

Children’s Advocacy Centers of North Carolina
26th Annual “Reflections” Symposium on Child Abuse & Neglect
(Virtual Symposium)

September 22 - 24, 2020

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Keynote @ 9:00 – 10:00 am

60 MINUTES

KRISTEN FEDEN, JD

Criminal Justice in the #MeToo Era: The Cosby Prosecution

The first high-profile sexual assault prosecution in the #MeToo era spanned more than three years from the re-opening of the investigation to sentencing. Now, the sexually violent predator sits in a cell. During those three years, there were two trials, scores of motions and hearings, nearly two dozen criminal defense attorneys, and a variety of unique issues related to the presentation of evidence. This case study will focus on some of the most impactful decisions made in the Cosby case such as reopening the investigation, calling multiple prior victims to testify, the use of experts to dismiss and contextualize common rape myths (especially involving known offenders), the challenges of trying the case twice under an international microscope, and the critical value of having the same detective involved from the first investigation in 2005 all the way through conviction in 2018. An examination of this complex prosecution has special meaning in a world where powerful men are finally being held to account for what is often years or decades of sexual abuse. Since Cosby’s arrest, conviction, and sentencing, jurisdictions across the country have built similar cases such as those involving movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and music artist R. Kelly. This case study will draw parallels between these high-profile prosecutions and give the audience an understanding of what to expect and how traditional roadblocks in such cases may be avoided. The case study is dynamic and interactive, inviting audience participation and encouraging listener engagement throughout.

Break @ 10:00 – 10:30 am

30 MINUTES

Plenary Session @ 10:30 am – 11:30 pm

60 MINUTES

KRISTEN FEDEN, JD

Investigating and Prosecuting Cold Sexual Assault Cases

Law enforcement and Prosecutors must address the unique complexities of cold case sexual assaults when preparing to bring these cases to trial. Because of the time that has passed since the sexual assault, it is important for prosecutors to recreate the reality and urgency of the crime for the jury. Key Concepts will be addressed, Rape myths will be discussed, and trial strategies will be explored.

Lunch Break @ 11:30 – 1:00 pm

90 MINUTES

Workshop A @ 1:00 – 2:00 pm

60 MINUTES

A1. GERI WISNER, JD

Multi-Disciplinary Teams in Indian Country

Multidisciplinary teams and the use of CACs are standard protocol for many jurisdictions across the Nation, yet very few child abuse cases, much less child victims and their families, are able to fully utilize CAC services in Tribal communities. This presentation will explore the challenges faced by Indian Country child abuse professionals and discuss a multi-faceted, multijurisdictional approach addressing the investigation, prosecution and healing from child abuse in ways that support Tribal CAC, traditions and justice.

A2. KELLI WOOD, LCSW

“He Showed You What!” Grooming as Evidence in Forensic Interviews

As more jurisdictions are admitting grooming patterns of child sexual abuse perpetrators into evidence at trial, forensic interviewers and multidisciplinary teams should be vigilant in exploring these behaviors in interview settings. Such information can demonstrate a defendant’s premeditated motive, intent, and victim selection, ultimately bolstering a victim’s credibility. This training will help forensic interviewers and multidisciplinary teams further develop their knowledge and skills to creatively strengthen criminal case development and outcomes.

A3. JIM SEARS, RETIRED LE

You Are There.....You Decide! Scenario-Based Training (Part 1 of 2)

This workshop will provide hands-on training using realistic approaches to working child physical and sexual abuse cases. From the case materials, you and your team will work the details of an actual prosecuted child abuse case. Utilizing the questions that you present to the instructor, you will receive tips and evidence to process to “work the case”. There will be a short classroom instructional session followed by the initial information and then it will be up to your team to decide what should be done next.

A4. DANA HAGELE, MD, MPH

Child & Adolescent Problematic Sexual Behaviors in the Context of a CAC

This workshop will provide an overview of problematic sexual behaviors (PSB) in children and adolescents, focusing on a multidisciplinary approach to case reviews, case decisions, and treatment referrals. Additionally, the workshop will provide an overview of PSB safety planning, treatment, and treatment outcomes.

