



2022 Conference Agenda

THURSDAY, APRIL 14 – DAY 1

7:30 am – 9:00 am **Continental Breakfast**

8:15 am – 8:30 am **Opening Ceremonies and Announcements**

8:30 am – 9:30 am **Plenary Presentation**

Are We Making a Difference? Should I Keep Doing This Work?

Speaker: [Chris Newlin, MS LPC](#)

Session Type: Plenary

Track: Plenary

Presentation Description: This powerful presentation is designed to empower those individuals who are charged with working with children and families that are connected to the child welfare system. Participants will be challenged to consider their positive impacts in their roles and how they are making a difference.

Objectives:

1. Attendees will review the impact of child maltreatment on our nation's health and economy.
2. Attendees will recognize the diverse positive impacts of the multidisciplinary response to child abuse as found in the research literature related to outcomes.
3. Attendees will consolidate this information to recognize the progress made in reducing child abuse in the United States.

9:30 am – 9:45 am **Break**

9:45 am – 11:15 am **Breakout Sessions**

Why Parents Don't Believe

Speaker: [Chris Newlin, MS LPC](#)

Session Type: Advanced

Track: Advocacy

Presentation Description: 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.

Objectives:

1. Attendees will understand the challenging competing issues affecting parent and caregiver belief of child maltreatment.
2. Attendees will review recent research regarding the impact of parent/caregiver belief and support on various outcomes of child maltreatment.

3. Attendees will identify innovative areas for practice development within the multidisciplinary response to child abuse as it relates to parental/caregiver belief and support.

All We Have is the 10 Year Old's Story

Speakers: [Collen Brazil, MSW, LIMHP](#) and [Susan Krisko](#)

Session Type: Foundational

Track: Criminal Justice

Presentation Description: Gathering information from a child can be a complex process where often corroborating information is more difficult to obtain. This presentation will address how to corroborate the child's statement as well as ways to avoid common pitfalls on these cases. Participants will also learn how to deal with defense experts in court from the prosecution standpoint.

Objectives:

1. Participants will learn how to gather information to corroborate on a case of child sexual abuse.
2. Participants will understand some of the common pitfalls in these investigations and how to avoid them.
3. Participants will learn how to prosecute and testify on these cases especially when the only evidence is the child's statement.
4. Participants will learn how to deal with defense experts in court from the prosecution standpoint or as a rebuttal witness.

Cultural Considerations for Trauma Informed Care

Speaker: [Salvador Hernandez, LICSW](#)

Session Type: Foundational

Track: Trauma

Presentation Description: This Platica (Conversation) will be focused on discussing cultural norms and values and how they relate to the generational well-being of families with heritage from Mexico/Central America. As services providers when we are mindful of cultural norms/values, we can better serve the needs of children and families. This Platica will be facilitated based on lived and professional experience.

Objectives:

1. Reflect on meaning of "trauma informed" from a cultural lens.
2. Awareness of Connection versus Rapport/Therapeutic Alliance.
3. Reflect on the functioning of a collective family system and challenges.
4. Distinguish between cultural norms versus maladaptive coping strategies.
5. Cultural values as a protective factor.

Expressive Arts and Self Care for Helping Professionals

Speakers: [Betsy Funk, LCSW LIMHP MPA REAT](#) and [Jea Theis, LMHP](#)

Session Type: Foundational

Track: Self-Care

Presentation Description: Betsy and Jea will provide an experiential process designed to assist helping professionals unpack stress and tension. Using Expressive Arts processes including guided meditation, art making, and creative writing processes, participants will deepen their understanding of their own and others experiences which will result in an increase in feelings of rejuvenation and relaxation.

- Thursday AM Breakout - Exploring your professional self with SoulCollage®
- Thursday PM Breakout - Using the Arts to Explore your Window of Tolerance

Objectives:

1. Obtain information about the use of Expressive arts as a potential form of self-care and as a personal practice to decrease stress.
2. Learn and engage in two to three mindfulness and self-care based Expressive Arts processes.
3. Connect with other helping professionals through sharing and discussions.

