



New York State Children's Alliance 2024 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

EMPOWERING PROFESSIONALS TO RESPOND
TO CHILD ABUSE



Welcoming: Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, CSEC & Victim Advocates,
Child Protective/Child Welfare Personnel, Probation Officers, Medical Providers,
Mental Health Professionals, School Personnel, Community Outreach & Education Staff,
and others working with children

SEPT. 30TH - OCT. 2ND 2024 • SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

AT-A-GLANCE

NEW THIS YEAR!

PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINAR:

MON., SEPT. 30TH
3:30pm-5:00pm

DAY ONE: OCT. 1st

7:30 Chair Yoga

8:00-8:30
Breakfast &
Registration

8:30-8:45
Welcome

8:45-9:45
KEYNOTE

9:45-10:00
Break/Move to Rooms

10:00-11:15
SESSION 1

11:15-11:30
Break/Move to Rooms

11:30-12:45
SESSION 2

12:45-1:45
LUNCH

1:45-3:00
SESSION 3

3:00-3:15
Break/Move to Rooms

3:15-4:30
SESSION 4

5:00pm
Networking Reception

DAY TWO: OCT. 2ND

7:30 Chair Yoga

8:00-8:45
Breakfast & Awards

8:45-9:00
Break/Move to Rooms

9:00-10:15
SESSION 1

10:15-10:30
Break/Move to Room

10:30-12:30
CLOSING
PRESENTATION
and Raffles

NYSCA WELCOMES YOU!

We are excited you have joined us for our 2024 Leadership Conference. The purpose of the Conference is to develop and enhance professional skills in prevention, recognition, assessment, and treatment of all forms of maltreatment.

Please know that the NYSCA team is here for you to provide any assistance and support you may need. Enjoy the conference, and we'll see you next year!

NEW THIS
YEAR!

PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINAR: Sept. 30/3:30-5pm

A Case Study of the Abduction at Moreau State Park (Quinella/Exacta Room)

PRESENTED BY: Jennifer Buckley-Assistant District Attorney, Bureau Chief, Special Victims Unit, Matthew Britten-Senior Investigator, NYS Police & Nicole Iwaniec- Victim Advocate, Harriet M. West CAC, & the Saratoga Center for the Family MDT

Join us for an engaging pre-conference workshop Monday afternoon as we explore the real-life kidnapping case that took place in October of 2023 in Saratoga Springs, NY. Listen to an analysis of the case that contributed to the successful recovery of the child.

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 8:45am-9:45am



From Stuck to Empowered: Maintaining Momentum through Trying Times (Daily Double)

In today's demanding and often stressful working environments, a strong mindset is imperative to overcoming obstacles and surpassing life's challenges. Occasionally, this means handling a missed deadline, reshuffling a team, or letting an entire department go. How do leaders and employees maintain a strong mindset during trying times and avoid getting stuck? In addition, can anyone deploy a strong psychological shift that creates both individual and team empowerment?

The answer is yes! **Cody Byrns** shares how his life suddenly changed while he stopped at a red light on the highway. It forever changed him, throwing his dreams to the curb, and creating the ultimate stuck mindset. Through his research in psychology and personal triumph, he was able to transcend a forever life-changing experience into tangible steps that can work for just about anyone.

His story is designed to empower your team to create the necessary shifts to go from stuck to empowered and implement creative and humorous ways to effectively communicate your message and purpose to others around us.



WORKSHOP SESSION 1: 10:00am-11:15am

1A

Developing Digital Safety, Empathy and Mindfulness

PRESENTED BY: Richard Guerry, founder of Institute for Responsible Online and Cell-Phone Communication

Apps like TikTok continue to grow; Deep Fakes are becoming a more common issue, AI is being deployed on a larger scale, Communication in online gaming is growing more frequent for children at younger ages, and; Wearable tech like Snapchat Specs & Meta Smart Glasses will continue to evolve, thus the need for responsibility, as well as empathy and kindness has become even more paramount. This workshop will provide attendees with information & tips to create responsible decision making with today's - and tomorrow's - technology and understand how to replace blind decision making with informed decision making. [\(Show Room\)](#)

1B

Navigating Government and Jurisdiction in Indian Country: A Focus on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

PRESENTED BY: Tim Boehlert Community Police Officer, Oneida Indian Nation Tribal Police

This workshop provides a comprehensive overview of the governmental structures and jurisdictional complexities within Indian Country. Participants will be introduced to the various forms of government within Indian Country including tribal sovereignty and the relationship between tribal, federal, and state governments. Lastly, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the unique legal landscape that governs Indian lands, with a particular emphasis on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). [\(Place Room\)](#)

