



## 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "REFLECTIONS" SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT SPEAKER BIOS

### **JULIE BRAND, MS**

Julie Brand holds a Master's degree in Counseling and enjoyed a distinguished 25-year career as a school counselor. Now she uses her unique perspective as both counselor and survivor, to speak and to write about maternal incest. She combines research data, professional insights and her personal experiences to enlighten audiences about the reality of mother-daughter sexual abuse. In 2006, she founded CAPER Consulting (Child Abuse Prevention, Education and Recovery) dedicated to confronting the subject of mother-child sexual abuse. She published *A Mother's Touch: Surviving Mother-Daughter Sexual Abuse*, in 2007. Since 2005, she has educated and empowered audiences across the United States with her dynamic programs on maternal incest, female offenders in positions of trust and the opportunities for recovery from childhood trauma. Her audiences include victim advocates, social workers, law enforcement, medical professionals, attorneys, CASAs, child advocates, mental health professionals, victim services administrators and always, of course, the many professionals who are themselves survivors of childhood trauma. Julie's upbeat presentations focus on the power of resiliency and healing in all of our lives. She has been a frequent presenter at the annual August "Crimes Against Children Conference" in Dallas, Texas (returning August, 2018) and at the National Children's Advocacy Center Symposium in Huntsville, Alabama. Julie and her work are also featured in a 2013 Canadian documentary on mother-daughter sexual abuse, entitled "It Was A Woman."

### **CINDY BROWN, MD**

Cindy Brown is a child abuse pediatrician. For the past 20 years, she has been the medical director of the child abuse program at Mission Children's Hospital in Asheville, NC. The Mission Child Safety Team evaluates nearly 700 children annually when there are concerns for possible maltreatment. Dr. Brown is a consultant for the Child Medical Evaluation Program and serves as a Medical Examiner for Buncombe County. She is continually inspired by her amazing colleagues and enjoys the challenges of keeping up with the dynamic and evolving field of child maltreatment.

### **MELISSA BRUNNER, BA**

Melissa Brunner is an Outreach Coordinator at SRCAC where she utilizes her 20+ years of experience as a former CAC Executive Director, trainer, speaker, and provider of direct services to deliver training and technical assistance to CACs, MDTs, and State Chapters within the 16-state Southeast region. Prior to joining SRCAC, Melissa collectively spent 7 years as an Executive Director of the state chapter and a CAC in Arkansas. At the Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas, Melissa oversaw all aspects of children's advocacy programming at the local and state levels as the CAC's first state chapter director; increased service offerings throughout the state, growing the number of CACs in Arkansas from 7 to 13 centers. During this time, she led the successful effort to attain NCA Chapter Accreditation. While as the Executive Director at Children's Safety Center in Springdale, Arkansas, Melissa also served as the Chapter Board President before accepting the state chapter executive director position. Prior to joining the CAC movement, she provided direct services to clients with CPS in Colorado and was the Investigations Supervisor with CPS in Arkansas where she oversaw the Child Maltreatment Investigations Unit, which involved reviewing case work, providing referrals, and collaborating with other child welfare professionals to improve outcomes for victims. Melissa spent over four years as a Treatment Coordinator for a county mental health center and a Sexual Assault Program Coordinator for a rape and domestic violence agency in Washington State. Melissa has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Chapman University of Orange California.

### **STACEY CRAVEN, MSW, LCSW**

Stacey is the Social Work Practitioner/Program Manager at the NC Child Medical Evaluation Program at UNC. Craven has a BS in Child Development from East Carolina University and a Master's of Social Work from the University of NC – Chapel Hill. Prior to her employment with NC CMEP, Craven was a CPS Forensic Investigator and Supervisor with Moore and Chatham County DSS. At NC CMEP, she provides multi-disciplined education and consults with social workers and providers working with CMEP about evaluation referrals, locating providers and resources, interpretation recommendations, as well as working with providers as a liaison to DSS staff.

