



AGENDA: Unlocking the Power of Lived Expertise

9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m., Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Bethel New Life, 1150 North Lamon Avenue, Chicago, IL 60651

Join with Dr. Denicia Carlay with Spark Learning for Organizations and peers to co-create a space where we will sit with the power of lived expertise and explore ways to infuse, value and engage people with lived experience throughout our work to advance equity for families and children in our communities.

Tuesday, November 14

8:00-9:00 a.m. **Optional Continental Breakfast (provided)**

9:00-9:45 a.m. **Opening Devotional**
The Rev. Dr. Sherman Hicks

Welcome Remarks
Alesia Frerichs, President and CEO, Lutheran Services in America

Sharif Walker, CEO Bethel New Life

Grounding and Journey Map
Dr. Denicia Carlay, Spark Learning for Organizations, will lead us in a series of grounding activities to build community and recognize the history that has led to the disproportionate rates of poverty and family separation for children and families of color.

9:45- 10:45 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
Héctor Colón, President and CEO, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan

Keynote Address
Tamela Milan-Alexander, Community Engagement Director, EverThrive Illinois and Board of Directors Trustee, Lutheran Child and Family Services

10:45-11:00 a.m. **Break/Keynote Reflections**

11:00 a.m.-Noon **Moving from Listening to Engagement**

Dr. Denicia Carlay will lead us in an interactive opportunity to explore the fullness of self, conditions for creating “brave space,” and how to listen authentically to people with lived expertise.

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Lunch (provided) and Networking

1:00-1:45 p.m.

Panel: Successful Engagement of Lived Expertise

A leading panel of peers will share successful examples and best practices for engagement of people with lived experience, touching on issues such as community outreach, hiring and retention, and other practices.

*Dr. Anne Farrell, Senior Research Fellow, Chapin Hall
(moderator)*

*Martin Senica, Certified Recovery Support Specialist, Lutheran
Social Services of Illinois*

Sharif Walker, CEO, Bethel New Life

*Crystal Williams, Poet, foster care alumna and national
advocate*

1:45-3:00 p.m.

Small Group Work: Moving to Action

In this interactive time, all participants will get an opportunity to reflect in small groups on lessons from the panel, bring their own voices and expertise, and explore ways in which they can take action in their day-to-day work coming out of the convening.

3:00-3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15-4:00 p.m.

Moving from Reflection to Action

Dr. Denicia Carlay will lead participants in identifying their role within the journey to this current moment, their power of influence, and actionable steps to take moving forward.

4:00-4:15 p.m.

Closing

*Renada Johnson, Senior Director of Children, Youth and Family
Initiatives, Lutheran Services in America*

Crystal Williams

Wednesday, November 15

8:30 a.m.-Noon

Site Visit

*Participants are invited to join us at [Sankofa Safe Child Initiative](#)
at 4041 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60624*

Sankofa opened its doors in 1999 with a mission to provide supportive services, referrals, resources and skills that encourage underserved families and communities to be strong, self-sufficient and remain intact. Each year, Sankofa serves more than 400 underserved families involved in the juvenile justice system; works to reduce the recidivism rates among juveniles and increase life prospects of low-income families; and provides support services to grandparents raising grandchildren. Join us for an impactful morning with Sankofa leaders and families.

- 8:30 a.m. **Optional continental breakfast provided**
- 9:00 a.m. **Connecting Voices: Engaging Conversations with Sankofa Leadership**
- 10:15 a.m. **Break**
- 10:30 a.m. **Guided tour through Sankofa House**
- 11:00 a.m. **Stories and Insights from Sankofa Families**
- 11:30 a.m. **Closing and Reflection**