

13th Annual  
**CHAMPIONS OF  
CHILDREN CONFERENCE**

March 1-2, 2022  
Westin Chicago Northwest

**\$250  
Single  
Registration**

**\$225  
Group  
Registration**  
*(5 or more MDT members)*

**\$260  
Attorney  
Registration**  
*(includes MCEs)*

**\$300  
Nurse  
Registration**  
*(includes CMEs)*

**In-person  
& Virtual  
Experiences  
Offered**

*This 2-day, four separate track, hybrid experience, will bring you nationally renowned experts in the field of child abuse, and is purposefully planned for multidisciplinary members and their specific discipline.*



**DR. ISAIAH  
PICKENS**



**STACI WHITNEY,  
L.M.S.W.**



**THOMAS MITCHELL,  
LPC, NCC**



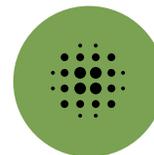
**LAWRENCE JAY  
BRAUNSTEIN, ESQ.**



**CHARLENE ALLEN,  
ESQ., MFA**

***Bringing Equity to the  
System:  
Transforming from  
the Inside Out***

# 2022 CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN CONFERENCE



## Featured Speakers

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### **DR. ISAIAH PICKENS**

*Founder and CEO of iOpening Enterprises*

Dr. Isaiah Pickens is the founder and CEO of iOpening Enterprises, a professional development and media company that specializes in building the capacity of individuals and organizations to unlock their potential using psychological science, implementation best practices, and inspirational media. In this capacity, Dr. Pickens has developed the Bridge Trauma-Informed Culturally-Responsive (TICR) Program, a multi-day professional development program for educators that provides a practical toolkit for managing youth traumatic stress responses in the school setting. Additionally, Dr. Pickens has developed a curriculum for justice professionals as well as organizations across sectors to promote workplace wellness through a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) lens. As a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leader and Fellow, Dr. Pickens works collaboratively with cross-sector scholars and practitioners to promote a culture of health in America. Dr. Pickens currently sits on the National Board for Communities In Schools (CIS) and has been awarded by the American Psychological Association Early Career Achievement Award and the Black Enterprise BE Modern Man award for his contributions to the field of psychology. As former Assistant Director at the UCLA-Duke National Center for Child Traumatic Stress—the coordinating site of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), and a former clinical assistant professor at NYU School of Medicine, Dr. Pickens has built a reputation as a national trauma expert and shares practical science-informed lessons about mental wellness with audiences around the world. Dr. Pickens aims to continue working toward systemic change and unlocking people's potential by moving the world from happy to healthy through psychological science.

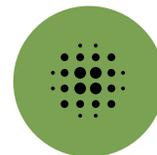


### **THOMAS MITCHELL, LPC, NCC**

*Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Center - Hope House.*

Thomas Mitchell serves as the Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Center - Hope House. He graduated from Nicholls State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Psychological Counseling. Thomas began his CAC career with the Carl Perkins Center as a Clinical Therapist. He later became the Director of Clinical Services, providing oversight of trauma therapy in 16-Children's Advocacy Centers across West Tennessee. In 2017, he relocated to the Northshore to assume the directorship of CAC Hope House. Thomas holds board certification in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and formal certification in Trust-Based Relational Interventions® as both a Practitioner and Educator. Since 2019, Thomas has served as the Board Treasurer for the Exchange Club of West St. Tammany in addition to serving as a board member with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement. He is a former board president for the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers, serving a term from 2018 through 2019. Thomas is featured as an annual guest lecturer at both Louisiana State University and Nicholls State University for advanced training relative to the neurological impact of complex developmental trauma. Thomas holds professional memberships with the Louisiana Counseling Association and the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. His research interests include normative conformity, complex developmental trauma, and the neurological effects of trauma. He resides in Mandeville with his wife Sayuri and three children, Zoe, Emma, and Owen.

# 2022 CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN CONFERENCE



*Meet The Experts*

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## **CHARLENE ALLEN, ESQ., MFA**

*Writer and Activist*

Charlene Allen, Esq., has worked with survivors of crime and trauma for more than 30 years, beginning in the late 1980's when she led one of the first statewide domestic violence coalitions as lobbyist and organizer. She served as executive director of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and supervising attorney at Northeastern University Law School's Domestic Violence Law Clinic. Recognizing the need to address violence and trauma in a context that confronts social and economic oppression and also provides mechanisms for accountability, Charlene served as legal director of Emerge, the first abuser education program in the United States.

