

CRCCP: BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

JUNE 21-24, 2016, LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK

OTHER WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

A brief overview of other workshop presentations

Dr Deb Bunce from Spurwink Services in the US generously shared some of the CARE resources and processes that they have developed over the past five years. She has agreed to forward electronic copies of many of their resources which will hopefully help us to use and

adapt these for NHSCT. Her service is a large multi-campus organization including six

residential and day treatment programs, foster care programs, and outpatient therapeutic services. **Daniel Filisemanu** is a New Zealand Maori who now works with one of the most remote aboriginal communities in

the outback of Australia (Alice Springs). Daniel worked hard to lobby and commission his own non-governmental residential care services for the area, discussing the sacrifices made to make this happen, and the continued challenges in terms of geographical and cultural

isolation, focusing on the importance of 'behavioural nutrition',

and promoting a narrative approach to normalizing out of care experiences. He highlighted the importance of 'staying open and vulnerable in all that we do'. The conference ended with a couple of powerful presentations

by **Xavier McElrath-Bey** from Chicago, and **Laurence Stanton-Greenwood** from Sheffield, both of whom shared their experiences of group living as children and the traumatic experiences that this brought. Xavier was handed a life sentence as a child for his involvement in murder and now campaigns for fairer sentencing for traumatized children entering the justice system. Johnnie Gibson is working hard to try and get him to come to Ireland – his story would be a powerful catalyst for professionals, children, and policy makers in the field of LAC and criminal justice (look up on YouTube).

VULNERABILITY IS THE
BIRTHPLACE OF
INNOVATION, CREATIVITY,
AND CHANGE

In summary, the conference was a great chance to meet people from across the world, including the US, Israel, Switzerland, Canada, and the UK and to gain inspiration and resources on CARE and other practice innovations worldwide. Other highlights of note included the **Music and Voices Choir** concert performed by young people in care and the beautiful setting of Lake George were fresh and collaborative ideas took shape. The children and team from NHSCT were of course central to many of these discussions and I hope that this experience will be of genuine benefit to our children and team of CARE leaders and practitioners.