



COLLECTIVE CONVERSATIONS SETTING HOPE IN *MOTION* CALL FOR SPEAKERS



Our Call for Speakers is now open! We're seeking 90-minute sessions that move people – ideas that challenge assumptions, inspire collaboration, and offer practical tools participants can use right away.

<https://www.collectiveconversations.org/>



Whether you work in mental health, education, legal services, healthcare, or community advocacy, your perspective matters.

We're especially excited about proposals that bridge disciplines, invite new voices into the conversation, and give attendees something they can put into action immediately.

We welcome proposals that are:

- **Community-centered and strengths-based** — highlighting what's working and why.
- **Actionable** — providing practical takeaways and tools.
- **Interactive and reflective** — fostering dialogue, skill-sharing, or storytelling.
- **Cross-disciplinary** — connecting people across roles and systems.

**If you're doing meaningful work that others can learn from,
we want to hear from you.**

IMPORTANT DATES & DETAILS

Activity	Date
Call for Speakers Closes	Monday, December 1st, 2025
Speakers Notified of Acceptance	On or around January 5, 2026
Technical Assistance Sessions (one required, others optional)	February 1st – March 31st, 2026
Speaker Materials Due	Friday, April 10th, 2026
(If needed) Final Technical Assistance Session	Week of April 27th, 2026
Conference Dates	Monday May 11th, 2026 & Tuesday May 12th, 2026
Speaker Honorarium Paid	Week of May 18th, 2026

Call for Speakers Closes

The call for speakers will close on Friday, December 1st, at 5:00 pm ET. To ensure a fair and timely review process, late submissions cannot be accepted. All proposals will be thoughtfully reviewed by the Conference Planning Committee with attention to diversity of perspectives, alignment with conference goals, and trauma-informed principles.

Speakers Notified of Acceptance

All speakers will be notified of the Committee's decision by January 5, 2026. Notifications will be sent via email and will include next steps for scheduling your technical assistance session, along with guidance and resources to help you prepare your session content and materials.

Technical Assistance Sessions

To ensure all sessions reflect our shared values and effectively engage a multidisciplinary audience, each accepted presenter will schedule at least one individualized technical assistance session, with the option to add up to two more if desired. These sessions are designed to support presenters – not to oversee or edit their work – by helping communicate ideas clearly, align content with the conference's goals and desired tone, and integrate trauma-informed principles throughout. Our aim is to create a conference experience that feels engaging, inclusive, and safe for both presenters and participants.

Speaker Materials Due

Final presentation materials, including slides and any accompanying handouts, are due by Friday, April 10th, 2026. This timeline ensures the conference team has sufficient time to review materials and provide feedback, if needed.

Final Technical Assistance Session

Following the review of materials, presenters may be invited to participate in one final technical assistance session to address any recommended adjustments or to strengthen alignment with the conference's goals and values. This session is meant to be collaborative, encouraging, and a space for presenters to refine their materials and feel more confident in their delivery.



Conference Dates

Collective Conversations: Setting Hope in Motion will be held on May 11th and 12th, 2026 at The Center Club in Baltimore, Maryland.

Speaker Honorarium

Each accepted speaker will receive a \$300 honorarium in appreciation for their time, expertise, and contribution to the conference. If a session includes multiple presenters, each speaker will receive their own \$300 honorarium, while one complimentary conference registration will be provided per session. Honoraria will be mailed within one week after the conference concludes.

Have questions before clicking send? Contact us at speakers@collectiveconversations.org.



SHARE YOUR SESSION IDEA

Please share your proposal using the online portal on the conference website. Note that the form where you enter your proposal information does ***not*** allow you to save your entries and return to them at a later time. **We recommend completing each section in a separate document first, then cutting and pasting your responses.**

01

Title of Your Session

Give your session a short, engaging title that captures the heart of your presentation. (Max 12 words)

02

Session Summary

Briefly describe what your session is about and what participants will take away. (Max 100 words)

03

Who is this session most relevant for?

Educators, Mental Health Professionals, Health care providers, Youth-serving professionals, Child welfare/CPS, Legal/judicial professionals, Peer support/ Lived experience leaders, Other



04 Who else could benefit from this session?

PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE

05 What do you want people to *learn* during your session?

List 3 learning objectives for your session. Be sure to include objectives that are observable and measurable. Try to stay away from verbs like know, understand, learn, appreciate. Below are some of our favorites for you to use!

✓ *list, describe, recite, write, identify*

✓ *compute, discuss, explain, predict*

✓ *apply, demonstrate, prepare, use*

✓ *analyze, design, select, utilize*

✓ *compile, create, plan, revise*

✓ *assess, compare, rate, critique*

06 What do you want people to *feel* during your session?

List 3 – 5 words that describe the experience you hope to create.

07 What do you want people to *leave feeling or change* because of your session?

List 3 – 5 words that describe the lasting impact or shift you hope to create.

09

What is something you don't want people to feel, and how will you be mindful of that?

Think about discomforts or barriers and how you'll navigate them. (1–2 sentences)

10

How will you invite participants to connect, reflect, or participate during your session?

Please choose at least two: Group discussion, Polling or journaling, Case studies, Creative activity, Movement or somatic tools, Reflection or storytelling, Other

11

How will you ensure your session is inclusive and culturally responsive?

(1–2 sentences)

THE PRESENTER(S)

After submitting your form, please scroll down to upload your current CV/resume(s), and any specific resources or files you'd like to share.

12

Tell us a little about who will be presenting, what draws each of you to this topic, and the perspectives you bring – lived experience, professional expertise, or both.

(Max 200 words)

13

Please share the best email address to use when communicating with you about this submission.



PANEL DISCUSSION

We're considering including one or two panel discussions focused on the most pressing issues facing prevention professionals across sectors. These panels will bring together diverse voices across systems to explore real challenges, share perspectives, and offer practical insights.

14

If you had 15 minutes to speak without much prep, what topic could you confidently share insight or experience about?

This will help us identify potential themes and speakers.

15

If a panel aligns with your topic, would you be open to participating?

We will always reach out to confirm your interest before including you in a panel.

OTHER INFORMATION

16

Submit a clip or resource.

We welcome you to share a video, article, or other material that highlights your work. You can add a link below, or upload to the folder where you're redirected after submitting your completed form.

17

AV or Tech Needs

List anything specific you'll need (e.g., audio, slides, materials).

18

Anything else we should know?

Use this space for special requests or anything that didn't fit elsewhere (Max 100 words).