Most recently, Charlene has served as chief of staff at Common Justice, a restorative-justice based program in New York City, which works with survivors of violence as well as those who commit violent felony crimes. She currently consults with a range of non-profit organizations to build transformative programmatic and administrative practices in victim services, criminal justice reform and restorative justice.

Charlene is the author of *Play The Game*, a young adult novel that explores themes of restorative justice and healing, scheduled for release in January 2023 by Harper Collins.



## **LAWRENCE J. BRAUNSTEIN, ESQ.**

*Trial Attorney and Litigation Partner*

Trial Attorney and Litigation Partner: specializing in the prosecution and defense of matrimonial and family law matters: equitable distribution of marital property, child and spousal support, child custody and parental access, relocation, allegations of child sexual abuse and physical abuse. Defense counsel in criminal litigation regarding allegations of child sexual and physical abuse. Special expertise and training in the areas of child custody, child sexual and physical abuse and neglect, abusive head trauma (shaken baby), internet crimes involving children and child pornography.

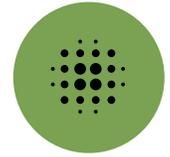


## **CAREYANA M. BRENHAM, MD, FAAFP**

*Residency Program Director, SIU Family & Community Medicine*

Dr. Brenham sees both inpatients and outpatients and practices obstetrics. She has speciality training in Child Abuse Medicine in particular in child sexual abuse exams. She completed her medical school training at SIU School of Medicine in Springfield, Il in 2000 and went on to complete her residency training at SIU Family Medicine in 2005. She works with several Child Advocacy Centers in Central Illinois to provide comprehensive medical exams using colposcopy for children that are sexually abused. She also sits on the Child Death Review Team in Springfield Illinois and currently serves as the Vice Chair.

# 2022 CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN CONFERENCE



## *Meet The Experts*

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### **AMBER CLAYBORNE**

*Founder, Kerengende Foundation*

Amber Clayborne is the parent of a survivor of child sexual abuse. Originally from San Francisco California, Amber had to navigate the system to find the appropriate support and resources for her family in the aftermath of sexual abuse. Her personal life experience led to the founding of the Kerengende Foundation in 2019. The Foundation's vision is as follows; "At Kerengende, we believe that girls who have experienced sexual trauma are more resilient when their families don't feel alone.

Every day, we help these families through building a healing community connected to information, support resources, and education. Because as our communities continue to learn how best to support girls and families in need, we realize that we are stronger together."

Here is her story: "My life was turned upside down when I discovered that my daughter had been sexually abused. I struggled to find adequate and compassionate resources to support her. I believe that no family should have to struggle alone while dealing with the aftermath and shock of such trauma. I'm determined to help bridge the existing resource gaps in society, so that families can get the help they need without feeling isolated."



### **LORRAINE GUERRERO NEUMAYER, LCSW**

*Senior Trauma Therapist, Will County State's Attorney, CAC*

Lorraine has over 15 years of experience working with children, families and community members impacted by trauma in a myriad of environments including schools, hospitals and community agencies. She conducts individual and group therapy and supervises a team of trauma therapists and interns.

Lorraine earned her MSW from Aurora University with a Type 73 school social work license. She has been trained and certified in several therapeutic modalities, mostly utilizing Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. Lorraine is actively involved in community social work as a volunteer, board member and elected official.

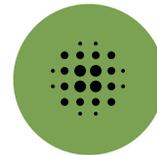


### **DETECTIVE JENNIFER HILLGOTH**

*Aurora Police Department*

Detective Jen Hillgoth is with the Aurora Police Department and has been in law enforcement for 18 years. She has spent the last 7 years as a detective specializing in crimes against children and has investigated hundreds of cases involving child victims. She has presented on topics involving child abuse investigations for various disciplines including law enforcement, D.C.F.S., social workers, medical professionals and attorneys. She actively participates in child protection team meetings with local area hospitals and is a member of the Illinois Child Death Review Team.

# 2022 CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN CONFERENCE



## Meet The Experts

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### **REBECCA HOWARD, APRN, CPNP-PC**

*Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, SIU Center for Family Medicine*

Rebecca Howard is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at the Kids Health Harbor with SIU Center for Family Medicine in Springfield, Illinois. She completed her BSN at Blessing-Rieman College of nursing in 1997 and her MSN through Maryville University in 2018. Rebecca has worked closely with DCFS as a clinical team member and foster parent intermittently for 15 years. She has been a pediatric nurse for 24 years, serving in the advanced practice role with SIU for 3 years. The Kids Health Harbor is a dedicated specialty clinic that provides primary care with integrated mental health care for children that have gone through family disruptions and other difficult experiences. She completes child abuse exams for children that have experienced abuse and neglect, along with care coordination, trauma education, and health optimization for youth in care and their families.