COVID-19 Impacts on Pediatric Mental Health

Speakers: [Dr. Joan Daughton, MD](#) and [Dr. Ashely Harlow, PHD](#)

Session Type: Advanced

Track: Medical

Presentation Description: We will discuss populations at risk for increased mental health problems during the COVID-19 pandemic and literature to date on effects on pediatric mental health during the pandemic.

Objectives:

1. Understand populations at risk for increased mental health difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Understand literature to date reporting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on pediatric mental health
3. Understand resources, resilience-building during and after the pandemic

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Keynote Luncheon

A Conversation with Judge Rosemarie Aquilina

Speaker: [Judge Rosemarie Aquilina](#)

Session Type: Keynote

Track: Keynote

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Breakout Sessions

Repeat of Morning Breakout Sessions

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Plenary Presentation

Beyond Black, The Impact of Systemic Racism on Brown and Indigenous Children and Families

Speaker: [Dr. Sharon Stoolman, MD](#)

Session Type: Plenary

Track: Plenary

Presentation Description: The presentation will review the history of Indigenous people in Nebraska, Indian Residential Schools Specifically at Genoa and the lasting impact on their community and look into the experience of our Latino communities from mid-20th century to current, systemic policies and practices that have ongoing impact on them.

Objectives:

1. Explore the history of indigenous and Spanish speaking children and families in Nebraska.
2. Identify the lasting impacts of intergenerational trauma from systemic racism.
3. Identify processes to address these disparities and improve the lives of the children in these communities.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 – DAY 2

7:30 am – 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 am – 9:30 am **Plenary Presentation**

The Safe & Together Model - Domestic Violence and Child Safety & Wellbeing

Speaker: [Heidi Rankin](#)

Session Type: Plenary

Track: Plenary

Presentation Description: The Safe & Together Model can improve how agencies, communities, and individuals respond to domestic violence when children are involved. You will learn to apply a perpetrator pattern-based approach, partner with adult survivors, and hold perpetrators accountable for their parenting choices and behaviors of coercive control that impact the safety and wellbeing of children. You will be introduced to tools for improving assessment, engagement, documentation and interventions to move systems toward change. Learn about this perpetrator pattern, survivor strengths and child-centered approach to support domestic violence-informed practice.

Objectives:

1. Assess for perpetrators' patterns of coercive control.
2. Document perpetrator's patterns and survivors' strengths and protective capacities.
3. Recognize the relationship between domestic violence perpetrators' behaviors, substance abuse and mental health.

9:30 am – 9:45 am **Break**

9:45 am – 11:15 am **Breakout Sessions**

How We Arrived at Safe & Together – Douglas County, Nebraska's Journey to Systemic Change

Speakers: [Katie Hansen, MA](#) and Panel including Honorable Chad Brown, Ray Curtis, and Kaitlin Hahn

Session Type: Advanced

Track: Advocacy

Presentation Description: The focus of this presentation will be Douglas County (Omaha), Nebraska's journey to identify a need for systemic change when working with child welfare cases involving domestic violence. This presentation will show how we identified: What is services are available in our community, what is working, what needs improvement, what additional considerations do we need to account for (barriers, buy in, etc.), what can we do better as a community and what we are doing to make change happen. This presentation will cover the timeline of events in Douglas County, NE and where we are headed next.

Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to identify processes used for analyzing current services, gaps in services in large communities and determining what next steps are necessary after identifying those gaps.
2. Participants will be able to articulate ways to overcome barriers such as costs, buy in, and resources to implementing the Safe & Together Model.
3. Participants will be able to identified ways to create next steps in implementing the Safe & Together Model based on the needs of their own community.

Stories that Matter: My mother is “crazy” (And other real life stuff that they don’t teach you in school)

Speaker: [Angee Stevens, LCSW](#)

Session Type: Foundational

Track: Advocacy

Presentation Description: After growing up with a mother diagnosed with Schizo-Affective Disorder and witnessing her life of marginalization and misunderstanding, Angee hopes to reframe our perception of mental health, mental illness, and provide a renewed awareness of the shared humanity connecting us all by sharing her story. This is a story about how mental health affects each and every one of us psychologically, emotionally, personally, and professionally. This story is about the importance of valuing another's story as their truth, and using that story to move forward as a source of connection and strength, rather than finding the holes within it to weaken them. This story is a call to action for us all to move beyond the current social welfare model established within existing systems of care.