### **DEB FLOWERS, MSN, CPNP**

Deborah Flowers serves as the Program Coordinator/Nurse Consultant for the NC Child Medical Evaluation Program (CMEP) at UNC. In this capacity, Flowers coordinates the overall health care services of the statewide CMEP and develops curriculum and conducts training on the medical diagnosis and management of child maltreatment for medical and non-medical professionals. She is also an assistant clinical professor for the UNC-CH School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics as well as an adjunct assistant clinical professor for the UNC School of Nursing. Flowers has over 31 years of experience in the field of nursing with trauma and child maltreatment being a large focus of her expertise.

### **AMANDA GOPAL, LCSW**

Amanda Gopal is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker specializing in sexual assault, PTSD, and sex trafficking. She received her Masters of Social Work from Loyola University in Chicago and has worked in the mental health field for 10 years. Amanda is a trained EMDR therapist and is rostered in the state of North Carolina as a Trauma-Focused CBT clinician. Amanda is a national speaker and has provided numerous trainings on sex trafficking dynamics, clinical work with victims, and trauma informed interviews. She has a private practice in Asheville, NC where she provides trauma therapy to kids and adults. Amanda and her husband also run The Hundred Movement, a non-profit organization that engages faith communities in the aftercare for victims of sex trafficking.

### **JULIA WOLF HEJAZI, MS, JD**

Julia Wolf Hejazi is the Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor for the North Carolina Conference of District Attorney's, where she creates training and guidance for North Carolina Prosecutors in the area of Child Abuse prosecutions, as well as provides case consultation and handles conflict cases for local Prosecutors. From 2015 to 2017, Julia was appointed as a Highly Qualified Expert (HQE) with the United States Marine Corps and worked at Headquarters Marine Corps at the Pentagon and on Marine Corps Base Quantico. As an HQE, Julia created training worldwide for Marine Corps Prosecutors on prosecution of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Julia presented trainings at The Naval Justice School, Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Base Quantico, and for NCIS agents at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Julia was an Assistant District Attorney in Guilford County from 1997 – 2006 and was the Chief Assistant District Attorney in Rockingham County from 2007-2014. During her time as a Prosecutor, in addition to trying numerous cases involving child victims, Julia served on the Child Fatality Task Force, the Sexual Assault Response Team, was the facilitator for MDT meetings, and instrumental in the creation of Child Advocacy Centers in both counties. In addition, she taught for the NC Conference of District Attorneys on child abuse prosecution. Julia is a graduate of Wake Forest School of Law in Winston Salem. Prior to Law School, she received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana as well as a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Louisville.

### **CORY JEWELL JENSEN, MS, CCSOT**

Currently the senior trainer for CBI Consulting, Cory Jewell Jensen, M.S., spent the last 35 years providing evaluation and treatment services to adult sex offenders and their families in Portland, Oregon. In addition to her clinical work, Ms. Jensen has provided training and consultation services to The National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse, The National Child Advocacy Center, The National Children's Alliance, The United States Navy, The National Crime Victims Association, The National Boy Scouts Foundation, The Mark McGwire Foundation for Children, US Marshall's Office, NYPD Special Victims Unit and a number of law enforcement, child advocacy and Faith based organizations. Ms. Jensen served as Executive Director for the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, chaired two of ATSA's International Research and Treatment Conferences and served as President of Oregon's Chapter of ATSA. She also chaired the Offender Management Committee attached to the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, has been an instructor for Portland State University's Child Welfare Training Institute for the past 15 years and provided training for countless Multi-disciplinary Teams throughout the United States. Jensen has been the recipient of Oregon's "Commercial Crime Prevention Award," the "Champions for Children Award," the OATSA "Significant Achievement Award," the Nunnenkamp "Award of Excellence," and the Jan Hindman Memorial Award. She has published a number of articles related to sex offender treatment, risk management and child abuse prevention, testified as an expert witness in local and federal courts and been a featured guest on radio talk shows and the Oprah Winfrey Show.

### **JEM A. JONES, MPA**

Sgt. Jem Jones has over 24 years of experience as a sworn law enforcement officer with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. He spent 5 years as a patrol officer along the West Boulevard corridor. He was a Domestic Violence Detective for 6.5 years and was lead investigator in over 750 domestic violence cases. He was promoted in 2005 to Sergeant and assigned to the North Tryon Patrol Division for 8 years. In September 2013 he became the Sergeant of the Crimes Against Children Unit.