### **RET. DETECTIVE MICHAEL V. (MIKE) JOHNSON, BSCJ**

*Director of Youth Protection, Boy Scouts of America*

Michael Johnson (Detective Mike) is an internationally recognized expert on all aspects of child abuse and exploitation and specializes in abuse investigation, detection, and prevention efforts for organizations serving youth.

Michael Johnson was the Youth Protection Advisor/Director for the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) from July 2010 to December 2020, where he advised on efforts to improve youth protection policies, training, and procedures to ensure the safest possible environment for BSA youth. Johnson is credited with acting as a change agent to strengthen BSA's "Youth Protection" program, and he spearheaded the BSA's efforts to provide ongoing support to survivors and a trauma-informed response to victims of abuse in the organization.

Prior to BSA, Johnson served 24 of his 28 years as the Lead Detective and Family Violence/Abuse Investigator in the Criminal Investigation Division of the Plano, Texas Police Department. In that role, he focused exclusively on interviewing victims, interrogating perpetrators, and investigating child abuse cases, including child sexual abuse, interpersonal violence, and exploitation.



### **JACLYN LUNDQUIST, MSW**

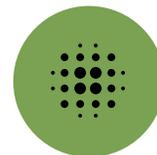
*Assistant Director/Forensic Interviewer, Will County CAC*

Jaclyn first joined the Will County Children's Advocacy Center staff in August of 2002 as a Case Manager and went on to be trained as a forensic interviewer at CornerHouse in Minneapolis, MN. She continued serving as a Case Manager/Back-up Forensic Interviewer until February of 2006. During that time, she conducted over 500 Forensic Interviews.

After starting a family and earning a Master's degree in Social Work, she returned to the Will County Children's Advocacy Center in July 2008. Shortly after, she obtained her Advanced Child Sexual-Abuse Forensic Interview Certificate of Achievement from CornerHouse. Jaclyn has been the primary Forensic Interviewer and has since conducted over 3,000 interviews with children, adolescents, and vulnerable adults, resulting in a career total of almost 3,500 forensic interviews. Currently Jaclyn holds the title Assistant Director/Forensic Interviewer.

Jaclyn graduated from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb in 2001, earning a Bachelor of Science in Family Social Services. She graduated with honors from University of St. Francis, Joliet in 2008, earning a Master's in Social Work.

# 2022 CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN CONFERENCE



*Meet The Experts*

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## **LAURA NG, MSW**

*Human Trafficking Specialist, ChicagoCAC*

Laura Ng joined ChicagoCAC in 2019 as the agency's Human Trafficking Specialist. With over ten years of experience fighting human trafficking, she has helped ChicagoCAC expand and increase its focus in this area over the past few years.

Prior to her time at ChicagoCAC, Laura was the Executive Director at Traffick Free, a nonprofit dedicated to trafficking prevention and aiding victims and survivors.



## **ALISON STOLL, M.A. LPC**

*Child and Family Therapist, Children's Advocacy of North and Northwest Cook County (CAC)*

Alison Stoll is a graduate from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology with a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology. She has been a Child and Family Therapist at The Children's Advocacy of North and Northwest Cook County (CAC) at the Evanston satellite office and is respected among her team of clinicians for her passion and knowledge of neurodevelopment and the neurobiology of complex trauma. She interned with Chicago Public Schools where she confronted the vast systemic inequities face by marginalized communities. She worked hard to build relationships within the school to advocate for social emotional learning as well as implement the practice of restorative justice.



## **STACI WHITNEY, L.M.S.W.**

*Senior Director for Modell Consulting Group, LLC (MCG)*

Since 2017, Ms. Whitney has been responsible for teaching and co-authoring trainings on interviewing children and adults with disabilities. This included leading a project with national experts to develop an advanced Forensic Interviewing Protocol for interviewing individuals with disabilities (Project FIND). Prior to her work with MCG, Ms. Whitney was the Senior Forensic Interviewer at Bivona Child Advocacy Center in Rochester, NY and was responsible for developing Bivona's Forensic Interviewing Program. During that time, Ms. Whitney had extensive training and experience in the field of Forensic Interviewing including interviewing children and individuals with disabilities who are victims or witnesses of crime. She has developed and delivered numerous trainings to Multidisciplinary Team Members and other professionals on recognizing and responding to suspicions and reports of child abuse.