Objectives:

1. To reframe mental health: what my mom taught me about mental illness.
2. To encourage the dignity and worth of all persons through authentic and honest interactions.
3. To improve the quality of interpersonal interactions by understanding the power and influence behind one's own behavior.
4. To remind each and every person of how truly amazing they are.

Case Study: Putting the Pieces Together on a Local Sex Trafficking Ring

Speakers: Panel including Detective Lisa Horton, Detective Jeff Shelbourn, Sergeant Brett Schrage, Special Agent Chrissy Worster, Nebraska Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelli Ceraolo

Session Type: Foundational

Track: Criminal Justice

Presentation Description: In the fall of 2020, Omaha Police Detectives became aware of several parties suspected of participating in sex trafficking of minors. After months of investigation, interviews, partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, officers were able to indict four men for suspicion of sex trafficking. The presentation will demonstrate how the information came to light, attempts to investigate, collaboration by the different agencies, and follow the investigation through the courts. The purpose of the presentation will be to demonstrate the ability to find sex trafficking networks within a community through proactive policing strategies. Additionally, it will demonstrate the need for assistance with federal partners. It will present challenges of the investigation and prosecution of the offenders.

Objectives:

1. Learn the OPD's strategy for identifying victims of sex trafficking.
2. Identify the need for intelligence gathering.
3. Understand where federal partners can assist with the investigation.
4. Identify barriers to investigating a large sex trafficking investigation.
5. Understand the prosecutor's observations of the investigation and ability to prosecute the suspects.

Attempted Abductions: How Data on These Failed Crimes Can Help When a Child Goes Missing

Speaker: [Sergeant Peter Rutherford](#)

Session Type: Foundational

Track: Criminal Justice

Presentation Description: This will be a case review of a child pornography investigation that began with a Cyber tip line report and ended with the successful prosecution of a husband/wife. During the course of the investigation, collaboration with federal, state and

local agencies led to the apprehension of the suspect, interrupting their plans to abduct a child and flee the state.

Objectives: Objectives coming soon.

1. Value of partnering with other agencies during investigations.
2. Basic investigative steps in internet-centric investigations.
3. Value in training and understanding of technology in criminal investigations.

Creating Trauma-Sensitive Practices in the Education Setting

Speaker: [Dr. Lisa Epp](#)

Session Type: Foundational

Track: Trauma

Presentation Description: This presentation will include research on trauma-sensitive practices including qualitative research on the perceptions of teachers, administrators, school psychologists and counselors regarding their role in creating trauma-sensitive practices in their educational setting. Participants will have an understanding of how trauma impacts the learning, behavior and social-emotional regulation of students who have had adverse childhood experiences. Participants will walk away with the knowledge of how to create trauma-sensitive practices within their contexts.

Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to define trauma and adversity as it relates to the “Social Ecological Theory” related to trauma and its effect on students and school professionals.
2. Participants will have an understanding of how adverse events can have lasting effects on student’s learning, behavior, and social/emotional development.
3. Participants will analyze various frameworks for creating and sustaining trauma-sensitive practices in their schools and classrooms.
4. Participants will understand how to begin the process of creating trauma-sensitive practices within their classrooms and schools.

Dismantling Toxic Masculinity to Disrupt Sex Trafficking

Speakers: [Stefania Agliano, LMSW](#) and [Bryan Hall II, LCSW](#)

Session Type: Foundational

Track: Advocacy

Presentation Description: Many of the discussions, prevention/intervention programming, as well as front line assessments are designed to target either the victim (survivor) of sex trafficking or the buyer by addressing demand through legal interventions or educational programming. The missing component in the fight to eradicate victims of trafficking is a lack of dialogue on services for the potential trafficker. While females can be and are traffickers, this workshop is specifically focused on male perpetrators. Workshop participants will be given an overview on the importance of working with young men and boys and insights into the struggle those who become involved in the crime of trafficking may face, including but not limited to, the mass marketing of hyper-masculinity, socioeconomic inequalities and institutionalized oppression. This workshop will allow participants to critically reflect further on how they assess trafficking cases potentially providing a new means of intervention and victim services to explore. By discussing the trafficker as someone needing services in addition to victims and buyers we position ourselves on the national level to make systemic changes for young men and boys to enhance their well-being while potentially eliminating the market facilitator, the trafficker, the pimp. We firmly believe that by helping our young men and boys to build a healthier sense of self we can potentially save our young women and girls from being victims of exploitation, trafficking and other forms of violence.

