



**27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "REFLECTIONS" SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT  
SPEAKER BIOS – MDT TRACK**

**KENDALL WOLZ, MA**

Kendall Wolz is a Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor and serves as Center Director of Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans. She graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in May 2018 with a MA Counseling specialization in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Ms. Wolz is a current PhD student in the Counselor Education and Supervision Program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She is the author of "Brave Girl, Speak," a blog dedicated to educating readers about childhood sexual abuse and its impacts on victims, the sex offender registries and how to navigate the legal system, and a personal look at the healing journey from trauma. Ms. Wolz has provided presentations for local, state, and national groups on topics such as: childhood trauma, sexual abuse, and human trafficking. She is a member of American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, American Association of Christian Counselors, and New Orleans FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association.

**NICK ZADINA, MA**

Nick Zadina is the Director of Training at Project Harmony and has been training professionals in child welfare for the past twelve years. Nick conducts experiential training on topics such as inter-agency collaboration, family engagement, and trauma. Nick has experience as a crisis counselor at the Boys Town National Hotline and served as the Artistic Director of the education theatre nonprofit Respect. Nick has an MA in Theatre from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He has trained across the country including at the San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, the National Symposium of Child Abuse, and at the Bullying Research Network conference.

**CHRIS CROFT, MA**

Chris is the Prevention Education Program Manager for the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA), providing training and technical assistance to rape crisis centers, dual domestic violence agencies, and human trafficking programs across the state. Chris moved into this position after serving for a time as NCCASA's Anti-Human Trafficking Specialist. Before coming to NCCASA, Chris worked in sexual violence prevention and crisis response for a decade, answering hotlines, leading support groups, and providing hospital and legal accompaniment for survivors. Croft's current work brings together lived experience, decades of LGBTQ organizing, years of direct service and community-based consent and prevention education work, and graduate study in social justice, human rights, and gender theory. They are a member of the Freedom Network USA, the National Survivor Network, and the HEAL Trafficking Speaker's Bureau.

**JIM SEARS, RETIRED LE**

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 is a mainstay for our NC symposiums and continues to lecture across the country on topics related to child abuse investigations, interview and interrogation, and crime scene investigations for domestic violence and child abuse.

**JERRI SITES, MA**

With over 28 years of experience working in the field of child abuse investigations, Jerri Sites has developed and honed her expertise which includes two decades working in the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) movement. Throughout her career, she has conducted over 2100 child forensic interviews, testified on countless occasions as an expert witness, and has provided training at the national, regional, state, and local level. Jerri has vast experience in providing trauma-informed, research-based training and technical assistance to MDTs, CACs, and child serving professionals throughout the United States. She has led efforts to provide team and organizational strategic planning, create train-the-trainer programs, and facilitate curriculum development for a variety of trainings in the child abuse investigation arena. Jerri co-authored "The Child Abuse Investigative Field Guide," published in 2015, and in recent years in her role as Regional Training Specialist for the Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center, a project of the National Children's Advocacy Center, Jerri co-authored "Research to Practice" white papers and presented webinars on the topics of the MDT and CAC approach to recantation, as well as the MDT and CAC approach children with problematic sexual behaviors. In addition, in collaboration with colleagues from the Native American Children's Alliance, Jerri co-authored the publication, "Listen and Learn: A Process for Initiating Collaboration between Tribal Communities and CACs." Access to these publications can be found in the Links to Resources section.

**JIMMY WIDDIFIELD, JR., MA, LPC**

Jimmy Widdifield, Jr. is the Freestanding Multidisciplinary Teams (FSMDT) Programs Manager at the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth in Oklahoma City, OK. He is responsible for supporting and monitoring more than 35 FSMDT in Oklahoma according to statute and administrative code and coordinating and providing training and technical assistance on multi- and interdisciplinary issues in child maltreatment to MDT members and other professionals. He was formerly the Training Director for the University of Oklahoma Problematic Sexual Behavior Training/Technical Assistance Program and the National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth. He has extensive experience planning and providing training/technical assistance and presenting nationally and internationally to multidisciplinary professionals and general community on youth with problematic sexual behavior. Mr. Widdifield is a Licensed Professional Counselor who is trained in several evidence-based treatments that address the impact of child maltreatment and trauma. He is experienced in clinical assessment and treatment of children ages 3-12 and adolescents with problematic, including illegal, sexual behavior.