Break @ 2:00 – 2:30 pm

30 MINUTES

Workshop B @ 2:30 – 3:30 pm

60 MINUTES

B1. GERI WISNER, JD

Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking in Indian Country

Child maltreatment professionals are faced with unique challenges when investigating cases involving the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children. The complexity of Indian Country criminal jurisdiction and the varied community responses significantly increases the vulnerability of Native children. This presentation will examine child exploitation and trafficking trends across nation and in Indian Country; this presentation will also survey various strategies being used to investigate and prosecute the case while working with victims and the Native American community.

B2. KELLI WOOD, LCSW

Fumble! Recovering From the Unexpected in a Forensic Interview

Most forensic interviewers can attest that we have all made mistakes within the forensic interview process. However, recovering from those mistakes and maintaining our focus on the wellbeing of the victim and the needs of the multidisciplinary team should be our priority. Extracts from forensic interviews will be used to provide open group discussion to offer suggestions on forensic interviewer skill development and case restoration when unforeseen challenges during the forensic interview process occur.

B3. JIM SEARS, RETIRED LE

You Are There.....You Decide! Scenario-Based Training (Part 2 of 2)

This workshop will provide hands-on training using realistic approaches to working child physical and sexual abuse cases. From the case materials, you and your team will work the details of an actual prosecuted child abuse case. Utilizing the questions that you present to the instructor, you will receive tips and evidence to process to “work the case”. There will be a short classroom instructional session followed by the initial information and then it will be up to your team to decide what should be done next.

B4. NANCY LAMB, MS

Preparing the Child for Court and Preparing the Court for the Child

Courtrooms are not child friendly places. The intimidation of the courtroom setting and all the procedural rules for how a trial must be conducted can affect the child’s ability to be perceived as a credible witness. This presentation, taught by a veteran prosecutor, will address the process of preparing the child to testify in a child sexual abuse case, and will include practical information and illustrative examples of techniques that this prosecutor has found to be useful in minimizing a child’s stress in the courtroom setting while maximizing the child’s credibility. Also included will be information about legal avenues available to make the court more child friendly using pre-trial motions and tools that the prosecutor should consider that may serve to enhance a child’s credibility in the eyes of the factfinder.

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Workshop C @ 9:00 – 10:00 am

60 MINUTES

C1. JANET FINE, MS

Identity Crisis or Identity Achievement? Evolution & Critical Importance of Today’s Victim Advocates

The role of Victim Advocates in general, and within CACs and on multidisciplinary teams, has consistently evolved in scope and complexity, requiring increased understanding of victim advocacy as a unique discipline unto itself. This workshop will engage participants in exploring the ways in which the history of the Victims Movement in the United States informs current practice, including a focus on the National Children’s Alliance

(NCA) Accreditation Standards and the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Model Standards promote excellence in the delivery of victim services.

C2. JANE STRAUB, BS

ACE Study – Adverse Childhood Experiences: Identify, Intervene and Interrupt

Experiences in childhood matter. Numerous research studies have shown how childhood stress and trauma can impact adult health. The Ace Study is the largest study investigating the health and social effects of negative childhood experiences. Now that we have the research, what can we do about it? The cycle of violence, generational poverty and abuse, homelessness, substance abuse, incarceration, perpetration and victimization of violence are all related to ACE's. Strategies such as identification and assessment, reducing risk and exposure and nurturing resiliency and skill building are effective interventions. Changing the negative course that many children are on is our best way to prevent abuse in future generations. This presentation will increase your knowledge of trauma and provide ways to work with children, families and communities to reduce the impact of trauma.

C3. MICHELLE LANIER, LCSW

What We Know About Adolescents in 2020 and How to Apply it in the Forensic Interview

As adolescent culture changes over time, it is important to go beyond the baseline understanding of child development and the blocks to disclosure for forensic interviewers to adapt to those trends. This presentation will focus on interviewing children on the autism spectrum, LGBTQ adolescents, victims of child sexual exploitation, and the use of social media in child victimization. Practical tips for addressing these issues, along with video examples will be provided as the basis for an interactive discussion.

