

Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina
27th Annual "Reflections" Symposium on Child Abuse & Neglect

September 28 - 30, 2021

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Welcome and Opening Remarks @ 8:30 – 8:45 am **15 MINUTES**
Deana Joy, BA

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

KENDALL WOLZ, MA

Brave Girl, Speak! How Advocates Helped Me Find My Voice (Part 1 of 2)

A survivor shares her experience of childhood sexual abuse from the beginning of the grooming process to her disclosure, including how she navigated the legal system and found healing and hope. Attendees will learn how each person who interacts with a victim of childhood abuse has the opportunity to positively influence the healing process. The presentation will explore actions that are most beneficial for the survivor which have both immediate and long-term impacts.

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

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

KENDALL WOLZ, MA

Brave Girl, Speak! How Advocates Helped Me Find My Voice (Part 2 of 2)

A survivor shares her experience of childhood sexual abuse from the beginning of the grooming process to her disclosure, including how she navigated the legal system and found healing and hope. Attendees will learn how each person who interacts with a victim of childhood abuse has the opportunity to positively influence the healing process. The presentation will explore actions that are most beneficial for the survivor which have both immediate and long-term impacts.

Lunch Break @ 12:00 – 1:30 pm **90 MINUTES**

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

A1. CHRIS NEWLIN, MS, LPC

Why Parents Don't Believe!

Parents and caregivers, when faced with emerging allegations involving the abuse of their child, are suddenly confronted with a situation for which they are poorly prepared. This is not significantly different from other situations involving parents' reactions regarding the well-being of their children. However, the ambiguity of child abuse allegations creates heightened challenges, and this same ambiguity is also a challenge for MDT members involved in the investigation and intervention. This session will identify the difference between belief and ambivalence and how all professionals involved in child abuse cases can assist parents to be supportive and engaged with their children.

A2. CHRIS CROFT, MA

Questioning Binaries and Certainty to Support LGBTQ+ Youth Survivors

A 2020 report from The Trevor Project found that over half of all LGBTQ+ youth had someone (parent, teacher, friend) attempt to convince them to change their orientation or identity, and those who had experienced such an attempt had over twice the rates of suicide attempts of those who had not experienced a conversion attempt. Given that a 2021 Gallup Poll found that 11.5% of Gen Z adult identified as bisexual and that nine times as many Gen Z as Gen X or Boomers identified as transgender, we have to learn how to meet LGBTQ+ youth where they are. To do this, we'll need to break down the binaries in our thinking and frameworks and get more comfortable with uncertainty and learning. In this workshop, attendees will challenge common binaries in our work and learn the value of uncertainty.

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. JERRI SITES, MA/JIMMY WIDDIFIELD, JR., MA, LPC

The MDT/CAC Response to Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior (Part 1 of 2)

Cases of children ages 12 and younger with problematic sexual behavior (PSB) can present a myriad of challenges for multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs). Fortunately, the MDT approach and the CAC model are ideal vehicles for development and implementation of an integrated and comprehensive systems approach to cases of children with PSB, recipient children, and their families. This course will review recommendations designed to guide and support MDTs and CACs to enhance current practices, improve professional response, and promote positive outcomes for children with PSB, children impacted by the PSB, and their families. Participants should have an understanding of children’s sexual behaviors and the dynamics of these cases for this workshop.

Break @ 3:00 – 3:15 pm

15 MINUTES

Workshop B @ 3:15 – 4:45 pm

90 MINUTES

B1. CHRIS NEWLIN, MS, LPC

We Are Not Machines! The Impact of Secondary Traumatic Stress and Vicarious Trauma

This presentation will address the significant impacts of chronic exposure to child maltreatment content on the professionals responding to this issue. For many years this issue has been framed as a matter of personal weakness (“he/she is just not cut out for this work”). Reframing our understanding of the impacts of this work on the lives of involved professionals and the critical role of organizations in supporting resilience and wellness will be addressed using real world examples which will engage and support participants. Participants will receive practical advice on how to advance their organizational practices related to wellness which will support all employees while also reducing unnecessary turnover and job dissatisfaction.

