

Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina
25th Annual "Reflections" Symposium on Child Abuse & Neglect
Lake Junaluska, NC

September 24 - 26, 2019

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Welcome & Opening Remarks @ 8:30 – 8:45 am **15 MINUTES**
Special recognition may occur during this time

Keynote Address @ 8:45 – 10:15 am **90 MINUTES**

JENNIFER SCHUETT, ADVOCATE/TIM CROMIE, BS
"Lived to Tell – The Jennifer Schuett Story" (Part 1 of 2)

This case study will detail the case of Jennifer Schuett, who was kidnapped as an eight-year-old, brutally raped, had her throat cut and was left in a field for dead. The presenters will discuss the challenges of the initial 1990 investigation and working with a child victim and the advantages and hurdles of multiple agencies, including the FBI, working together. Jennifer will share her memory of that night, her desire to find her attacker, and moving on with her life. They will discuss how time becomes an obstacle and an advantage in an eighteen-year investigation in addition to working with the media to find possible witnesses and clues. Advances in technology will be discussed, how DNA identified a possible suspect and the steps taken to connect him to the crime. Lastly, she will describe her experiences, becoming the "Survivor", and her desire to motivate survivors and professionals who work within the system.

Break @ 10:15 – 10:30 am **15 MINUTES**

Plenary Session @ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm **90 MINUTES**

JENNIFER SCHUETT, ADVOCATE/TIM CROMIE, BS
"Lived to Tell – The Jennifer Schuett Story" (Part 2 of 2)

This case study will detail the case of Jennifer Schuett, who was kidnapped as an eight-year-old, brutally raped, had her throat cut and was left in a field for dead. The presenters will discuss the challenges of the initial 1990 investigation and working with a child victim and the advantages and hurdles of multiple agencies, including the FBI, working together. Jennifer will share her memory of that night, her desire to find her attacker, and moving on with her life. They will discuss how time becomes an obstacle and an advantage in an eighteen-year investigation in addition to working with the media to find possible witnesses and clues. Advances in technology will be discussed, how DNA identified a possible suspect and the steps taken to connect him to the crime. Lastly, she will describe her experiences, becoming the "Survivor", and her desire to motivate survivors and professionals who work within the system.

Conference Luncheon @ 12:00 – 1:30 pm **90 MINUTES**

Breakout A @ 1:30 – 3:00 pm **90 MINUTES**

A1. JUSTIN FITZSIMMONS, JD

Ethical Considerations in Social Networking Sites: "What Happens When I Post That?"

This presentation describes the role of social networking sites in today's culture and their prevalence in the lives of both adults and children. The unique responsibilities of those in the medical, legal, law enforcement, victim services and advocacy fields are described to highlight common pitfalls of social media use by professionals. The audience sees examples pulled from various media sites that could cause ethical issues. Hypotheticals are given to encourage audience participation and interaction in determining whether social media use crosses an ethical boundary. Privacy issues are also addressed.

A2. JIM SEARS, RETIRED LE

Strangulation!

An overall look at the offense of strangulation in adults and children. What is strangulation, how much force is needed, and what injuries should we see from someone that has been strangled. What are the resources out there for these types of offenses and strategies for making your investigation through your interviews stronger.

A3. ALVERA LESANE, Ed.D.

Developing Cross Cultural Competence (Part 1 of 2)

This workshop is designed to help build awareness, knowledge, and skills in developing/implementing inclusive and responsive environments that allow for better service to clientele. The session will focus on understanding of one's own culture/identity within a larger social structure and the daily impact on work awareness, acknowledgment of differences, disparities knowledge and skills for navigating the dynamics of different strategies for building organizational capacity to practice cultural competency. The first session is the introductory level and the second session will delve more deeply into group exercises to examine one's personal cultural competence.

A4. HOLLY WARNER, MSN, FNP-BC, AFN-BC, SANE-P/SARA KIRK, LCSW, MED

Using Medical Information to Strengthen Investigations

This session will use cases to explore how medical diagnoses, recommendations, child welfare case decisions and legal outcomes are impacted by the involvement of the multidisciplinary team approach.