1C

Righting the Ship: Taking a Rural CAC From Sinking to Thriving

PRESENTED BY: Amy Lingerfelt, Director of a Caring Place Child Advocacy Center

Follow the case study of A Caring Place Child Advocacy Center, a small independent CAC in Eastern Ohio. In 2021, A Caring Place almost closed due to a severe lack of funding, lack of staff, and lack of community buy in. Currently, this CAC is doing very well and has seen significant growth. The presentation will examine the timeline leading up to the Center almost closing and the red flags along the way. We will discuss red flags Centers may be encountering. Followed by the action items that ultimately turned A Caring Place CAC around. [\(Win Room\)](#)

1D

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC): Looking Inside the Box- Part 1

PRESENTED BY: Tammy Sneed Director of Connecticut's Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team (HART) for the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Office of Human Trafficking Services

This training will cover the basics of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) with examples from the region that were coordinated through an MDT response and those that missed the basic premise of a team approach. We will explore the alarming trends of child sexual abuse images and sextortion, bringing us right back to the need for an MDT response and the foundation of the CAC. Lastly, we will look at what we have inside our box to make a difference in eradicating the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, understanding that funding for this crisis is not keeping up with the ever-growing number of victims of this heinous crime. [\(Quinella/Exacta Room\)](#)

MOVE TO ROOMS: 11:15am-11:30am



WORKSHOP SESSION 2: 11:30am-12:45pm

2A

Noah's Law: Addressing Physical Abuse and Child Torture in NY State

PRESENTED BY: Shelley Hitzel (Executive Director of Child Advocacy Center of Niagara) & Captain Tracy Steen (Niagara County Sheriff's Office)

Using a multidisciplinary case study, this workshop will examine elements of intrafamilial child torture and child physical abuse within the context of current New York State penal law. Details of the criminal investigation and prosecution will be utilized to examine the gaps that currently exist in penal code. Including how Noah's Law aims to bridge these gaps. **(Show Room)**

2B

How to Explain the Importance of a Medical Exam

PRESENTED BY: Nancy Harris Acting Medical Manager, Regional CAC Program

When and why do we need to do an exam. What does an exam look like. What do our findings show. Myths about an exam. How are we communicating to the families before and after the exam. How are we communicating the findings with our MDT members. **(Place Room)**

2C

Updated Accreditation Standards for CACs: What We've Learned in the First Year

PRESENTED BY: Alyssa Todd, National Children's Alliance Accreditation Coordinator

This workshop features the changes to NCA's standards of accreditation for Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs), and what we have learned from the first year of evaluating Centers under these new standards. NCA will discuss the challenges and triumphs seen in CACs across the country since the standards went into effect on Jan. 1st, 2023.

Using data from site visits in 2023, we will discuss what components of the standards are the most challenging for CACs, including both new requirements as well as existing requirements that still pose difficulties for Centers.

Finally, we will discuss the optional standards introduced in 2023. After a brief overview of the 3 optional standards, we will look at the data of how many Centers opted into each, what challenges were found in those reviews, and the number of CACs now accredited under these optional standards. We will conclude with a Q&A sharing of personal experiences. **(Win Room)**

2D

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC): Looking Inside the Box- Part 2

PRESENTED BY: Tammy Sneed Director of Connecticut's Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team (HART) for the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Office of Human Trafficking Services

THIS IS PART 2 - Understand the basics of Commercial Sexual Abuse of Children (CSEC) and will learn from New England examples.

- Learn how Child Sexual Abuse Images often leads to Sextortion and its devastating outcomes on children.
- Learn the importance of the Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), the ideal place to coordinate responses to CSEC.
- Review the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) response with a CSEC focus on the 3 primary components: 1) Victim Centered, 2) Appropriate and Timely Services, and 3) Targeting the Perpetrators.
- Explore the many definitions of success, as the journey is lifelong.
- Finally, explore the importance of self-care when working with child victims, the team approach also ensures our success and sustainability.

(Quinella/Exacta Room)

LUNCH BREAK: 12:45pm-1:45pm

A young child with dark hair, wearing a grey hoodie and dark pants, is standing in a field of fallen autumn leaves. The child is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing more leaves and a hint of a fence or structure.

WORKSHOP SESSION 3: 1:45pm-3:00pm

3A

Leveraging AI for Enhanced Operations and Outreach in Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs)

PRESENTED BY: Myia Hill, Northeast Regional Child Advocacy Center (NRCAC) and Patty Maio Mullin, NYSCA

Enhance your CAC's operations and outreach by leveraging the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Explore how ChatGPT and Canva can be integrated into your CAC's daily operations to drive your mission forward and expand outreach efforts. Through demonstrations, learn how to develop practical skills in using ChatGPT for tasks such as drafting grant proposals, saving time with communications, and generating engaging social media content. Discover how Canva, a powerful design tool, can be integrated with ChatGPT to create visually compelling materials. We will also cover ethical considerations of using AI. **(Show Room)**

3B

How Multidisciplinary Team Members Can Better Serve Plain Dressing Communities

PRESENTED BY: Hope Anne Dueck, Director of ABetterWay

An insightful workshop on collaborating with plain dressing communities to enhance child abuse prevention efforts. Explore effective strategies for building trust and cooperation with these communities. Participants will learn about key communication techniques, cultural sensitivities, and hear real-life examples to help all MDT members make a meaningful impact. **(Place Room)**

3C

Supporting Non-Offending Parents of Traumatized Children

PRESENTED BY: Dominique Altamari, LCSW, Therapist, The New York Center for Children

A basic overview of trauma and what causes post-traumatic stress, review how children's trauma affects their parents/caregivers, and help multidisciplinary professionals learn strategies for working with and supporting these adults.