In this position, he manages a team of 10 Detectives and has supervised thousands of investigations involving sexual and physical abuse of children, enticement, and internet crimes.

**ALVERA LESANE, Ed. D**

Alvera J. Lesane, Ed. D has served as the Associate Superintendent for Iredell-Statesville Schools since 2010. She also serves as an adjunct professor for The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the School of Education. Previously, Dr. Lesane has worked in Iredell-Statesville Schools and Durham Public Schools as the director of professional growth and development. Her passion centers on serving children and adults from diverse backgrounds. Among other community activities, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Dove House Children's Advocacy Center in Statesville, NC.

**MELISSA LILLIE**

Melissa Lillie has worked as a forensic interviewer since October of 2010 at Mission Hospital Child Safety Team, a hospital based program in Asheville, NC. Melissa has her Master in Social Work and earned her License of Clinical Social Work (LCSW) in 2003. She has previously worked as a full time therapist specializing in anxiety and autism spectrum concerns in children and young adults. Melissa is trained in Trauma-Focused CBT which led her into the work of forensic interviewing and she feels that the field of forensic interviewing has made her a better clinician. She has an interest in the use of mindfulness in therapy and in the work place.

**BETH MOORE MCKEITHAN, BS, BA**

Beth graduated from East Carolina University, with a degree in Business Management. She is originally from Catawba County, NC, but worked in the non-profit world in Atlanta, GA for 6 years before joining the United States Peace Corps and moving to Namibia, Africa. In Africa, she worked daily with orphaned and vulnerable children helping them deal with domestic violence and sexual abuse issues within their homes. After completing her service, she relocated to Salisbury to work with Prevent Child Abuse Rowan. Beth is a certified Child Forensic Interviewer through The Childhood Trust and The Center for Family Solutions in Butler County, Ohio.

**MARY BETH NELSON, MSW, LCSW**

Mary Beth Nelson has worked in the field of child welfare for the past 16 years. She began her career working for Child Protective Services after obtaining her Master's Degree in Social Work. Mary Beth transitioned from CPS investigator to forensic interviewer when she relocated to Atlanta and began working for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. After working for two years as a forensic interviewer, Mary Beth transitioned to the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy. She has worked as a forensic interviewer and supervisor for the Georgia Center for 11 years, conducting over 1200 forensic interviews and testifying in over 60 criminal trials involving allegations of sexual abuse, physical abuse, child witnesses to homicides and child sex trafficking. Mary Beth partners with the Georgia Human Trafficking Task Force, The Georgia Bureau of Investigations and the Georgia State Patrol to conduct trainings around the state, teaching partners about topics related to human trafficking/domestic minor sex trafficking. She also serves on the faculty of Child First Georgia, training caseworkers, law enforcement officers and forensic interviewers how to effectively talk to children during an investigation. Her passion is ensuring that vulnerable children are protected and have a voice during child abuse investigations.

**DAN POWERS, ACSW, LCSW**

Dan Powers, LCSW is a clinical social worker and currently serves as Senior Vice President and Clinical Director for Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County in Plano, Texas. He supervises a staff of 22 therapists and clinical interns providing no cost services to victims of child abuse and family violence as well as their non-offending family members. As Senior VP he is responsible for clinical operations and program development as well as directing the Advocacy Center's clinical internship and training program. Dan has over 25 years of experience working within the field of child abuse, sex offenders and family violence. He frequently testifies as an expert witness in state and federal courts. He has also testified on several occasions before Texas legislative committees. He has been appointed by the governor on two occasions to state agency boards and is currently the Chair Elect of the Texas Children's Justice Act Task Force. Dan has made numerous presentations at major national and regional conferences on the sexual victimization of children, sex offenders, and the multidisciplinary response to child abuse. He is best known for his spirited presentations on wellness and survival for child abuse and family violence professionals. Dan lives in Texas with his wife and two sons.