Break @ 3:00 – 3:15 pm

15 MINUTES

Breakout B @ 3:15 – 4:45 pm

90 MINUTES

B1. JUSTIN FITZSIMMONS, JD

Prosecuting Human Trafficking Cases: What Every Prosecutor Needs to Know!

Cases of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) can be very challenging for prosecutors because many of the fundamentals about trials and victims that they have learned throughout their careers do not apply. This presentation illustrates the different types of dynamics that these cases and victims bring. It walks the audience through a variety of hypotheticals on how to address different aspects of a trial of DMST, with special focus given on the handling of a victim of DMST.

B2. JIM SEARS, RETIRED LE

Coordinated Investigations

This class will use best practices in getting Child Protective Services and Law Enforcement in coordinating their investigations. Ideas and strategies for working together and overcoming obstacles they both may see. Prosecutors need to understand the strategies so that court cases can be coordinated with the investigation. First Responder strategies on helping investigators in making both civil and criminal cases stronger.

B3. ALVERA LESANE, Ed.D.

Developing Cross Cultural Competence (Part 2 of 2)

This workshop is designed to help build awareness, knowledge, and skills in developing/implementing inclusive and responsive environments that allow for better service to clientele. The session will focus on understanding of one's own culture/identity within a larger social structure and the daily impact on work awareness, acknowledgment of differences, disparities knowledge and skills for navigating the dynamics of different strategies for building organizational capacity to practice cultural competency. The first session is the introductory level and the second session will delve more deeply into group exercises to examine one's personal cultural competence.

B4. JAMES ANDERST, MD

Child Abuse Evaluations: Avoiding Critical Errors

This session will use the audience response system and multiple cases to explore common errors in the evaluation of child abuse.

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Breakout C @ 8:30 – 10:00 am

90 MINUTES

C1. JULIE KENNISTON, MSW, LISW

Minimizing Miscommunication in Child Forensic Interviews (Part 1 of 2)

Children acquire language in a cultural context. The meaning of words does not come as quickly as the use of those words when communicating. Some words are less reliable, such as pronouns and prepositions. Other words are not reliable because the cognitive processes needed to understand the use of these words have not been mastered by the child, such as "when" and "how many times" something happened. This presentation will provide information on children's use of language as preschoolers and as school-aged children. These concepts will be applied to the process of gathering information from children in forensic interviews. By understanding children's abilities to communicate, a forensic interview can be linguistically sensitive to the child's needs and be conducted in a legally sound manner.

C2. NANCY LAMB, JD

State of NC vs Gary Lee Lawrence, Jr: A Case Study in Prosecuting a Child Abuse Case with Adult Survivor Victims (Part 1 of 2)

On July 9, 2002, Gary Lee Lawrence, Jr. was convicted by a jury in Camden County, NC of engaging in multiple sex crimes including rape, sex offenses and indecent liberties against Gary, his youngest son, and his identical older twin sisters Shannon and Christie. These were three of the defendant's four biological children who came forward as adults. This case study will address the multitude of investigative and prosecutorial challenges involved in going back in time for the case to have a successful outcome in court, years after these horrific crimes were committed. Participants will have the rare opportunity during this presentation to hear from the twin sisters Shannon and Christie, now 40 years old. Shannon and Christie will share their perspectives on how and why they made the decision to come forward at age 20 to seek justice for themselves and their brother Gary, and how participating in the successful prosecution of their case changed their lives in the most positive ways possible. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions and learn from these amazing women as to why adult survivor cases should never be automatically declined for investigation or prosecution but should instead be considered on a case-by-case basis.

C3. JULIE BRAND, MS

Female Sex Offenders: Understanding the Dynamics and Supporting Survivors (Part 1 of 2)

This unique two-part training shines a spotlight on female offenders and their male and female victims. We'll examine the dynamics of familial sexual abuse—how the offenders (mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, cousins) groom their victims through their on-going relationships with the children. These “pre-disposed offenders” usually act alone but we'll also discuss examples of women co-offending in conjunction with male partners. Recent cases of successful prosecutions of female offenders will be shared. Attendees will learn ways to include females as potential perpetrators in prevention programs and in sexual abuse investigations. The presenter is an experienced counselor and resilient survivor of maternal sexual abuse.