- Gain introductory knowledge of what constitutes a traumatic event, common signs and symptoms of trauma, and how post-traumatic stress develops.
- Increase their understanding of the ways in which children's trauma can affect their non-offending parents/caregivers, including those with their own history of abuse or trauma.
- Develop sensitive, trauma-informed responses that can be used with non-offending parents/caregivers.
- Learn about best practices for parenting traumatized children, with the purpose of supporting non-offending parents/caregivers to engage in these practices. **(Win Room)**

3D

Understanding "Rape is Rape" REDEFINING SEX CRIMES: The Restructuring of Penal Law Article 130 & Charging Offenses ON/AFTER Sept. 1st, 2024

PRESENTED BY: Joe Muroff Bronx District Attorney's Office Executive Chief, Special Victims' Division

NY's Rape is Rape Legislation became effective on September 1, 2024. This presentation will focus on its impact on Forensic Interviews at our Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and the charging of a Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child which begins prior to the effective date and continues afterwards. The learning objective is to gain a clear understanding of the changes in the law and how these changes affect our CAC daily practice. **(Quinella/Exacta Room)**

BREAK: 3:00pm-3:15pm



WORKSHOP SESSION 4: 3:15pm-4:30pm

4A

Strategies for Interviewing a Reluctant Child Witness

PRESENTED BY: Kim Madden MEd, LCMHC, National Child Advocacy Center

Forensic interviewers encounter a variety of forms of reluctance in child witnesses. They are challenged to adopt a single strategy, as reluctance is often the result of a complex interaction of factors including external and internal influences. This presentation dives into the possible sources of reluctance and provides strategies for providing support and tailored questioning approaches which may be helpful to a reluctant child witness.

(Show Room)

4B

A Trauma Informed Guide to Support Victims and Families Navigating the Justice System

PRESENTED BY: Jane Straub CornerHouse, Director of Training

Understanding the impact of trauma and ways to support victims as they navigate the complex criminal and civil justice system is imperative. Trauma responsive measures have the potential to not only increase the likelihood of victims actively participating in the system, but can jumpstart the path to healing. Creating trauma informed procedures will help staff recognize and respond to behaviors linked to trauma and will strengthen relationships. The justice system, from disclosure to verdict, can be triggering, traumatizing and re-traumatizing for victims and families. This session will provide actions to implement immediately to ensure that clients feel listened to and their experiences acknowledged. (Place Room)

4C

Wellness: A Multi-Dimensional Approach

PRESENTED BY: Chris Streno, Retired Captain of Vestal Police Department

Maintaining good physical, mental, and emotional health is vital for everyone, but it can be particularly important for those in helping professions like social work, nursing, counseling and law enforcement. These careers tend to have a higher rate of psychological health problems such as Stress, Anxiety, Depression, Burnout, PTSD, Compassion Fatigue and Grief, just to name a few! This presentation is designed to offer a different way of thinking of Wellness, through creating a balance in our lives and by recognizing that Wellness is a combination of different dimensions in our lives that are interconnected, with one building on the other. This will be explained using SAMHSA's '8 Dimensions of Wellness' model.

(Win Room)

4D

Bridging the Communication Gap: Effective Strategies for Engaging with Limited and Non-Speaking Individuals

PRESENTED BY: Olivia Harrison, Dean of Academics,

The Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES (WSWHE BOCES)

Learn about norms and philosophies of the limited-speaking community. Discover effective communication strategies and explore the unique challenges faced by individuals in this community. Gain insights and tips into fostering inclusive environments and supporting diverse communication needs. (Quinella/Exacta Room)

END OF DAY ONE

TUESDAY AT 5:00PM | Networking Reception | Holiday Inn



It's time to unwind...

**Tuesday 5:00pm-6:00pm
Saratoga Networking Reception**

Meet us at the entrance to the
bar/restaurant of the Holiday Inn.
Present your conference name badge and
receive a free drink ticket good for
one beer, or one glass of wine, or one soda.

Don't forget to grab a **Bingo Card**.
All those who complete their card
will be entered in a Prize Raffle.

See You There!



