February 23, 2021
2-3:30 pm CST

Presenter: Marva L. Lewis, PhD

Marva L. Lewis                 mlewis@tulane.edu

Dr. Lewis earned a PhD in sociocultural psychology, and associate professor at Tulane University School of Social Work with a clinical appointment in the Institute of Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health. Her research studies emotional attunement during African American mother-daughter hair combing interaction. The application of findings from this research were used to develop culturally valid, community-based interventions to strengthen attachment and address intergenerational legacies of the historical trauma of slavery, and acceptance or rejection of children based on skin color. Her book, *Therapeutic Cultural Routines to Build Family Relationships: Talk, Touch & Listen While Combing Hair* will be released in 2021. She serves on the National Zero to Three Advisory Board and as a consultant with Safe Baby Court Teams on reducing racial disparities and implicit bias in child welfare systems. In 2020-2021 presents a webinar series titled, *Psychosocial Tools to Advance Race Equity for Families of Color in the Child Welfare Systems.* [153 words]

Her full Curriculum Vitae is available at [http://tssw.tulane.edu/](http://tssw.tulane.edu/)

**TITLE:** *Breaking down barriers for Engagement with Families of Color to achieve Racial Equity*

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**
New relationship-based tools are needed to engagement, assessment and intervention with families of color in the child welfare system. In many communities there is often a racial divide between predominately white administrators and providers and the predominately Black and Brown children and families they serve. (Ghosh-Ippen & Lewis, 2011. This webinar presents anti-racist tools based on a trauma-informed model that assesses: 1) the perception of the quality of the working relationships from both sides of multicultural divides; 2) recognize cultural risks and vulnerabilities, and 3) build on cultural strengths and resilience through a partnership approach to child welfare services.*
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
1. Understand race as intergenerational, relational trauma
2. Identify our multicultural identities that includes our race and ethnicity
3. Introduced to the relationship-based tool for child welfare workers, the Racial Assessment Protocol for Partnering© (RAPP) to understand the perception of the quality of the working relationship from both sides of multicultural divides.
4. Use RAPP evidence to analyze the continuum of child welfare decision-making processes and the role of human biases, stereotypes of parents and children of color, and unrecognized privileges that contribute to racial disparities.

References and forthcoming book


Therapeutic Cultural Routines to Build Family Relationships: Talk, Touch & Listen While Combing Hair© M. L. Lewis, (Ed.) D. Weatherston, Co-editor, Springer (October 2021)