C4. MICHELLE SCOTT, VSW/GLENN COVINGTON, BA

House of Horrors!

This case study will detail the investigation of a married couple, Bailey and Elizabeth Mills, who operated a day care and mentoring program for children. As it turned out, the husband was a two-time registered sex offender and also his wife's pimp. The investigation revealed that the husband had sexually molested 10 children and recorded the acts with his cell phone camera, including some in which his wife participated. Bailey Mills also arranged for a person known as Peter Gilbert but later identified as William Akers to have sex with three of the children in his care. The presenters will discuss their investigation of this multi-victim/multi-offender case and how "Peter Gilbert" was identified. This case was awarded the HERO AWARD by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Break @ 10:00 – 10:15 am

15 MINUTES

Breakout D @ 10:15 – 11:45 am

90 MINUTES

D1. JULIE KENNISTON, MSW, LISW

Minimizing Miscommunication in Child Forensic Interviews (Part 2 of 2)

Children acquire language in a cultural context. The meaning of words does not come as quickly as the use of those words when communicating. Some words are less reliable, such as pronouns and prepositions. Other words are not reliable because the cognitive processes needed to understand the use of these words have not been mastered by the child, such as “when” and “how many times” something happened. This presentation will provide information on children's use of language as preschoolers and as school-aged children. These concepts will be applied to the process of gathering information from children in forensic interviews. By understanding children's abilities to communicate, a forensic interview can be linguistically sensitive to the child's needs and be conducted in a legally sound manner.

D2. NANCY LAMB, JD

State of NC vs Gary Lee Lawrence, Jr: A Case Study in Prosecuting a Child Abuse Case with Adult Survivor Victims (Part 2 of 2)

On July 9, 2002, Gary Lee Lawrence, Jr. was convicted by a jury in Camden County, NC of engaging in multiple sex crimes including rape, sex offenses and indecent liberties against Gary, his youngest son, and his identical older twin sisters Shannon and Christie. These were three of the defendant's four biological children who came forward as adults. This case study will address the multitude of investigative and prosecutorial challenges involved in going back in time for the case to have a successful outcome in court, years after these horrific crimes were committed. Participants will have the rare opportunity during this presentation to hear from the twin sisters Shannon and Christie, now 40 years old. Shannon and Christie will share their perspectives on how and why they made the decision to come forward at age 20 to seek justice for themselves and their brother Gary, and how participating in the successful prosecution of their case changed their lives in the most positive

ways possible. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions and learn from these amazing women as to why adult survivor cases should never be automatically declined for investigation or prosecution but should instead be considered on a case-by-case basis.

D3. JULIE BRAND, MS

Female Sex Offenders: Understanding the Dynamics and Supporting Survivors (Part 2 of 2)

Society is still in denial that boys and men can even *be* victims of sexual assault by female offenders. This ignorance blocks males from self-disclosing their victimization and may even contribute to “mandated reporters” not reporting female-perpetrated sex crimes against boys. The minimization of the problem impedes victims’ opportunities for intervention and help. This program focuses on male victims of female perpetrated sexual abuse and assault. We’ll discuss the unique challenges males face and offer specific trauma informed approaches to working with male victims from disclosure to therapy.

D4. DAVID THORNELOE, JD/PATRICK WILHELM, BM

Capped Out! U.S. vs Anderson

This case presentation details the investigation and prosecution of United States v. Anderson et al. In 2014, Homeland Security Investigations learned that a complex child pornography production ring was centered in the Western District of North Carolina. The organization was led by an ex-patriot U.S. Citizen operating from Germany. This presentation will chronicle the identification of the major players in the ring and explain how they tricked thousands of teenage boys into producing child pornography by pretending to be alluring women with names like “Kerry Chaos.” The prosecutor and the forensic case agent will explain how the case touched Western North Carolina and how players from around the world were captured and ultimately sentenced to decades in prison by a federal court in Asheville.