TUESDAY, OCT. 2ND: 8:00am-12:30pm

8:00am-8:30am / Breakfast

8:30am-8:45am / Welcome & CAC Awards

WORKSHOP SESSION 1: 9:00am-10:15am

1A

Serving Neurodivergent Children in the Rural CAC

PRESENTED BY: Amy Lingerfelt, Director of a Caring Place Child Advocacy Center

This presentation aims to be affirming of neurological differences, or neurodiversities. After defining common terms used, participants will be invited to discuss what they are seeing regarding neurodivergent children at their CACs. Common barriers will be discussed, how they came about, and specific interventions that can be used. There will be a discussion on the intersectionality between neurodivergence and trauma, and the implications this intersection has for the children CACs serve. A brief overview of the sensory systems will be discussed, as well as action items that CAC staff can implement to best support children.

(Show Room)

1B

Data Insights on Preventing Child Sexual Abuse at WhatsOK - A Helpline for Youth With Questions About Their Sexual Interests and Behaviors

PRESENTED BY: Jenny Coleman, Director of Stop It Now! and Csenge Bodi, Research Project Manager of What's Ok

WhatsOK is the first US-based helpline for youth with questions about their sexual interests and behaviors. We will discuss its launch, recruitment and outreach, and early findings from the evaluation. After participating in this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the latest research on youth-perpetrated child sexual abuse.
2. Describe the only US-based helpline for youth with questions about their sexual interests and behaviors.
3. Describe the successes of outreach and early evaluation. **(Place Room)**

1C

Prevention Cannot Succeed Without Parents

PRESENTED BY: Adrienne Simeone Founder/Director of the Mama Bear Effect

Gain an understanding of the integral role of parents and caregivers in primary, secondary, and tertiary sexual abuse prevention efforts. The 2023 Parental and Caregiver Perspectives on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Report will be reviewed, assessing awareness and education within the family unit along with survivor experiences with disclosure during childhood. We will highlight collaboration within communities, with a specific focus on the responsibility of medical providers to gain an understanding of the impacts of childhood trauma and the need for a proactive approach to preventing and appropriately identifying and responding to abuse through medical care. **(Win Room)**

1D

Arrests Don't Always Occur - Victim-Centered Principles when Conducting a Criminal Investigation

PRESENTED BY: Matthew Stegner, Owner & Lead Instructor, Stegner Consulting and Training LL

This course focuses on integrating victim-centered principles into criminal investigations, emphasizing procedural justice to improve survivors' experiences. Learn to identify key principles such as neutrality, respect, voice, and trustworthiness, creating an environment that prioritizes the survivor's well-being. The course will cover practices and policies that ensure high-quality, skilled, and compassionate investigations. Through case reviews, attendees will gain insights into the profound impact of their role, recognizing.

(Quinella/Exacta Room)

10:15am-10:30am MOVE TO CLOSING PRESENTATION & RAFFLES

CLOSING PRESENTATION 10:30am-12:30pm

Missing to Murdered Case Study (Daily Double)

PRESENTED BY: John Witherspoon, Defend our Children

An in-depth training session on high-risk missing persons and human trafficking victims covering police response, investigative responsibilities, legal definitions, and social media tools. Explore the compelling case study of a 2017 Juvenile Runaway who was tragically murdered. Efforts included the recovery of her body, the subsequent arrest and sentencing of 21 individuals involved, and the relocation of her family. Take an in-depth look at response strategies and best practice approaches for high risk missing persons and human trafficking victims by experts in the field.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

NETWORKING RECEPTION: Tuesday, Holiday Inn, 5:00pm-6:00pm

Each conference attendee will receive a free drink ticket for one beer, or one glass of wine, or one soda at the Holiday Inn. Pick up your free drink ticket at the Holiday Inn restaurant/bar entrance by showing your conference name badge. Pick up a Bingo Card and play to win!



CAC AWARD PRESENTATIONS: Wednesday 8:30am-8:45am

NYSCA appreciates and thanks all the amazing multidisciplinary team members who provide critical services in 47 Child Advocacy Centers across the state. We are excited to recognize, again this year, a few outstanding team members.



RAFFLE PRIZES: Wednesday Noon-12:30pm

There are a lot of great items to check out this year. Make sure to fill out your 5 raffle tickets and enter to win.



CHAIR YOGA : Tuesday & Wednesday 7:30am & after Breakfast & after Lunch

Learn breathing techniques, relax, and unwind--various sessions throughout the conference



CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES

All those attending the conference will receive a certificate of attendance based on workshops attended after completing a conference evaluation. Certificates of Completion will meet ongoing education hours for NCA Standards.



CONFERENCE CEUs

These are available for Mental Health Counseling, Social Work and Psychology. **You must sign in at the REGISTRATION TABLE each day of the conference.**



THANK YOU FOR ATTEND

Look for more information, coming soon, on our 2025 Leadership Conference.