**JIM SEARS**

Jim Sears has been a law enforcement officer for over 30 years working with the Irving Police Department (TX) where he retired as a sergeant, serving 17 years in the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Unit. A dedicated advocate of children, he currently serves as a law enforcement

consultant/instructor with the Shaken Baby Alliance for the Serious Physical Child Abuse and SIDS Program, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement instructor specializing in Domestic Violence and Child Abuse, Instructor at the Crimes Against Children's Conference in Dallas, is a Certified Instructor for Advanced Child Abuse Investigations through the Texas Municipal Police Association, instructor for the Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center and National Criminal Justice Training Center. Sears is the 2011 recipient of the Lt. Bill Walsh Award from the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center for career achievements in the field of child abuse investigations. He frequently lectures on topics related to child abuse investigations, interview and interrogation, and crime scene investigations for domestic violence and child abuse.

### **MELISSA SHUE, BS**

Melissa is a native of Salisbury, NC. She attended NCSU and graduated from UNC-G with a degree in Business and Community Service. After graduation, she was the Associate Director of United Way of Rowan County for approximately five years. During this time, she realized she was passionate about working with people on a grass roots level. Melissa began working as a Health Educator with the Rowan County Health Department. Her focus was to reduce teen pregnancy. She, along with a dedicated group of volunteers, worked to incorporate the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council of Rowan County. After five years with the Health Department, she began working part-time in order to stay at home with her children. She taught the Family Life curriculum to Rowan-Salisbury middle school grades for approximately 12 years. Melissa and her husband, Mark, have three children.

### **JIM TANNER, Ph.D.**

Jim Tanner has been a community corrections professional since 1970. He earned his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Illinois with specialties in Cognitive Social Psychology, Sociology of Law and Evaluation Research. His primary interests are the adaptation of cognitive sciences in treatment of offender populations, cyber-crime analysis and improving the efficacy of sex offender treatment. He is a nationally recognized authority on sex offender digital behavior, grooming strategies and sex offender management. He authored Quick Skills, a comprehensive modular cognitive-behavior treatment curriculum in the US and Australia. Jim has presented hundreds of seminars and workshops across the country.

### **RACHEL THOMAS, M. Ed**

A graduate of UCLA with a Masters in Education and a personal survivor of human trafficking, Rachel has extensive experience teaching, training, curriculum writing, public speaking and mentoring. As Director of *Sowers Education Group*, she has educated and inspired a wide range of audiences including teens, social service providers, churches, teachers, college students, and law enforcement. Sowers' intervention curriculum *Ending The Game* is being used by over 260 facilitators in 12 states and helps survivors break the bonds of attachment to traffickers and the trafficking lifestyle. Since 2012, Rachel has reached over 47,000 live audience members and millions more through numerous media outlets including New Day Morning Show on CNN, Inside with Chris Cuomo: Anyone's Daughter on HLN, The T.D. Jakes Show, The New York Times Upfront Magazine and ABC's Newsmakers. Rachel was also honored by Congressman Ed Royce of California's 39th district and Los Angeles Supervisor Don Knabe for her leadership and trafficking prevention efforts.

### **HOLLY WARNER, FNP, B-C**

Holly Warner, FNP-BC joined the Child Abuse Team at UNC Hospitals in January 2014. In her current role, she provides inpatient consultation services for children admitted to UNC when there is a concern of abuse or neglect. Prior to her current role, she worked as a child medical evaluator at SAFEchild Advocacy Center in Raleigh, NC. She earned her undergraduate degree (BSN) as well as her master's degree (MSN, FNP) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### **NICK ZADINA, BA**

Nick Zadina is a Training Specialist at Project Harmony and has been training professionals and students in the Omaha area for the past fifteen years. In his current position he trains educators, law enforcement, nurses, and professionals who work with children about collaboration, mandatory reporting, family engagement, and empathy. Prior to training at Project Harmony, Nick was the Artistic Director of the Respect organization, which utilizes theatrical programming to educate students about bullying and healthy relationships. He also worked at the Boys Town National Hotline as a crisis counselor. Nick has an MA in Theatre and is has nearly completed his MS in Counseling, each from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Nick has trained at the San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, the National Symposium of Child Abuse, and at the Bullying Research Network conferences along with several statewide conferences.