B2. CHRIS CROFT, MA

Understanding Safety and Tradeoffs for LGBTQ+ Youth

A 2015 CDC study of LGBTQ+ youth found rates of sexual assault almost four times higher than their heterosexual peers, over two times higher rates of physical dating violence, and staggering rates of bullying both in-person and online. Forty percent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+ (compared to 7% of the general population of youth identifying as LGBTQ+), and youth who have had others try to convince them to change their identity or orientation have a more-than-doubled risk of suicide. If we want to create safety for LGBTQ+ youth to prevent abuse, foster healing, and reduce suicide, we have to learn to see “safety” from the perspective of LGBTQ+ young people. In this workshop, attendees will learn how our assumed definitions of “safety” may not reflect the needs of LGBTQ+ youth, and how to redefine safety with an LGBTQ+ sensitive lens to reduce the number of safety tradeoffs LGBTQ+ youth must face.

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. JERRI SITES, MA/JIMMY WIDDIFIELD, JR., MA, LPC

The MDT/CAC Response to Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior (Part 2 of 2)

Cases of children ages 12 and younger with problematic sexual behavior (PSB) can present a myriad of challenges for multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs). Fortunately, the MDT approach and the CAC model are ideal vehicles for development and implementation of an integrated and comprehensive systems approach to cases of children with PSB, recipient children, and their families. This course will review recommendations designed to guide and support MDTs and CACs to enhance current practices, improve professional response, and promote positive outcomes for children with PSB, children impacted by the PSB, and their families. Participants should have an understanding of children’s sexual behaviors and the dynamics of these cases for this workshop.

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Workshop C @ 8:30 – 10:00 am

90 MINUTES

C1. NICK ZADINA, MA

Engaging Through Empathy

Meet Dylan Sullivan, the single father of an 8-year-old boy named Joseph. He calls you because he says his son’s school won’t stop pestering him about Joseph misbehaving at school. He thinks that by calling your agency, he may be able to get them off his back. He also says he is interested in receiving any financial assistance you may have to offer. Can you help? The purpose of this session is to learn about the nature of empathy in engaging clients, to identify some barriers to engagement, and to teach motivational interviewing skills which can help build meaningful relationships with clients to create sustainable change.

C2. Hannah Bethune-Mauldin, BA / Casey Burton, AAS, AA / Tiffany Bartholomew, JD / Tracy Riley, BS / Bunny Critcher, BS / Deb Flowers, MSN,CPNP-PC, SANE-A, SANE-P

Challenges in Addressing Physical Abuse in an Infant: A Multidisciplinary Case Review. (Part 1 of 2)

This session will provide a multidisciplinary case review of a young infant with physical abuse. Each discipline (DSS, Law Enforcement, Prosecutorial, and Medical) will present their specific challenges involved in the recognition, investigation, and care of an infant with physical injuries.

C3. DEANA JOY, BA

Problem Solving CAC Standards & Best Practice Service Provision (Part 1 of 2)

In this session, we will briefly review the standards (both state and national) and spend some time trouble shooting typical problematic areas. This will be a very interactive session so please come prepared with questions around the specific standards and/or components that you have questions. We will close with a review of the approved best practices models that meet the standard criteria.

C4. WHITNEY BELICH, JD

If You See Something, Say Something!

There have been recent changes to the mandatory reporting laws in North Carolina. Even before the recent changes, though, there was a lot of confusion about who must report, what they must report, and how to properly report child abuse for various professionals. This workshop will answer some of those questions and delve into the ethical as well as the legal considerations for those who most often encounter potential abuse victims.

Break @ 10:00 – 10:15 am

15 MINUTES

Workshop D @ 10:15 – 11:45 am

90 MINUTES

D1. NICK ZADINA, MA

Ready, Set, Change!

You’ve been asked to work with the Blackburn family, who has a number of things they would like to work on. Janet, a mother of two, feels like her live-in father, Grant, won’t listen to her wishes when caring for her children, and Grant feels like Janet is neglecting her children. They say they have been trying to talk and work toward making some changes, but despite their best efforts, everything stays the same. Can you help?

The purpose of this session is to teach the stages of changes along with motivational interviewing techniques which can help participants identify, evoke, and perpetuate change talk so that we can facilitate meaningful change with the clients that we serve.

D2. Hannah Bethune-Mauldin, BA / Casey Burton, AAS, AA / Tiffany Bartholomew, JD / Tracy Riley, BS / Bunny Critcher, BS / Deb Flowers, MSN,CPNP-PC, SANE-A, SANE-P

Challenges in Addressing Physical Abuse in an Infant: A Multidisciplinary Case Review. (Part 2 of 2)

This session will provide a multidisciplinary case review of a young infant with physical abuse. Each discipline (DSS, Law Enforcement, Prosecutorial, and Medical) will present their specific challenges involved in the recognition, investigation, and care of an infant with physical injuries.