Thank You

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NYSCA Staff & Board Members

BIOGRAPHIES

CODY BYRNS

Cody Byrns is an internationally recognized speaker and a number one best-selling author. In May of 2013, Cody's life was drastically changed. While stopped at a red light on the highway, Cody was rear-ended by a box-truck that failed to stop. As a result, he was considered dead until first responders saw his hand move. He received many injuries that day, including severe burns to almost 40% of his body. After years of countless surgeries and rehabilitation, Cody has chosen to not allow his scars to keep him bound in bitterness and defeat. Instead, he uses his story to uplift others.

RICHARD GUERRY

Richard Guerry is the founder of the non-profit organization the Institute for Responsible Online and Cell-Phone Communication (IROC2.org) and one of the nation's most sought-after speakers on digital safety, empathy and mindfulness. He is the author of multiple cyber safety books and has been a featured speaker at numerous national & international conferences. Richard has appeared as an expert on Radio Disney, CNN, FOX, CBS, MTV's Thin Line Campaign, as well as in Parade Magazine and many local, regional, and international publications to help humans better understand how to wield the power of evolving technology with wisdom and responsibility through solution-oriented concepts critical to anyone using digital tools.

TIM BOEHLERT

Tim Boehlert is a 22-year veteran of the Oneida Indian Nation Tribal Police and a Federal Officer with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tim is currently assigned as a Community Police Officer for the Oneida Indian Nation Tribal Police.

AMY LINGERFELT

Amy is the Director and an Advocate at A Caring Place Child Advocacy Center in Jefferson County, Ohio. Her educational background includes a degree in psychology and leadership, and a master's in business administration. She has been recognized as an Everyday Hero by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund for her prevention education efforts.

TAMMY M. SNEED

Tammy M. Sneed is the Director of Connecticut's Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team (HART) for the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Office of Human Trafficking Services. As a national expert with close to 30 years of experience in Female-Responsive Programming for adolescent girls, she specializes in programming for youth in the legal system. She has developed and implemented training models educating local and state police departments on how to work with high-risk youth, resulting in significant arrest reductions and successful outcomes for youth. In her role as the Director of HART, she is committed to eradicating child trafficking in the state through education, collaboration, and partnerships. Tammy has presented, consulted, and worked with almost all 50 states, including Washington, DC, at the Senate and White House. Tammy co-leads the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children in Connecticut, focused on ensuring all child abuse victims receive appropriate services and support and the full extent of what the legal system can provide to these victims. As a foster/ adoptive mother, she has developed specialized training for mentors and foster and adoptive parents and served as a mentor for forever families parenting adolescent girls and child victims of trafficking.

BIOGRAPHIES

SHELLEY HITZEL

Shelley Hitzel has been on staff at the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara since 2010. She began her career as an emergency room victim advocate, providing crisis response and support to adult and child victims of crime. She has held various roles at the CAC over the years, transitioning to the role of Executive Director in March 2020. She has coordinated the multidisciplinary response for over 1,200 child abuse cases. In addition to her work at the CAC, Shelley has been on staff at the Institute on Trauma and Trauma Informed Care since 2015. She serves as the Project Coordinator for SAMHSA's How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Response and as Trauma Informed Child Welfare Liaison. Shelley holds a master's degree in social work, a BA in Psychology and Criminal Justice and a trauma counseling certification from the University at Buffalo.

CAPTAIN TRACY STEEN

Captain Tracy Steen has over 18 years of experience with the Niagara County Sheriff's Office and currently oversees the Criminal Investigation Bureau. She began her career working as a road patrol deputy before moving to the Crime Scene Investigation Unit. Captain Steen was promoted to Criminal Investigator in 2011, where her focus was on Special Victims Investigations. Captain Steen was ultimately promoted to Lieutenant of the Criminal Investigation Bureau and then Captain in 2021. Captain Steen has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration and currently serves with the United States Coast Guard Investigative Services as a Federal Agent.

NANCY HARRIS

Nancy's career in nursing spans 40 years during which she has worked in pediatrics, neonatal ICU (Intensive Care Unit), hospitalist, and emergency services. While working in the emergency department for Samaritan Hospital she served as the Manager for the Hospitals Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program. Nancy has completed several sexual assault forensic examiner and pediatric trainings, and during her career she has performed over 2000 sexual assault exams. In 2009, Nancy earned her certification as an adult nurse practitioner from SAGE College in Albany, NY. Nancy was instrumental in developing a system wide program to include four hospitals and two Child Advocacy Centers in the capital region. The regional CAC (Child Advocacy Centers) current program covers 27 Counties in NY State, and Nancy is the acting Medical Manager. Nancy is a co-founder and Medical Manager for the TELESAFE Program (Pilot program provided by an OVS (Office of Victim Services) Grant, providing services across New York State for the last four years. Nancy is a member of numerous MDT's (multidisciplinary team), Child fatality Review teams, NYS Medical workgroup for NYS and active with many local and international organizations. Nancy and a team of colleagues created and provided free pediatric sane training (with the help of NYSCA (New York State Children s Alliance)) for all medical providers in NYS and has developed a preceptorship program for those providers. Nancy has been the recipient of the "TEAL" award in 2020 which was presented by Albany County SART Team, "Making a Difference" Award in 2022 presented by NYSCA and in 2023 the "Distinguished Fellow" award from IAFN (International Association of Forensic Nursing).