C4. CASSON REYNOLDS, MSCJ

Using the Statement to Examine the Crime Scene

It is important to understand that an investigator needs to evaluate any victim's, witness's, and suspect's statement to the crime scene. Investigators can use crime scene reconstruction and scientific principles to determine if an individual's statement is consistent with the evidence at the crime scene. Attendees will discuss how to analyze a statement to create a timeline and the potential items of evidence to support or counter that statement.

Break @ 10:00 – 10:30 am

30 MINUTES

Workshop D @ 10:30 – 11:30 am

60 MINUTES

D1. JANET FINE, MS

Holistic Approach to Victim Advocacy: Understanding and Responding to the Co-occurring Needs of Children and Their Caregivers

This session will provide a holistic framework for understanding the core needs of children and caregivers impacted by abuse and violence and the central role Advocates play in helping children and their caregivers achieve desired outcomes regarding safety, healing, and justice. In addition, participants will explore the strengths and challenges of their role as an integral member of multidisciplinary teams, the importance of their leadership in ensuring seamless coordination with their victim advocacy colleagues and promoting "big picture advocacy" wherever possible.

D2. JANE STRAUB, BS

Age of Consent – Ways to Nurture and Instill Self-Efficacy

Teaching consent is more than talking about sex. From "just say no" to "affirmative consent" we have begun the conversation but have left out the youngest population. Young children can learn about giving and receiving permission to touch, hug or kiss another person and permission to use or play with another's toys. By teaching them about body boundaries, they can start to learn they have control of their own body. Teaching and responding to "no", "stop" or "take a break" are simple concepts for children to understand. Knowing medically/anatomically correct body parts is imperative in child abuse investigations. Having a child who also comprehends consent, the right to say "no" to touches, telling a trusted adult if someone breaks their safety rule is one step toward prevention. As children grow, lessons evolve to incorporate consent within a relationship. Understanding the need to give and receive permission is crucial in prevention sexual violence. Children deserve to be empowered with knowledge, language and actions.

D3. MICHELLE LANIER, LCSW

Utilizing the Forensic Interviewer as an Expert Witness

Child Abuse cases are among the most difficult cases to bring before a jury. Every case has its own unique set of hurdles to overcome when it is time for trial. Whether the case involves multiple preschool aged victims, a victim who is an angry promiscuous teenager, a victim who has recanted, or a victim who is too scared to testify, attorneys must be creative in utilizing their witnesses to help the jury reach a decision. This workshop

will focus on identifying strategies and challenges faced during child sexual abuse trials and how forensic interviewers can be utilized to overcome these challenges. Case examples, along with excerpts from forensic interviews will be provided to highlight techniques utilized in trial that have proven to be successful.

D4. ANDREA ZAFERES, INVESTIGATOR/INSTRUCTOR TRAINER

Pediatric Aquatic Homicide, Abuse, and Sexual Assault, Torture Investigation (Part 1 of 2)

It is likely that more aquatic pediatric homicides, abuse, sexual assault and torture are being missed than caught. Drowning is a diagnosis of exclusion; there are no recognized medical tests for drowning. A toddler can be suffocated with a pillow and placed in a bathtub to stage an accidental drowning. A drowned infant can be dried off and placed in a crib to mimic SUIDI. Hence, a thorough investigation is absolutely critical for determining the actual cause and manner of death. Obstacles include: few responders/investigators are trained in aquatic homicide investigations, officers are often responding in rescue mode to ‘grieving loved ones’ performing CPR, assumptions of drowning COD and accident MOD are made by all, clearly dead infants/children are transported to hospitals, etc. with the result that critical evidence is often lost, necessary questions aren’t asked, and incorrect assumptions can be perpetuated. Training can change this so let’s start now!