**WHITNEY BELICH, JD**

After graduating from Florida State University with a degree in Criminology, Whitney worked in the Tampa Bay area until returning to North Carolina to attend Wake Forest School of Law. Whitney began her legal career as an ADA for the Honorable Susan Doyle in Johnston County, North Carolina. As a prosecutor, Whitney specialized in cases involving impaired driving and sexual and physical abuse of both children and adults. In 2014, Whitney accepted a position with the Attorney General's Office and was stationed at the NC Justice Academy in Salemburg, NC. A year after taking the position at the Justice Academy, Whitney was promoted to another position within the Law Enforcement Liaison section of the Attorney General's Office. While working in Raleigh, Whitney served as the primary attorney for the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, After serving as a guest instructor for the Conference of District Attorneys for many years, Whitney was honored to accept the position of Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor with the Conference in 2019. The NC Conference of DAs provides support and training for all of North Carolina's elected DAs and ADAs and other staff within the DA's Office as well as others. Whitney currently lives in Clayton with her husband and their 4-year-old daughter.

**CASEY BURTON, AAS, AA**

Casey Burton began her journey in public safety ten years ago working for Moore County EMS as a Paramedic. She attended Sandhills Community College where she obtained her Associates in Emergency Medical Services and an Associate of Arts degrees. Casey continues her education endeavor at Pembroke University where she will soon complete her bachelor's degree in Sociology. After nearly five years in emergency medicine, Casey decided to transition her career to law enforcement. She began working for Lee County Sheriff's Office where she worked on patrol and then transitioned to handling all of the domestic violence cases and the charges associated with those cases. Casey attended Beginning and Advanced Domestic Violence Investigation training which

sparked her passion for child welfare and her desire to become part of an MDT. She transitioned to Moore County Sheriff's Office in January 2019 and joined the Moore County Child Advocacy Center MDT shortly after. Casey attended RADAR training, the Crimes Against Children Conference and multiple other child welfare symposiums. Casey lives on a small hobby farm in Moore County North Carolina with her husband, two-year-old daughter, two dogs, cows, pigs and chickens. When not at work, you can find her and family camping somewhere in their travel trailer.

#### **HANNAH BETHUNE-MAULDIN, BA**

Hannah Bethune-Mauldin attended Sandhills Community College and obtained her Associate in Arts degree with a concentration in Criminal Justice in 2011 and her BS degree in Criminology at UNCW in 2013. While attending UNCW, she interned with the Moore County Sheriff's Office and was hired as a deputy, immediately after the internship. Hannah graduated from Basic Law Enforcement Training in December of 2013. She began her career working road patrol and was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 2016 and was assigned to fraud crimes. After her first assigned child abuse case, she realized she wanted to be an investigator. Hannah has completed trainings to include RADAR, RADAR jr., classes on prosecution of child crimes at the conference of district attorneys in Raleigh, NC and currently is designated as the child and sex crimes detective for the Moore County Sheriff's Office. She works with other departments in Moore County to provide education on how to solve crimes involving children. She along with others in the community established a CAC in Moore County in 2018. She currently serves on the board/MDT for the CAC. Hannah resides in Carthage, North Carolina and lives with her husband Chris, son Waylon and two dogs, Luke and Beau.

#### **TIFFANY BARTHOLOMEW, JD**

Tiffany Bartholomew graduated from the University of Hawaii - West Oahu with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2004. In 2008, she earned a Juris Doctorate from Georgia State University - College of Law, where she was the managing editor of law review. Since graduating from law school, Ms. Bartholomew has worked as an assistant district attorney in Georgia and North Carolina. She was a founding member of the Moore County MDT and strong advocate for the opening of the Moore County CAC. In 2019, Governor Roy Cooper appointed Ms. Bartholomew to the District Court bench where she served as a judge in Family Court and DSS Court. She has since joined the Lee County District Attorney's Office where she prosecutes child abuse and sexual assault cases. Ms. Bartholomew lives in Jackson Springs with her husband, Peter a retired Army veteran, and her son, Jaren who attends law school. She enjoys coaching youth basketball and is a board member for the Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills.