Objectives:

1. Identify the complexities youth face that may lead them to trafficking.
2. Articulate the impact that mass media has on young men, their development of the idea of masculinity and its correlation to exploiting victims for trafficking related behaviors.
3. List the techniques that could be used to connect with youth who are caught up in the crime of human trafficking, either as a victim or a perpetrator.

Expressive Arts and Self Care for Helping Professionals

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Track: Self-Care

Presentation Description: Betsy and Jea will provide an experiential process designed to assist helping professionals unpack stress and tension. Using Expressive Arts processes including guided meditation, art making, and creative writing processes, participants will deepen their understanding of their own and others experiences which will result in an increase in feelings of rejuvenation and relaxation.

- Friday AM Breakout - The Doorway Effect
- Friday PM Breakout - Exploring Connections

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Putting on Your Own Oxygen Mask First

Speakers: [Holly Hickson](#)

Session Type: Foundational

Track: Self-Care

Presentation Description: This presentation will discuss the topic of compassion fatigue in human service professionals experiencing secondary trauma. Practical strategies and resources for self-care such as mindfulness, journaling, reflective supervision and integrative health will be discussed.

Objectives:

1. Defining compassion fatigue and secondary trauma.
2. Building a tool kit of options and a resource list for human service professionals.

Psychiatric Treatment of Children and Adolescents with PTSD

Speaker: [Dr. Matthew Dobbertin, D.O.](#)

Session Type: Advanced

Track: Medical

Presentation Description: Psychiatric treatment practices of Children and Adolescents diagnosed with PTSD with consideration of AACAP guidelines, clinical experience, and current translational research.

Objectives:

1. Understanding accepted standards of care for identifying and treating PTSD in children and adolescents.
2. Understanding pitfalls to that treatment including limited referral resources, abnormal prescribing practices, comorbid conditions and unique symptom presentation.
3. Understand emerging translational research in Psychiatric treatment.

The Neurobiology of Trauma and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Speaker: [Dr. Stuart White, Ph.D.](#)

Session Type: Advanced

Track: Medical

Presentation Description: The presentation will cover the basics of PTSD and trauma, and provide an overview of the endocrine system and the central nervous system in PTSD and trauma. Implications for behavior, social functioning, and development will be covered.

Objectives:

1. Understand the basics of what trauma/PTSD does in the brain.
2. Understand the basics of what trauma/PTSD does in the body.
3. Understand how this influences behavior, social functioning and development.

11:15 am – 1:00 pm

Lunch (on your own)

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Breakout Sessions

Repeat of Morning Breakout Sessions

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

Break

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

Plenary Presentation

Connecting with Purpose

Speaker: [Thom Singer, CSP](#)

Session Type: Plenary

Track: Plenary

Presentation Description: As we engage with people, it is paramount to remember our relationships with people are often unique. We cannot communicate the same with everyone we encounter. Each of us is complex and complicated, and we must remember that the people we interact with at work, in our social lives, from our faith communities, etc... are all also unique people. Thus we must communicate differently. Memorizing an elevator pitch or treating each person the same will not help us build relationships. Curiosity, respect, and understanding is how we build long-term and mutually beneficial relationships. In a world that is dominated by social media, we must move beyond likes, links, shares, and follows. Our goal is not to collect links, but to build "Uncommon Connections" with each individual whom pass in our life's journey.

Objectives:

1. Attendees will learn the meaning of connection through verbalization and how to choose the words used when addressing a victim of crime.
2. Understanding pitfalls to that treatment including limited referral resources, abnormal prescribing practices, comorbid conditions, and unique symptom presentation.
3. Understand emerging translational research in Psychiatric treatment to those suffering from PTSD upon having been victimized.