# TUESDAY, MARCH 1

## SESSION 1

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

## DR. ISAIAH PICKENS

BRINGING EQUITY TO THE SYSTEM:  
TRANSFORMING FROM THE INSIDE OUT

- **Lawrence J. Braunstein, ESQ.** - How Not to Help the Defense Attorney in Child Sexual Abuse Cases Pt. 1
- **Amber Clayborne** - A Mother's Perspective, A Child Survivor's Caregiver's Perspective
- **Charlene Allen, ESQ., MFA** - Writing to Heal Vicarious Trauma
- **Careyana M. Brenham, MD, FAAFP and Rebecca Howard, APRN, CPNP-PC** - The Child Sexual Abuse Exam....What Is Done and What Do We Tell Families

## SESSION 2

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

## SESSION 3

1:15 PM - 2:45 PM

- **Lawrence J. Braunstein, ESQ.** - How Not to Help the Defense Attorney in Child Sexual Abuse Cases Pt. 2
- **Jennifer Hillgoth** - Recognizing & Responding to Child Maltreatment Pt. 1
- **Dr. Isaiah Pickens** - Navigating Brave Conversations & Maintaining a Relationship First Approach
- **Rebecca Howard, APRN, CPNP-PC** - Identifying the Health Care Team's Role in Building Resiliency for Vulnerable Youth: Review of a Specialty Clinic Dedicated to Children in Foster Care

## SESSION 4

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

- **Lawrence J. Braunstein, ESQ.** - Courtroom Psychology, How to be a Good Witness and Survive in the Courtroom
- **Jennifer Hillgoth** - Recognizing & Responding to Child Maltreatment Pt. 2
- **Charlene Allen, ESQ., MFA** - Working with Families Across Cultural Differences
- **Careyana M. Brenham, MD, FAAFP** - Taking Care of Kids and Teens

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



**DAY 1**

*Tuesday, March 1*

## **BRINGING EQUITY TO THE SYSTEM: TRANSFORMING FROM THE INSIDE OUT**

*Dr. Isaiah Pickens*

Creating equitable systems has been the focus of communities victimized by violence and trauma for years. The pathway to achieving justice and healing for those harmed by individual, intergenerational, and historical trauma often involves a collective community effort responding to the needs of both professionals within the systems and the communities they are working to protect and heal. Using psychological science and best practices for community healing as a foundation, this inspiring keynote will unpack the various factors that have created barriers to access for communities to date and will provide concrete steps for addressing disparities among youth and families. Attendees will have a better understanding of the importance of creating a sense of psychological safety for youth and traumatized and traditionally underserved communities, ensuring individuals have the internal and external resources to support their mental and emotional well-being.

## **HOW NOT TO HELP THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES - PARTS 1, 2 & 3**

*Lawrence J. Braunstein, Esq.*

This program, presented by a defense attorney (and former prosecutor), will acquaint law enforcement, prosecutors, medical practitioners, mental health practitioners, child protection caseworkers and victim assistance agency personnel with the intimate workings of the defense in child sexual abuse cases: the preparation of a defense case, investigative techniques, pretrial motion practice and discovery, examinations before trial, jury selection, defense trial strategy, demonstrative evidence, trial exhibits, cross examination techniques, and courtroom psychology.

By having a broad overview of both pretrial and trial procedures, and how the defense will approach its preparation during each phase of the litigation, the expert and lay (fact) witness will be better prepared in understanding its individual role in the proceedings, and better prepared to maximize its participation in the overall litigation.

## **A MOTHER'S PERSPECTIVE, A CHILD SURVIVOR'S CAREGIVER'S PERSPECTIVE**

*Amber Clayborne*

This is a mother's story of how her life was turned upside down when she discovered that her daughter had been sexually abused by her longtime partner. She will discuss her challenges and struggles with navigating the system during such a difficult time in her family's life while caring for her daughter. We will hear first hand from a caregiver's perspective about how we can best support children and families after a disclosure of abuse and the long road in recovery.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



**DAY 1**

*Tuesday, March 1*

## **WRITING TO HEAL VICARIOUS TRAUMA**

*Charlene Allen, ESQ., MFA*

Where does trauma live in your body?

What are the stories that stick with you from the families you worked with last week, last month, or even in past years?  
Where do those stories live in you?