#### **DEANA JOY, BA**

Deana has spent her career working in the nonprofit sector with victims of crime. She began by working with victims of sexual violence, with the responsibility of volunteer recruitment, training, and oversight for the 24-hour crisis line. In 2002, she worked with child abuse victims in addition to her work with sexual assault survivors and included management and facilitation of both the child and adult multi-disciplinary teams. She was promoted to Executive Director of a Children's Advocacy and Sexual Assault Center in 2006, where she stayed until 2014. In 2014, Deana was hired as the executive director of CACNC. Her responsibilities include oversight of 8 staff, the fiscal operations of the entity, legislative advancement, ensuring training and TA are available to all accredited and provisional CACs, and growing CACs in underserved areas of the state. Deana serves as a member of the National Children's Alliance Board of Directors, Governor's appointed Child Well Being and Transformation Task force, the Governor's appointed Human Trafficking Commission, the Governors Crime Commission Crime Victim Services Committee, the Children's Justice Act Committee, and the NC Child Abuse Prevention Task Force. Additionally, Deana works with many state partners to include the NC Department of Health and Human Services, the University of North Carolina, NCCASA, NCVAN, NCCADV, and the NC Attorney General's office to develop and revise current state legislation regarding child abuse and neglect. Deana is a Children's Advocacy Center site reviewer for accreditation for the National Children's Alliance. She has received the Nonprofit Sector Stewardship Award, the NC Young Nonprofit Leadership Award, the 40 under 40 award., and the National Chapter Leader of the Year.

#### **CHRIS NEWLIN, MS, LPC**

Chris Newlin, MS LPC, is the Executive Director of the National Children's Advocacy Center where he is responsible for providing leadership and management of the NCAC and participating in national and international training and leadership activities regarding the protection of children. The NCAC was the first Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in the world and provides child abuse prevention and intervention services in Huntsville/Madison County; and also houses the NCAC Training Center, the Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center, the NCAC Virtual Training Center, and the Child Abuse Library Online (CALiO™). Chris has more than 22 years of experience working in CACs as a

Forensic Interviewer, Victim Advocate, Therapist, Clinical Director, and Executive Director. Chris has provided diverse training related to the Children's Advocacy Center model, the multidisciplinary response to child abuse, the international development of Children's Advocacy Centers, forensic interviewing, best practices in child abuse intervention and response, and additional child maltreatment and exploitation topics in more than 30 countries throughout the world. He has worked in both urban and rural Children's Advocacy Centers. Chris received his Master's in School Psychology from the University of Central Arkansas, is a Licensed Professional Counselor, and has completed coursework at the Harvard University Business School Executive Education Program.

#### **MARY-ANN BURKHART, JD**

Mary-Ann Burkhardt is Chief of the Special Victims' Unit for the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office. She participates in the county's MDT, the Child Fatality Review Committee, the state-wide CJAC Committee and the county-wide SART Committee. She comes back to the State's Attorney's Office from the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys in Washington, DC, where she served as the Director of the Child Abuse Prosecution Project. Before APA, she was the Director of the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse at the National District Attorney's Association. Mary-Ann Burkhardt began her legal career as an ADA in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Mary-Ann authored *Maryland's Response to Human Trafficking: A New Statute for New Times*, which was published in the Maryland Bar Journal. Mary-Ann graduated from Barry University and received her JD degree from the University of Miami School of Law. For her work and commitment in the area of child abuse, she received the 2011 Professional Achievement and Distinguished Alumnus Award from Barry University.