ALYSSA TODD

Alyssa Todd worked as an Investigative Social Worker for Vermont CPS for almost five years, then moved to Philadelphia for grad school, where she continued to work with youth in foster care. She moved back to Vermont and became the Director and Forensic Interviewer of a small Associate Member center in Brattleboro, VT in 2012. In 2016 the Center became fully Accredited with NCA under Alyssa's leadership. Alyssa joined NCA in September 2019 as a member of the accreditation team and assisted with the most recent revision of the Standards for Accredited Centers. Alyssa provides training and technical assistance to CACs as they navigate the accreditation process. She is particularly interested in forensic interviewing and vicarious trauma.

BIOGRAPHIES

MYIA HILL

Myia Hill is the Communications Manager at the Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center (NRCAC), where she brings creativity and strategic thinking to NRCAC's branding, marketing materials, website, and social media presence. With over nine years of experience in the nonprofit sector, Myia has expertise in the areas of development, communications, and marketing. She is driven by a passion for creating positive change and loves using her skills to make a meaningful impact. At NRCAC, Myia has successfully led initiatives that have expanded the organization's brand and messaging and strengthened its regional and national presence. She earned her bachelor's degree in marketing from the State University of New York at Oswego (SUNY Oswego).

PATRICIA MAIO MULLIN

Director of Communications, joined NYSCA in 2018. She received her BFA from Syracuse University majoring in Advertising Design. Patty began her marketing/design career in the cable television industry winning awards from HBO and Showtime for creative development. From there, she worked for Syracuse-based advertising/design firms, started her own freelance business, and used her talents at the Child Advocacy Center in Onondaga County as the Marketing and Fund Development Specialist before joining NYSCA. Patty lives in Syracuse with her husband Paul. They have four children and became grandparents in 2022 with a second grandchild on the way.

HOPE ANNE DUECK

Hope Anne is a compassionate advocate and educator with over twenty years of experience supporting individuals who have experienced sexual and other abuse within Plain-dressing communities. Having personally faced challenges with abuse in her own life and her deep understanding of the cultural nuances and challenges faced by individuals in these communities, she brings empathy and a unique perspective to her work. Married to her husband Paul since 1991, she is a proud mother of four grown children. Co-founding A Better Way in 2017, she has been a driving force in educating law enforcement and other professionals. Additionally, A Better Way supports abuse victims in a variety of ways. Through her tireless efforts and collaborations, she continues to be a beacon of hope and change in the fight against abuse.

DOMINIQUE ALTAMARI

Dominique Altamari, LCSW, is a therapist at The New York Center for Children (NYCC). Dominique received her Master's of Social Work from The Columbia University School of Social Work. Prior to joining the team at NYCC, Dominique worked as a therapist at The J.E. and Z.B. Butler Center for Children and Families, a Montefiore Child Outpatient Psychiatry Department satellite clinic that specializes in child abuse and trauma. At NYCC, Dominique provides trauma-focused individual therapy to children, adolescents, young adults, and non-offending parents. Additionally, Dominique runs therapeutic groups for adolescents who have experienced trauma. Dominique is also SIFI certified and currently supervises a master's level social work intern.

BIOGRAPHIES

JOE MUROFF

Joseph Muroff is in his 38th year at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office in NYC. He is a member of Bronx DA Darcel Clark's Executive Staff as Chief of the Special Victims Division. The Division includes the Office's Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, the Domestic Violence Bureau, the Crime Victims Assistance Bureau and the Human Trafficking Unit. Mr. Muroff was directly involved in the planning, development and implementation of several notable institutions in Bronx County, including: "Bronx Community Solutions", the Bronx Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court Part, the Bronx Sexual Assault Task Force, and the co-located Bronx Child Advocacy Center. Mr. Muroff has spoken and lectured on a wide variety of topics in the fields of Domestic Violence, Sex Crimes, Child Abuse and Trauma Informed Prosecutions to numerous outside organizations, such as the NYPD, NYC Corporation Counsel, the New York State Prosecutor's Training Institute (NYPTI), and numerous community-based organizations and associations. He has also served on the faculty of the National College of District Attorneys (NCDA) and as an advisor to the American Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (AAPA). For the last several years, Mr. Muroff has served as co-chair of the New York State DA's Association's Special Victims and Domestic Violence (SVDV) Legislative Subcommittee. He has been actively involved in advancing legislation in NY State which positively impacts victims and survivors of crime.

