



Bridges  
Community

## BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

### Agenda

**DAY ONE**      **1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Welcome, Introduction, and Housekeeping items**

#### **Mental Models of Economic Class**

**Christina Fulsom**

How powerful are the environments in which we live? This topic co-investigates economic class environments using mental models and targets how these experiences form a variety of perspectives and perceptions essential to working together to solve issues surrounding economic class.

#### **Break**

#### **Research Continuum on Causes of Poverty**

**Christina Fulsom**

This segment reviews the research continuum on the causes of poverty and the strategic grid that can be used to mitigate poverty by employing strategies that target all four areas of research: individuals' choices/behavior, human and social capital, exploitation, and political/economic structures.

#### **Hidden Rules**

**Mike Taliaferro**

Have you ever broken a hidden rule? This segment investigates the unspoken cues and habits of socioeconomic class environments and the impact that these generally unspoken mechanisms have on individuals and relationships

**East Texas Human Needs Network Membership**

**[www.ethnn.org](http://www.ethnn.org)**

Becoming a member is a statement of commitment to collaborate in purposeful strategic ways that leverage the resources of each party for the benefit of all. It is a commitment to our mission of diverse organizations and individuals working together for strengthened programs, connection and improved awareness of services that meet essential human needs.

**DAY TWO**

**8:30 am – 12:00 noon**

**Key Points**

**Mike Taliaferro**

Social class comparisons and judgment exists in all economic classes and, no matter what the class, people are trying to earn the respect of their peers. Economic class is about achieving the resources to have a future story, choice, and the power to solve problems.

**Break**

**Language**

**Mike Taliaferro**

At some point, most of us have wished we could take back our words. Participants will explore the essential pursuit of respectful communication, conversation, and dialogue. This module offers explicit information and strategies specific to the five registers of language, discourse patterns, and the impact on casual and formal language registers between/among individuals within each economic class, as well as between/among individuals in diverse economic class environments.

**Resources**

**Christina Fulsom**

The Bridges Out of Poverty work is based on this definition of poverty: “Poverty is the extent to which an individual does without resources.” We may experience financial poverty, yet we may be “rich” in human compassion.

**Bridges Constructs**

**Mike Taliaferro**

Participants will examine the basic tenets that ensure this work and research are embedded in respect, inclusion, and central foundational principles.

**Close**

**Christina Fulsom**

---

**Bridges Out of Poverty Certified Trainers**

**Mike Taliaferro**

President of Amherst Oil and Gas, and Board President of East Texas Human Needs Network

**Christina Fulsom**

Founder and CEO of East Texas Human Needs Network

---

**BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY –**

**Design and Redesign: The Client Life Cycle**

The objective of Design and Redesign is to gain tools to analyze your institution. Increase resources and tools for staff, management, and leadership when designing or redesigning programs based on the Bridges Constructs.

- Analyze what the institution currently does.
- Create a mental model of the institution today and then one of how it will look in the future. Create concrete plans that will get you to the future story.

**For more information contact Sheila Thrash: 903.216.3211 or [sheila@ethnn.org](mailto:sheila@ethnn.org)**

**ethnn.org**