Lunch Break @ 11:30 – 1:00 pm

90 MINUTES

Workshop E @ 1:00 – 2:00 pm

60 MINUTES

E1. JANET FINE, MS

Strengths and Challenges of Being a Critical Voice on the MDT

This session will provide a forum for exploring the dynamics of MDT teams and implications for bringing the Advocates’ essential voices and leadership to the process. It will also examine the importance of their leadership in ensuring seamless coordination with their victim advocacy colleagues and promoting a focus on “big picture advocacy.”

E2. JANE STRAUB, BS

Post-Trial Advocacy

This is not the end. Once the court makes the decision of Guilty or Not Guilty, the journey of healing for the victim continues. Regardless of the ruling of the court, the victim may experience a wide range of emotions from relief to guilt from calm to fear. Safety planning should remain a priority. Restitution and/or victim compensation needs to be addressed. Victim Impact Statements can have empowering effects on the victim but may also be triggering. The victim needs to understand the procedures of the justice system. After an offender is convicted and sentenced the offender may challenge and appeal the ruling. Each step in the criminal justice system for the victim may seem exhausting, re-victimizing and never ending. This training will take advocates through the justice system and provide examples of support for victims throughout the process. Victim rights, compensation, impact statements, notification, appeals and parole will be discussed in regard to impact on the victim.

E3. JEANNE ALLERT, MS ED

When Parents are Pimps (Part 1 of 2)

Part I of this session will lay the foundation for understanding familial sex trafficking, or when a child is commercially sexually exploited by an immediate family member. The session will explore how familial trafficking relates to, but is distinct from, incest and briefly how laws help or hurt our identification of this type of trafficking. We will look at the data available to understand prevalence

E4. ANDREA ZAFERES, INVESTIGATOR/INSTRUCTOR TRAINER

Pediatric Aquatic Homicide, Abuse, and Sexual Assault, Torture Investigation (Part 2 of 2)

It is likely that more aquatic pediatric homicides, abuse, sexual assault and torture are being missed than caught. Drowning is a diagnosis of exclusion; there are no recognized medical tests for drowning. A toddler can be suffocated with a pillow and placed in a bathtub to stage an accidental drowning. A drowned infant can be dried off and placed in a crib to mimic SUIDI. Hence, a thorough investigation is absolutely critical for determining the actual cause and manner of death. Obstacles include: few responders/investigators are trained in aquatic homicide investigations, officers are often responding in rescue mode to ‘grieving loved ones’ performing CPR, assumptions of drowning COD and accident MOD are made by all, clearly dead infants/children are transported to hospitals, etc. with the result that critical evidence is often lost, necessary questions aren’t asked, and incorrect assumptions can be perpetuated. Training can change this so let’s start now!

Break @ 2:00 – 2:30 pm

30 MINUTES

F1. ASHLIE SHANLEY, JD/APRIL SAMPLES, LE***Turning the “He Said, She Said” into a Legally Defensible Case***

Sergeant April Samples and Assistant District Attorney Ashlie Shanley each have over twenty years of experience investigating and prosecuting child sexual and physical abuse. In this presentation, they will share techniques to build strong cases and work together to achieve the best possible results for child victims of physical and sexual abuse.

F2. DAN POWERS, ACSW, LCSW***A Guide to Ethical Management of CACs***

This workshop will examine ethical issues as related to CACs and multidisciplinary teams. Working in a multidisciplinary setting can bring ethical challenges and dilemmas as a result of possible conflicting values and roles of the team members. In addition, ethical business practices must be employed to provide your partners and the public with a reassurance. To think clearly about ethical issues and develop practical approaches for dealing with ethical problems, it is important to speak a common language. As a practical matter, ethics is about how we meet the challenge of doing the right thing. We will examine ethical principles and identify and recognize steps in ethical problem solving. Privacy and confidentiality in the multidisciplinary setting will be discussed. The CAC must be a model for the partners and community for ethical management and responsibility as the “glue” that keeps the team together. In addition to issues that involve the team approach we will discuss the importance of ethical business management of a CAC.

F3. JEANNE ALLERT, MS ED***When Parents are Pimps (Part 2 of 2)***

Part II of this session will summarize the limited body of knowledge we have on the profile of victim and perpetrator(s) and explore the relational dynamics between the child and familial trafficker, pre-, peri, and post-trafficking.