In 2007, Mr. Muroff was honored at the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Crime Victims Treatment Center of St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, in recognition of his "tireless commitment to assisting victims of violent crimes". In 2017, Mr. Muroff received the "Prosecutor of the Year, Executive Leadership Award" from the New York Prosecutor's Training Institute. This award is given to a prosecutor "who exemplifies strong leadership, is responsible for innovative and important programs, and thereby enhances criminal justice throughout the State." In January of 2020, Mr. Muroff became a Board Member of the New York State Children's Alliance (NYSCA).

KIM MADDEN

Kim Madden, MEd, LCMHC, is a Child Forensic Interview Specialist and Trainer at the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC). She began conducting forensic interviews in 1995. Prior to joining the NCAC team in 2015 Kim provided therapy services to children and adults, facilitated family violence support groups, and taught evidence-based parenting interventions in North Carolina. During her time in North Carolina, Kim completed two years of training in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Kim received her master's degree in counseling from the University of Toledo and is a licensed clinical mental health counselor. In addition to conducting forensic interviews, Kim teaches the NCAC's Forensic Interviewing of Children Training, Advanced Forensic Interviewing Training, and Advanced topics. She also presents at local, national, and international child abuse conferences on child forensic interviewing, and works with prosecutors to provide consultation and counsel on the forensic interview. Kim worked with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency as a faculty member for the Interdiction for the Protection of Children, a state-wide training initiative to help Alabama highway patrol officers recognize and effectively respond to vulnerable children. Kim has conducted thousands of child forensic interviews in both CACs and hospital-based child medical evaluation settings and served as an expert witness testimony for criminal and civil court proceedings in multiple jurisdictions.

JANE STRAUB

Jane joined the CornerHouse team in August 2021 as the Training Manager. Jane has worked as an advocate and trainer for over 25 years and brings a wealth of training experience related to abuse and trauma across the lifespan. She has had the opportunity to create curriculum and educational materials with a special passion for trauma-informed care and the impact of trauma. Jane looks forward to helping families, professionals and communities identify, intervene and interrupt trauma in the lives of children and adults. Jane has a dual degree from Arizona State University in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, a certificate in ASL and a tennis coaching certification from MSHSL.

BIOGRAPHIES

CHRIS STRENO

Christopher Streno spent 33 years in law enforcement and has just retired after 27 ½ years with the town of Vestal Police. Throughout his career he has worked as a corrections officer, patrol officer, detective, patrol and detective supervisor, administrator and retired as the captain of the department. Some of the many specialized trainings and certifications he received include being a police instructor, a firearms instructor, a forensic child interviewer and a crisis negotiator. He regularly instructed at several police and peace officer academies as well as department in-service training; specializing in topics such as interview techniques, investigating reports of child abuse, investigating sex crimes, human trafficking, officer wellness, procedural justice, fair & impartial policing and implicit bias. He was a member of the Broome County Child Advocacy Center Executive Committee for over 13 years and was also a member of the Broome County Peer Response Initiative Committee, the Broome County Family Violence Prevention Council and the Broome County Youth Bureau. Outside of police work, he is the Youth Activities Director for the town of Binghamton as well as the Chairman of the town's Planning Board. He lives in Binghamton with his wife Prema and has four sons; Theo, Corey, Christopher and Luca.

OLIVIA HARRISON

Olivia Harrison, Dean of Academics, joined WSWHE BOCES in 2014 as a member of the Exceptional Learners Division. For ten years Olivia worked at WSWHE BOCES at an Assistive Technology Provider. Prior to her tenure at BOCES, she worked in the Ballston Spa MOVE (Mobility Opportunity via Education) Room and taught a kindergarten/first grade multiage classroom in The Bluffton Elementary School, Bluffton, SC. Olivia has worked with students with disabilities in numerous districts in the Washington, Saratoga, Warren, Hamilton and Essex counties. She has been a key leader on the Assistive Technology Evaluation team for the past five years. In conjunction of her AT position, Olivia has pivoted her role and absorbs duties as an Autism Consult Teacher for the WSWHE BOCES BEARS (BOCES Educating and Related Disorders Students) classes. Raised in New Paltz, NY, Olivia attended New Paltz High School, earned her Bachelor of Science degree at The College of St. Rose in Albany, NY with a concentration in Communication Disorders and Psychology. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Literacy from The College of St. Rose. In addition, Olivia holds a Master of Science Degree in Special Education from Adelphi University. She is in the process of obtaining her SBL and SDL certifications through MCLA Leadership program, in North Adams, NY. In addition to teaching, she serves as the Assistive Technology & Speech Pathology Team Leader and is an active participant of the WIDE Committee through WSWHE BOCES. Olivia has also collaborated on the book Let's Write alongside Caroline Musselwhite. Olivia also enjoys volunteering as a wish maker for Make-a-Wish. Olivia empowers voices for those who can't.