Conference Luncheon @ 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

90 MINUTES

Breakout E @ 1:15 – 2:45 pm

90 MINUTES

E1. JULIE KENNISTON, MSW, LISW

Child Sex Trafficking Screening vs Forensic Interviewing

This presentation will compare and contrast screening for child sex trafficking with forensic interviews of alleged child sex trafficking victims. As funding for human trafficking has increased, many multidisciplinary teams are trying to identify child victims. There are several screening tools and often CACs are assisting in the process. However, screening is different than forensic interviews. This presentation will address the issues, dynamics and complications.

E2. JASON DICKINSON, PH.D.

The Accuracy of Children’s Eyewitness Identification & Physical Descriptions of Others

Most crimes against children are perpetrated by familiar adults. However, when children are assaulted by strangers, their ability to describe and identify never-before-seen assailants can play a key role in solving cases. This workshop will discuss research that compares the strengths and limitations children’s eyewitness identification to that of adults and will review a number of innovative lineup procedures designed to increase children’s identification accuracy. This workshop will also review the ability of young children to accurately describe the physical characteristics of strangers.

E3. EDWARD CHASE, JD

Model Practices in the Investigation & Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse

This workshop will examine model practices for the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases. Topics will include creative corroboration, evaluating the forensic interview, scientific and medical evidence, presenting expert witnesses at trial, anticipating common defenses at trial, and arguments for cases with limited evidence. This workshop will provide real world, useful tips for the investigation and prosecution of sexual abuse cases.

E4. MARTA MARTINEZ HASTY, LCSW/RICARDO RUBIALES, LCSW

Filling in the Gaps with Education, Enrichment and Career Readiness Programs for CSEC

Kristi House’s Project GOLD Drop-In Center is dedicated to addressing the array of services girls need to recover from sex trafficking. Operating a trauma-informed, client-driven program for 12 years, Project GOLD provides case management and therapy, but also fills in the gaps with educational support and tutoring, enrichment activities, life skills training and a major DOJ-supported job readiness/career development component called “Bridges to the Future.” All are aimed at providing clients with tools and support to forge their paths out of exploitation. The program is enhanced with community mentors, higher education and vocational specialists dedicated to this population, and survivor mentor-coaches who provide unmatched inspiration. Hear case studies and lessons learned through this inside look.

Break @ 2:45 – 3:00 pm

15 MINUTES

Breakout F @ 3:00 – 4:30 pm

90 MINUTES

F1. JULIE KENNISTON, MSW, LISW

Art of Interviewing

Child forensic interviewing is a conversation between a trained professional and a child who has potentially experienced abuse and/or exploitation or witnessed violence. In order to create an environment in which children have an opportunity to share life events, interviewers build rapport. This presentation will concentrate on the very important skill of building and maintaining rapport and how it influences the interview as a whole.

F2. JASON DICKINSON, PH.D.

Sources of Errors in Children's Testimony

The development of evidence-based interviewing protocols has greatly improved the quality of investigative interviews with children. Still, many sources of error in children's testimony can be traced to factors seemingly beyond interviewers' control—including individual differences in memory and cognition (e.g., executive function), preinterview exposure to suggestibility (e.g., through parents or peers), and deception (e.g., coaching). An understanding of these factors can be helpful when planning interviews, testing alternative explanations for children's statements, and evaluating the reliability of children's testimony. This workshop will review potential sources of error in children's testimony and will address common misconceptions about suggestibility.

F3. EDWARD CHASE, JD

The Racket About Rickets: Confronting the Metabolic Bone Defense at Trial

The "rickets" defense is making a comeback in courtrooms across the country. Defense experts who opine that the child suffered from a metabolic bone disease instead of abuse are causing significant confusion with juries. However, the science supporting their conclusions are widely condemned by the mainstream medical community. Understanding the arguments made by the defense, as well as the science that is supported by the medical community that rejects these claims, is critical to effectively confronting these defenses. This workshop will explore these defenses and provide practical ways to rebut this defense both at the investigation stage and in trial.