F4. ANDREA ZAFERES, INVESTIGATOR/INSTRUCTOR TRAINER***Water-Related Abuse and Pedophilia***

In this session, Zaferes will explain several water-related forms of abuse, including submersion child abuse, pedophilia and aquatic sexual sadism. Submersion abuse with scalding water is well-known in the child-abuse community, and a lesser-known, yet more common form of abuse and punishment is submersion in normothermic or cold water. Andrea will demonstrate how normothermic or cold-water immersions or submersions are easily missed, especially, when they do not result in death and thus require specialized knowledge to discover and recognize. Sexual assault in a pool or bathtub or pool can be purposeful or accidental. Submergence can be done to silence a screaming child, to kill the child so they cannot “tell.” It can also occur accidentally when the pedophile is fixated on the assault and not paying attention to the location of the child’s airway. Lastly, Andrea will discuss aquatic sexual sadism or lust killings using drowning as the form of torture for sexual gratification, showing how victims can be revived for repeated assaults over extended timeframes or drowned to death.

Thursday, September 24, 2020**G1. CHRIS CAMPBELL, BS*****Why Teenagers Lie!***

This workshop will take a look at analytical information regarding how and why teenagers lie. The session will dive into the aspects of why kids and teens lie to different people (teachers, parents, authority figures, etc.) and how to circumvent lying to gain truth. In other words, a way to go from lie detection to truth seeking. This class will benefit anyone in an environment who deals with teenagers regularly or occasionally, even from a parental standpoint.

G2. DAN POWERS, ACSW, LCSW***Implementing an Effective MDT Response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Child Cases***

This workshop will explore and assist you in understanding the process of forming a Multidisciplinary Team response to Child Commercially Sex Trafficking cases. We will examine the importance of establishing roles for each discipline, team member and recognize how effective teams communicate and work together.

G3. CINDY BROWN, MD

And the OSCAR Goes to.....

Medical child abuse (formerly Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy) is an under-recognized form of child maltreatment. It presents unique challenges to investigators and medical providers responsible for evaluating and protecting these children. The child's caregiver presents as attentive and loving, but will fabricate, exaggerate and/or induce signs and symptoms of illness in their child which can result in unnecessary and potentially harmful medical treatments. These caregivers are able to successfully deceive their family, doctors and their community. This session will provide background on this form of maltreatment, case examples, and recommendations for organizing a systematic and team-based approach for the investigation of these complicated cases.

G4. SKYE DAVID, JD

Review of NC SB199

This workshop will discuss in detail, NC SB199, which was new legislation that passed and became effective on December 1, 2019. Section 14-318.6(b) reads that any person 18 years or older who knows or should have reasonably known that a juvenile has been or is the victim of a violent offense, sexual offense, or misdemeanor child abuse under G.S. 14-318.2 shall immediately report the case of that juvenile to the appropriate local law enforcement agency in the county where the juvenile resides or is found. The crimes include serious bodily injury, serious physical injury, sexually violent offense (including attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit) and violent offenses: any offense that inflicts serious bodily injury or serious physical injury that is not by accident (including attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit).

Break @ 10:00 – 10:30 am

30 MINUTES

Workshop H @ 10:30 – 11:30 am (CLOSING PLENARY)

60 MINUTES

H1. DAN POWERS, ACSW, LCSW

Follow the Yellow Brick Road or Let the Witches Get You!

We see things most people don't want to talk about and often pretend don't exist in this world. It takes a special type of *COURAGE* to keep coming back. Having a *HEART* is seen as a liability, but it also the foundation of our motivation to make a difference in child's life. When we forget to use our *BRAIN* to make healthy choices, we allow the flying monkeys to bring stress, trauma and eventually burnout into our lives. You have had the power all along to create a healthy self and ensure the wicked witch does not follow you on your journey. Participants will be challenged to use their *COURAGE* to identify the risk factors and stand up to vicarious trauma, listen to their *HEART* to remind them of the great work they do and use their *BRAIN* to develop healthy strategies and a personal plan to get back home again!