

# Into the Wild – Understanding Risk and Rites of Initiation with Vulnerable Youth



**November 12, 2015**  
**CESA #12 Conference Center**  
**Registration: 8:30 a.m.**  
**Training: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

## Overview

Youth in crisis are often at a crossroads in life. This workshop will explore the turbulent and transformative energies of youth who go to extremes. Traditional cultures respond to these needs with ritual rites of passage; tests of character on the way to adult membership in society. We will explore traditional rites of initiation, how they worked (or failed), and what we can learn about the emergent character strengths of youth compelled into crisis. By appreciating these older paths of wisdom, we will see hidden possibilities for crisis stabilization and team based interventions for youth.

Schools are powerful environments for fostering growth and transformation. Successful schools manage risk and promote resilience through the “goodness of fit” between student’s capacity and their environment. Identifying and planning for the internal and external forces that promote growth is a nuanced and misunderstood process. Developmental psychology and the wisdom of indigenous cultures can shed light on this process.

This workshop will explore the shifting balance between stress and protective factors in the caregiving environment using a framework that can guide planning for families, schools and community partners.

## Training Objectives

1. To enhance understanding of adolescent transition, and a function of risk taking behavior.
2. To enhance understanding of cultural influence and sanctioned risk-taking.
3. To strengthen knowledge of intrapsychic properties of transformation.
4. Framework for systems of care that support developmental competencies.
5. To inform team based approaches to assuring both safety and personal development of youth and adolescents.
6. Inform practice planning and load balancing for schools, community partners.



**Presenter:** Philip W. Robinson, LCSW is committed to improving the lives of vulnerable children and families. He brings his experience as a psychotherapist and human services administrator to the task of developing collaborative systems of care- linking private sector services to federal, state and county governments to restore the lives of real people within their communities. Phil's clinical experience as well as extensive studies of psychoanalytic theory, theology and the development of men contribute to his unique approach to understanding the significance of healthy attachments in youth and adolescence.

**Registration Fee:** \$25.00 per participant *(Registration fee includes materials, break and lunch)*

**Registration Deadline Date:** November 5, 2015 *(Registrations cancelled after deadline will not be refunded)*

To register – go to [www.myquickreg.com](http://www.myquickreg.com)