D3. DEANA JOY, BA

Problem Solving CAC Standards & Best Practice Service Provision (Part 2 of 2)

In this session, we will briefly review the standards (both state and national) and spend some time trouble shooting typical problematic areas. This will be a very interactive session so please come prepared with questions around the specific standards and/or components that you have questions. We will close with a review of the approved best practices models that meet the standard criteria.

D4. WHITNEY BELICH, JD

From the Mouth of Babes, Child Witnesses, Forensic Interviewing, and the Rules of Evidence

For those tasked with helping child abuse victims navigate the criminal justice system, knowing how that child’s statements may be used in court can be confusing and frustrating. Attorneys, advocates, and law enforcement all struggle to figure out what constitutes a legally admissible statement by a child and what must be done to successfully use that statement in court. There are no easy answers, but this workshop aims

to help interviewers, attorneys, and other professionals better understand the complex intersection of a child's witness statement and the Rules of Evidence in North Carolina.

Lunch Break @ 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

90 MINUTES

Workshop E @ 1:15 – 2:45 pm

90 MINUTES

E1. NICK ZADINA, MA

Dealing With Discord

Have you ever had a client who got under your skin? Drove you nuts? Made you want to throw all your papers up in the air and walk out saying, "I'm done!" In this course, we will be diving into motivational interviewing tenets and skills to explore the motivational interviewing concept of 'discord' (formerly known as resistance) and how we can deal with it. In the training, we will learn how we can help ourselves and our clients when discordant thoughts and feelings arise, identify our biological and psychological indicators for when we are caught up in discord, and skills for how we can re-adjust to meet our clients where they are at and continue to work toward meaningful change.

E2. JIM SEARS, RETIRED LE/NANCY LAMB, JD

The Cop and The Prosecutor (Part 1 of 2)

This workshop emphasizes best practices in child sexual abuse investigations in order to create a successful outcome for the child sexual abuse victim in the courtroom. To achieve justice for these victims, prosecutors/law enforcement officers must work together from the outset, as it is these two professions who share the common goal of holding the offender accountable for his/her criminal conduct. This presentation will cover the crucial components of a legally defensible child sexual abuse investigation, from disclosure to trial, to overcome defense claims.

E3. JIMMY WIDDIFIELD, JR., MA, LPC

Helping All Children: LGBTQ+ Youth and Affirmative Practices

Youth who identify as LGBTQ+ are as dynamic as the conversations our society is having about the spectrums of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. These youth are at significantly higher risk for multiple adverse experiences, and they are over-represented in child serving systems like child welfare and juvenile justice all because of who they are. Professionals, especially those in the field of child maltreatment and child trauma, should be educated on LGBTQ+ youth and issues in order to provide culturally informed services. This presentation will present current information on LGBTQ+ youth, how they are impacted by child welfare, law enforcement, and juvenile justice systems, and facilitate discussion to help professionals better serve these youth.

E4. JERRI SITES, MA/MARY-ANN BURKHART, JD

Recantation: Recommendations for the MDT and CAC Response (Part 1 of 2)

Recantation is prevalent in child sexual abuse cases, especially when the abuser is someone close to the family or from within the home. This session will provide research-based information focusing on identifying risk factors and ways to prevent recantation, practical steps for the MDT to take in the event recantation does occur, as well as steps prosecutors can take to proceed with prosecution. Participants should have an understanding of the dynamics of abuse and children's process of disclosure for this workshop.

Break @ 2:45 – 3:00 pm

15 MINUTES

Workshop F @ 3:00 – 4:30 pm

90 MINUTES

F1. NICK ZADINA, MA

Understanding Domestic Violence

You've been working with Rose Johnson who has been struggling getting her daughter Maria into consistent sleep habits. In working with Rose, you have learned that her husband Ken recently went to jail for a domestic violence incident. You arrive at the house one day to find that Ken has returned. Can you help? The purpose of this training is to develop a deeper understanding of domestic violence to better serve those who may be experiencing it. Through the scenario and some foundational education on the power and control wheel, participants will learn about the challenges that come with serving families where domestic violence is present and recognize common pitfalls in working with these families.

F2. JIM SEARS, RETIRED LE/NANCY LAMB, JD

The Cop and The Prosecutor (Part 2 of 2)

This workshop emphasizes best practices in child sexual abuse investigations in order to create a successful outcome for the child sexual abuse victim in the courtroom. To achieve justice for these victims, prosecutors/law enforcement officers must work together from the outset, as it is these two professions who share the common goal of holding the offender accountable for his/her criminal conduct. This presentation will cover the crucial

components of a legally defensible child sexual abuse investigation, from disclosure to trial, to overcome defense claims.