F4. KELLY HARRISON, BA

U.S. v. John Arthur Coburn

This case study will review the federal child exploitation investigation of John Arthur Coburn. From June to November 2017, the Charlotte office of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) conducted an online undercover investigation regarding the distribution of child pornography on a peer-to-peer file sharing network. The investigation led agents and Burke County detectives to the home of John Arthur Coburn, where he confessed to having sexually abused his six-year-old granddaughter and produced images of the abuse. HSI utilized cutting edge victim identification technology to identify Coburn as the producer of additional images found on the hard drives of computers seized from him. This technology resulted in the United States Attorney's Office charging Coburn with additional counts of production of child pornography. This block will discuss the investigative process and interviewing techniques that were used and will showcase the HSI Victim Identification Program's available tools for law enforcement. As a result of this investigation, Coburn was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison in January 2019.

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Breakout G @ 8:30 – 10:00 am

90 MINUTES

G1. KAREN VADINO, MSW, LPCC, OCPSII

"From Maalox Moments to Calgon Calm"

We have all experienced those stressful moments in our lives when things don't go the way we planned, or things come up that weren't planned at all. It is a part of life, but we're not always prepared to do what we need to do in order to reduce our stress. This workshop will examine some causes of stress, symptoms of stress, effects of stress and some techniques for reducing our stress.

G2. MARTA MARTINEZ HASTY, LCSW/RICARDO RUBIALES, LCSW

Clinical Services for CSEC Survivors: Adopting Current Treatments

This workshop examines evidence-based treatments and adaptations for child trauma for CSEC survivors. Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT), and modified TF-CBT for more complex trauma cases, as well as Risk Reduction through Family Therapy (RRFT) will be discussed. This workshop will help clinicians determine which therapeutic approach to use with CSEC clients for optimal results.

Consideration of the client's trauma history, presenting problems and diagnoses are factors that will be explored in treatment selection. This presentation will utilize case studies of real cases to help practitioners.

G3. JULIE BRAND, MS

A Close-Up Look at Female Sex Offenders in Positions of Trust

We have made progress in recognizing that some women, working in "positions of trust", ie. teachers, nuns, probation officers, coaches—do sexually abuse children. This workshop examines cases of female teachers found guilty of child sexual abuse. It explores the dynamics of their teacher-student "relationships" and reveals ways that the gender of the perpetrator impacts victim disclosures, the reporting of sex crimes, arrests, public opinion, prosecution *and* sentencing. The presenter shares audio portions of her interview with a convicted female teacher-offender. Proactive strategies for prevention and earlier intervention will be shared.

G4. CRYSTAL GREGORY, MS/KELLY HARRISON, BA

Forensic Interviews of Cyber Crimes

This workshop will discuss each step of a legally defensible forensic interview while working with electronic evidence. The presenter will discuss case examples and techniques for gathering details surrounding electronic evidence to gain more investigative knowledge. This workshop will focus on preparing the forensic interviewer and victim for the use of images, chat logs, and other evidence while respecting the needs of the victim. Various victims' needs will be discussed; including emotional reactions, compliancy, relationship with the offender, concerns of images being distributed, and preparing for parental reactions.

Break @ 10:00 – 10:15 am

15 MINUTES

Breakout H @ 10:15 – 11:45 am (CLOSING PLENARY)

90 MINUTES

H1. KAREN VADINO, MSW, LPCC, OCPSII

All Stressed Up and No Where to Go: Laugh it Off!

This stress management workshop is designed to help participants recognize stressors, become aware of their own personal stress level and discover some healthy, effective methods to reduce stress. Time management and humor are discussed as methods for effective stress management. Concepts presented in this workshop are applicable to all levels within an organization. The strategies discussed can provide appropriate interventions to help meet the needs of vulnerable adults.

OBJECTIVES FOR ENTIRE SYMPOSIUM

1. Recognize and describe the ways in which professionals (from various disciplines) who provide services to child abuse victims collaborate to make the investigation, evaluation and prosecution of child maltreatment cases stronger and more efficient.
2. Apply knowledge and skills to improve the multi-disciplinary response of professionals (from various disciplines) who provide services to child abuse victims in the investigation, evaluation, treatment and prosecution of child maltreatment cases.

CONTACT HOURS CALCULATION

10 Sessions x 90 minutes = 900 minutes
900 minutes divided by 60 minutes (1hr.) = 15 hours

Tuesday = 6 hrs.

Wednesday = 6 hrs.

Thursday = 3 hrs.

Tues/Wed. = 12 hrs.

Wed/Thurs. = 9 hrs.