#### **NANCY LAMB, JD**

Nancy Lamb has been a prosecutor since 1984 and served as the Chief Assistant District Attorney in the First Prosecutorial District, a seven-county district in the northeastern North Carolina, with its home office in Elizabeth City until 2014. Lamb received her undergraduate degree from Appalachian State University and her law degree from Wake Forest University School of Law. Lamb served for 6 years on the Board of Directors of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and chaired the Professional Education committee during her tenure on the Executive Committee. In 2003, she was awarded APSAC's Outstanding Service Award, given annually to an APSAC member in recognition of outstanding service to the organization. Lamb is a past president of the North Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children and the 1999 recipient of NCPSAC's Kimberly Crews award, given annually to an NCPSAC member in recognition of professional excellence for service to abused children statewide. Lamb has provided training for the past 25 years at local, regional and national child abuse conferences throughout the United States. Lamb also serves on the CACNC Board of Directors.

#### **JODIE HIVELY, MS**

Jodie Hively holds a Master of Science in Education degree and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who worked with high-risk youth. Ms. Hively's background is primarily in Psychology and Criminal Justice. Prior to becoming a Forensic Interviewer, she worked as a Probation Officer and Family Case Manager for Child Services. She is currently employed with the FBI as a Child/Adolescent Forensic Interviewer with the Victim Services Division, Child Victim Services Unit and has been a Forensic Interviewer for almost sixteen years. She provides interviews, consultation and training for FBI Agents, Assistant United States Attorney's, and other federal, state and international law enforcement.

#### **ASHLEIGH FULLER, MA**

Ashleigh Fuller holds a Master's of Arts in Forensic Psychology. Ms. Fuller is currently employed with the FBI as a Child/Adolescent Forensic Interviewer with the Victim Services Division, Child Victim Services Unit. Prior to joining the FBI, Ms. Fuller was a Forensic Interviewer for a Children's Advocacy Center in Louisiana. She has been conducting forensic interviews for almost seven years and has completed over 1000 interviews. Additionally, she provides consultation and training for FBI Agents, Assistant United States Attorneys, and other federal, state, and international law enforcement.

#### **SUZAN EVANS, CACNC DIRECTOR OF STANDARDS**

Suzan joined the CACNC staff in November 2015. She came to us from CrossRoads in Burlington where she assisted in the creation of their CAC. Suzan has over thirty years of experience in direct service provision, volunteer and staff relations, team building and MDT facilitation. She is also trained in mediation. Suzan continues to use her experience to support current centers in meeting the ten

standards of accreditation as well as developing new centers to ensure that all of North Carolina's children have easy access to a Children's Advocacy Center.

**JULIE SCHROER, BA**

Julie has spent the last decade working with Children's Advocacy Centers and Multi-Disciplinary teams to investigate and intervene in child abuse cases, first as Executive Director at her local CAC and then with the state chapter, Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina. She came to this field after working in manufacturing, small business, and community development with degrees in Economics & Management and Mechanical Design. Julie considers building the relationships between CACs, MDT and the children and families we serve as the most important aspect of her work. She believes that developing trust and cooperation through service to each other is the foundation for those relationships. She lives in the mountains of western North Carolina and loves working with CACS and MDTs across the state.

**KEVIN MCNEIL, M.DIV**

Kevin McNeil is a motivational speaker, victim advocate, author, and the CEO of the Twe12e Project, an organization that educates the world on the effects of abuse. Kevin retired from the DeKalb County Police Department after 20 years serving as a Police Officer and Special Victims Unit Detective. His training and attention to detail helped him solve several high-profile serial rape cases in Atlanta, Georgia. Kevin's background coupled with his extensive research on trauma and the effects of abuse both defines and differentiates his message. Kevin obtained his Master of Divinity Degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the author of seven published books focusing on empowering others to live out their God-given purpose.

**DEB FLOWERS, MSN, CPNP**

Deb joined the CACNC staff in July of 2019 as the Medical Services Coordinator and is also a Child Medical Evaluation provider for Southmountain Children and Family Services Moore and Harnett County Child Advocacy Centers. She began these new roles after retiring from the UNC Department of Pediatrics - NC Child Maltreatment Program. Deb is also an adjunct assistant professor with the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing and participates as both a lecturer for the nurse practitioner programs and as a clinical preceptor for pediatric nurse practitioner students. Deb has over 36 years of experience in the field of nursing with trauma and child maltreatment being most of her nursing focus and expertise.