These are some of the questions we'll answer in this hands-on workshop. We'll explore writing practices that help surface and ease vicarious trauma, including writing into prompts and writing from multiple perspectives. We'll also discuss practical ways to use these tools during the course of your week.

## **THE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE EXAM....WHAT IS DONE AND WHAT DO WE TELL FAMILIES**

*Careyana M. Brenham, MD, FAAFP and Rebecca Howard, APRN, CPNP-PC*

Sexual abuse medical exam, we will talk about common medical and mental health concerns or symptoms in children that are sexually abuse, how we do the medical exam, what findings we can see, what STI's we test for during the exam, and most importantly why most exams are normal. Hopefully we can express during our talk that it is very important that all children do get a medical exam and that the experience should not be a traumatic one but a reassuring process for the children and family.

## **RECOGNIZING & RESPONDING TO CHILD MALTREATMENT PARTS 1 & 2**

*Jennifer Hillgoth*

This 2 part session is designed to provide an overview on various crimes against children involving child neglect, endangering the life and health of a child, child physical abuse and death investigations. Each topic will be discussed in a way that professionals working child abuse can recognize and distinguish each of these offenses, appreciate how responses may appear, dispel common myths and outdated practices, discern how injuries may or may not present, understand the complexities involved and learn how to overcome challenges these types of crimes present. This session will also provide first responders guidance with responses to these specific calls while appreciating the unique characteristics and discuss how to work with an MDT for the best outcome.

Part 1 will cover topics involving neglect, endangering the life and health of a child, bruising and fractures  
Part 2 will cover topics involving burns, abusive head trauma and death

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



DAY 1

Tuesday, March 1

## NAVIGATING BRAVE CONVERSATIONS & MAINTAINING A RELATIONSHIP FIRST APPROACH

*Dr. Isaiah Pickens*

- Introduction to using the RAVE approach (Reframe, Affirm, Validate, Empower) as a tool to navigate difficult conversations
- Define and unpack each component of the RAVE approach
- Introduce tools to implement approach in everyday work
- Define safe and brave agreements, and its role in building psychological safety among peers, teams, & across organizations

## IDENTIFYING THE HEALTH CARE TEAM'S ROLE IN BUILDING RESILIENCY FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH: REVIEW OF A SPECIALTY CLINIC DEDICATED TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

*Rebecca Howard, APRN, CPNP-PC*

This discussion is a review of the negative health and developmental effects children experience with exposure to trauma, and how these may impact disclosures, placement/family stability, and future health.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes that all children in foster care should be considered medically complex and receive specialized care in a patient centered medical home. We will discuss our pediatric primary care clinic model that utilizes integrated mental health, care coordination, and trauma education to support youth in care and their families.

## WORKING WITH FAMILIES ACROSS CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

*Charlene Allen, ESQ., MFA*

Working with families across differences can make the sensitive work we do even more challenging. It can be difficult for advocates to anticipate obstacles that may arise, or the ways in which their traditional approaches may be ineffective. Advocates may also need additional knowledge to help families feel comfortable enough to make the most of services offered. This session will address strategies for education and early planning to better support all of the families we work with.

## TAKING CARE OF KIDS AND TEENS

*Careyana M. Brenham, MD, FAAFP*

This presentation will focus on the rates of abuse in the LGBTQIA+ community of patients, and the increased risk of mental health concerns. Participants will gain skills to have sensitive communication with LGBTQIA+ youth such as identifying appropriate terminology, understanding which pronouns to use, and learn a deeper understanding of which supportive services to offer.

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

## SESSION 1

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

**THOMAS MITCHELL, LPC, NCC**

SOCIAL CONFORMITY AND THE  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM: AWARENESS IS KEY!

## SESSION 2

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

- **Ret. Detective Michael V. (Mike) Johnson** - It Takes a Team to Protect a Child: Child Protection Strategies Pt. 1
- **Staci Whitney, L.M.S.W.** - Communicating with Children with Disabilities
- **Thomas Mitchell, LPC, NCC** - Neurochemistry of Trauma & Evidence Base Models of Recovery Pt. 1
- **Laura Ng, MSW** -The MDT Response to Human Trafficking

