summer, believing you will be refreshed and we are looking forward to seeing you at the Conference in the fall!

Think about joining us!!!!

Christine Payne – AAFSLW President