AMY LINGERFELT

Amy is the Director and an Advocate at A Caring Place Child Advocacy Center in Jefferson County, Ohio. Her educational background includes a degree in psychology and leadership, and a master's in business administration. She has been recognized as an Everyday Hero by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund for her prevention education efforts.

JENNY COLEMAN

Jenny Coleman, LMHC has been working in child welfare for 30 years; as a clinician, educator and advocate. Her background has been steeped in community and relationship based approaches, grounded on non-violence and trauma-informed models. In 2011, she joined Stop It Now! as their Helpline Director, and now serves as their Director, overseeing a national child sexual abuse prevention program. She presents globally; training individuals and youth serving organizations in primary prevention. She serves on the prevention committee for the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) and is a board member of the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse.

BIOGRAPHIES

CSENGE BODI

Csenge Bodi, BA is a Research Project Manager for the Center for Violence Prevention Research. She recently completed an undergraduate degree at St. John's University, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Social Justice Theory. Prior to working at the Center, she worked at a community mental health clinic, coordinating the intake process to Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Today, she is interested in the development, evaluation, and dissemination of easily accessible, scalable interventions for youth with marginalized identities. Csenge's goal is to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology to ultimately serve youth and increase access to evidence-based interventions for underserved, hard-to-reach communities.

ADRIANNE SIMEONE

Adrienne is the founder of The Mama Bear Effect, a nationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering adults to protect children from sexual abuse. Since 2012, Simeone has volunteered her time to research and develop resources and materials to educate the public and support families and communities to advocate for the protection of children from sexual abuse. She has been acknowledged at the Massachusetts State House in 2018 as an Unsung Heroine, and by the Children's Trust as an Emerging Leader. In 2018 she authored, *My Body is Special and Private*, and her latest book, *Let's Talk About Secrets* is set to release later this year.

MATTHEW STEGNER

Matthew Stegner is a retired Senior Investigator from the New York State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation, where he dedicated many years to serving and protecting the community. His career began in 1998 as a patrolman with the City of Atlanta Police Department, and in 2002, he joined the New York State Police. Over his 22 years there, he progressed from being a Trooper to an Investigator and eventually a Senior Investigator. Throughout his career, Matthew handled various felony investigations, focusing on child exploitation, child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. He worked closely with crime victim advocates to conduct trauma-informed interviews, emphasizing a compassionate approach to law enforcement. Matthew designed the Sexual Assault Investigations training module for the New York State Police and serves as the lead instructor for the annual New York State Police Sexual Assault Seminar. His contributions to the field have been recognized with awards such as Trooper of the Year, Investigator of the Year, Special Recognition Investigator, and Supervisor of the Year by the New York State Police. He holds an Associate's degree from Erie Community College, a Bachelor's degree from Hilbert College, and a Master's Degree from the University at Albany, all in criminal justice. Now retired from active duty, Matthew focuses on sharing his knowledge and experience through training and presentations, nationally and internationally, helping others improve their approach to criminal investigations and victim support.

JOHN WITHERSPOON

Currently assigned to the Special Victims Investigations Unit, (SVID) Runaway/Missing/Children's Division. A 26-year veteran of the department, Detective Witherspoon has been a member of the Human Trafficking Task Force, which also investigates kidnappings, parental abductions and international abductions, for the past nine years. Recognized as a subject matter expert, Detective Witherspoon has testified, and presented in court testimony in over 50 missing/runaway cases and has investigated over 2500 missing cases in his career. In addition to his work with the department, in 2018 Detective Witherspoon established the non-profit organization "Defend our Children." DOC is designed to assist Law Enforcement and the community with awareness and training in the areas of Human Trafficking and assistance for victims and families of those affected. Aside from facilitating for his non profit, Witherspoon is also an instructor for At-Risk Missing and High-Risk Endangered Missing Children with the National Criminal Justice Training Center.

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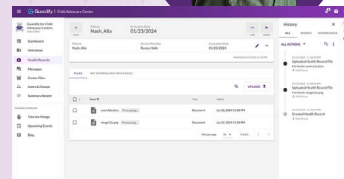
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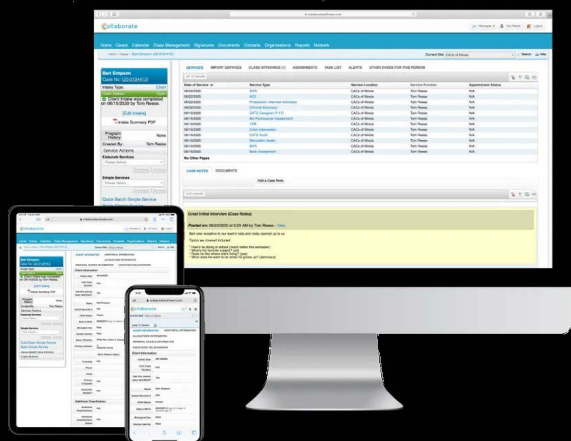
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