

Parenting and treating traumatized children and those with attachment disorders is challenging - it often feels like a lonely journey into the "final frontier." **EssentialSPACE** helps caregivers, and the professionals who help their children, to learn additional trauma-sensitive, attachment-focused strategies and interventions related to the essential elements of therapeutic parenting. The workshop, conducted by Billy Kaplan, a Clinical Social Worker, and Christine Moers, a therapeutic parent, will be like sitting in on a conversation with these two leaders in the field as they discuss some very practical ways to implement therapeutic parenting every day. As Dan Hughes said about their work together, "First they help us to understand the tremendous challenges that children face after first having experienced neglect and abuse at the hands of their original parents. Then Christine and Billy let us know that they "get" the tremendous challenges facing parents who are trying to raise these children. They do not give us magical techniques or parenting cookbooks. They direct our minds to the basics: an attitude of playfulness, acceptance, curiosity, and empathy (PACE) along with the value of developing a home that provides these children with safety, supervision, structure, and support. They leave us with hope and renewed energy to provide these children with what they desperately need."

Christine Moers is a married mother of five, parent coach, and author of the popular blog WelcomeToMyBrain.Com. She is a co-presenter in the DVD "Chaos to Healing: Therapeutic Parenting 101," which presents practical application of the P.A.C.E. model developed by Dan Hughes, Ph.D. Her YouTube channel is free to the public, and is utilized across the country by parents, therapists and foster parenting organizations. Christine stands out in a crowd, with her dreadlocks, tattoos and nose ring, yet it's her personable nature which continues to draw people to her in their greatest struggles. She has a unique ability to use humor and raw, personal stories to not only encourage and support parents and caregivers, but to help professionals better understand how to thoughtfully connect with these amazing people who are struggling in the trenches. When she's not parenting or supporting others who are, she enjoys hula hooping, drinking really good coffee and gorging on Thai food.

Billy Kaplan's work is being his daughters' father and his wife's husband. He is also the President and Clinical Director of House Calls Counseling, a human services company based in Chicagoland that provides attachment-focused psychotherapy to individuals, couples and families in the comfort of the home. He earned a Master of Social Work from Yeshiva University, the Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been a clinical supervisor in foster care, residential, and counseling programs; a training coordinator for a statewide child welfare agency; a part-time instructor at the Loyola University School of Social Work; an adjunct faculty member at Governor's State University; and a facilitator of Boot Camp for New Dads at the University of Chicago Lying-In Hospital. He has presented workshops locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. He is the co-producer of an educational DVD, with Christine Moers, entitled "Chaos to Healing: Therapeutic Parenting 101."

Proudly Presented by: The Youth and Family Services Team of the Saratoga County Mental Health Clinic & The Saratoga County Citizens' Committee For Mental Health Location: Knights of Columbus 50 Pine Road, Saratoga Springs