



- 8:30-9:00am Registration & Networking**
- 9:00-9:05am Welcome**
- 9:05-9:15am Legislative Update**
- 9:15-10:00am General Session: Youth Panel**
- 10:00-11:00am Workshop A**

**Transitioning Out of Foster Care:** The transition to adulthood is hard. But when you transition to adulthood **and** out of the foster care system – it’s even harder. Young adults who age out of the foster care system are at increased risk of poverty, homelessness, addiction, and involvement with adult criminal courts. As a GAL volunteer you have the power – and after this workshop, the tools to make a challenging situation much easier and less risky for these young adults.

**DCF Hotline:** How does it all begin? What starts the entire process in motion? Typically it is a call to the Florida Abuse Hotline. The Abuse Hotline serves as the central reporting center for allegations of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation for all children (and vulnerable adults) in Florida. The Department will present on how the hotline works and discuss how they determine which calls are accepted for further investigation.

**11:00-11:10am Break**

**11:10-12:10pm General Session: Adoption Intervention:** A private adoption agency may “intervene” in an open dependency case when a parent consents to terminate their parental rights and directs that their child be adopted by a person of their choosing. This session will go over the pros and cons of adoption intervention. It is important that you understand the law, the process and the factors judges will consider and how to support what is best for the child.

**12:10-1:00pm Lunch**

**1:00-2:00pm General Session: Sunshine Health Overview:** Sunshine Health operates the state's only Medicaid Child Welfare Specialty Plan. This session will provide an overview of the health plan and the integrated model that incorporates physical health, behavioral health, and child welfare. A summary of the benefits offered and other value-added supports will be discussed, as well.

**2:00-3:00pm Workshop B**

**Ins and Outs of being a Foster Parent:** Being a foster parent is an undertaking of the heart. Foster parent’s open not only their homes, but their hearts to the children they care for – not just for an hour or two but for months or even years at a time. Foster parents have many challenges with their mission of the heart. As a GAL volunteer, it is critical to understand what foster parents can and can’t do; what their daily lives are like; and how these issues relate to your work as a GAL volunteer. The presenter for this workshop is a foster parent who has special insight and information to make your work as a GAL more successful.

**Tips for Testifying:** Attorneys for the GAL Program are an integral part of the GAL Program’s advocacy team. You are in for a treat as two of our best show you what a trial is like in dependency court. The best part? Question and Answer time! These incredibly experienced attorneys have a wealth of information to share with you.

**3:00-3:15pm Break**

**3:15-4:15pm Judges Perspective**

**Closing/Encore - Ask Alan Abramowitz**