F3. JODIE HIVELY, MS, ASHLEIGH FULLER, MA

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Presenting Evidence in the Forensic Interview

The use of technology has impacted how children/adolescents are victimized. Research supports that the use of technology during victimization can increase the likelihood that a victim will not disclose. Most interview models are designed for children who have previously disclosed and who transition easily from the beginning of the interview to a substantive interview. Reluctant children may need more cues which may mean utilizing evidence in the forensic interview. This module will discuss the use of evidence, with emphasis on abusive images, in the interview. (This session is a pre-requisite for G3 – Advanced Presenting Evidence)

F4. JERRI SITES, MA/MARY-ANN BURKHART, JD

Recantation: Recommendations for the MDT and CAC Response (Part 2 of 2)

Recantation is prevalent in child sexual abuse cases, especially when the abuser is someone close to the family or from within the home. This session will provide research-based information focusing on identifying risk factors and ways to prevent recantation, practical steps for the MDT to take in the event recantation does occur, as well as steps prosecutors can take to proceed with prosecution. Participants should have an understanding of the dynamics of abuse and children’s process of disclosure for this workshop.

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Workshop G @ 8:30 – 10:00 am

90 MINUTES

G1. MARY-ANN BURKHART, JD

Using Expert Witnesses in Child Abuse Cases

In this age of crime and courtroom drama television, our juries have come to expect explanations for the evidence presented or, just as important, for the lack thereof. Prosecuting child physical and sexual abuse cases is no exception. Our juries expect to see forensic evidence in our child abuse cases, when in an overwhelming percentage of cases that evidence does not exist. Additionally, our juries are oftentimes puzzled by the counterintuitive behaviors seen in our child victims of sexual assault. This workshop will discuss the use of expert witnesses to explain the evidence presented or the lack of evidence, as well as discuss the counterintuitive behaviors we see in our child witnesses and the reasons therefor.

G2. KEVIN MCNEIL, M.DIV

Child Abuse Investigations

This workshop was created for Multi-Disciplinary Teams. It is designed to show why child abuse investigations are different and why they must be treated differently. Kevin shows why being the state’s sole witness can hurt your case. He will break down how each investigation should include more than just an investigator and show why building a team of care professionals around the victim’s case will help make a great case. He will demonstrate why “Together is Better” when it comes to investigating sex crimes and will speak about why the investigator should develop a working relationship with CPS, CACs, DA Offices, and other agencies that can assist in the child abuse investigation. Kevin demonstrates how educating law enforcement on the effects of abuse can aide in collecting evidence and will also speak to the investigator’s most important evidence, the victim. The audience will learn why the Forensic Interview is so essential to child abuse investigations. He will discuss evidence that some investigators miss while observing forensic interviews (i.e. importance of anatomical drawings, child’s response when talking about incident or suspect, parents’ preconference interview; people, places and things child mentions during the interview).

G3. JODIE HIVELY, MS, ASHLEIGH FULLER, MA

Advanced Presenting Evidence (Pre-requisite: F3 – A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words)

Advanced Presenting Evidence builds upon knowledge gained in the basic presenting evidence course, A Picture is Worth Thousand Words, which is a prerequisite for this presentation. This course will delve deeper into the components introduced in the first session highlighting the types of evidence and use of evidence in more complex cases.

G4. SUZAN EVANS/JULIE SCHROER, BA

A Case in the Life of an Advocate

We toss around the word advocacy and have it defined in the NCA standards. But how does that translate to the day-to-day of an advocate and the children and families we serve. This workshop will give you an opportunity to consider advocacy from an initial report through the life of the case. You will work in small groups with a facilitator to discuss the child and family’s needs as well as the MDT investigative and intervention needs. The goal is to come away from this workshop with a clearer picture of the scope of the

advocates impact on the case. You may also identify some strengths and/or opportunities within your advocacy program.

Break @ 10:00 – 10:15 am

15 MINUTES

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

90 MINUTES

H1. KEVIN MCNEIL, M.DIV

Together We Stand!

In this engaging presentation, retired Detective Kevin McNeil uses science and research to show how working as a team not only produces beneficial results for the victim, but it can also improve members of the Multidisciplinary Team’s health. In addition, Detective McNeil inspires the audience to make more of an effort to work together to increase the chances of winning cases in court.

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.
Total = 15 hours