## SESSION 3

1:15 PM - 2:45 PM

## SESSION 4

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

- **Ret. Detective Michael V. (Mike) Johnson** - It Takes a Team to Protect a Child: Child Protection Strategies Pt. 2
- **Staci Whitney, L.M.S.W.** - Narrative Practice Considerations with Children with Disabilities
- **Thomas Mitchell, LPC, NCC** - Neurochemistry of Trauma & Evidence Base Models of Recovery Pt. 2
- **Lorraine Guerrero Neumayer, LCSW and Jackie Lundquist, MSW** -Building Relationships to Ensure Hope, Healing and Justice for Children

- **Ret. Detective Michael V. (Mike) Johnson** -Victimization Skills for Law Enforcement: What Every Investigator Needs to Know About the Dynamics of Sexually Abused Children
- **Staci Whitney, L.M.S.W.** - Overcoming Blocks and Barriers with Children with Disabilities
- **Alison Stoll, M.A. LPC**- Clinician's Brief: Therapist's Role in Multi-disciplinary Case Review

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



DAY 2

Wednesday, March 2

## **SOCIAL CONFORMITY AND THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM: AWARENESS IS KEY!**

*Thomas Mitchell*

The Multidisciplinary Team model serves as an integral component in meeting the unique judicial, physical, and emotional needs of children following occurrences of child abuse. MDT teams have been proven to promote the best outcomes for children and families with a high regard for the recovery and resilience for survivors. In the review, discussion, and indication of presented cases, each member of the MDT process serves as an autonomous representative of his or her field, offering expertise and insight directly from the member's discipline. The concept of social conformity is often used to describe an individual's agreement to the majority position, brought about either by a desire to be liked or accepted (normative conformity) or because of a desire to be correct (informational), or simply to conform to a social role (identification). In this session, Thomas Mitchell, Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Center-Hope House, provides guidance related to the phenomenon of social influence within group settings and explores methods of promoting positive group dynamics in MDT. The integrity of the MDT process can be compromised due to variables related to social conformity. Within the workshop, participants will gather an understanding of social influence as well as tools to safeguard against conformity, resulting in the optimal functioning of purpose-driven focus of MDT protocol.

## **IT TAKES A TEAM TO PROTECT A CHILD: CHILD PROTECTION STRATEGIES PARTS 1 & 2**

*Ret. Detective Michael V. (Mike) Johnson*

*Best Practice recognizes the importance of utilizing a victim-centered, trauma-informed, multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment and exploitation. But what does this really mean to our cases?*

*This presentation will walk you through the outcry process of victims before and after MDT intervention, using "Lil' Suzy" as an example of what can happen after multiple interviews. This practical, interactive, demonstrative and sometimes humorous presentation will expose the most common problems and offer solutions.*

*We will highlight the cause of the obstacles in the response process and how to address them. We will also discuss best practice principles needed to attain our goal of a functional multidisciplinary team.*

*Participants will learn the "Investigative Windows of Opportunity" present in every case, as well as techniques designed for better MDT coordination and collaboration. Critical areas of interdisciplinary cooperation, team response to outcry, and investigative corroboration will also be covered.*

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



**DAY 2**

*Wednesday, March 2*

## **COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

*Staci Whitney, L.M.S.W.*

This workshop is intended for multidisciplinary professionals seeking to advance their understanding of basic communication techniques that are reliable, legally defensible, effective, and accommodating for children with disabilities who are alleged victims of abuse or neglect. While the session is not specifically intended for forensic interviewers, it is based in forensic interviewing best practices with considerations and adaptations to account for individual disability, language capacity, and cultural background. Participants will learn about biases and assumptions related to investigating cases involving child victims or witnesses with disabilities, abuse dynamics, pre-interview considerations, and other considerations involving cases with victims with disabilities.

## **NEUROCHEMISTRY OF TRAUMA & EVIDENCE BASE MODELS OF RECOVERY PARTS 1 & 2**

*Thomas Mitchell*

In this intermediate-level workshop, Thomas Mitchell, Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Center - Hope House, provides insight related to the maladaptive effects of trauma on the central nervous system as well as the exploration of evidence-based therapeutic modalities to facilitate recovery of the at-risk child. Provided in an entertaining format, participants will acquire a basic understanding of the sympathetic nervous system's responses to trauma. The audience will also acquire an appreciation for the role of respondent conditioning within the acquisition of PTSD. Lastly, the session will explore data-driven interventions utilized to restore healthy functioning and regulation of the at-risk child's neurochemistry. As practitioners within the CAC field, it's paramount to maintain the understanding that hope and healing is possible, and this session promotes the assurance that recovery from child abuse is probable given when the proper methodology is utilized. All content within the workshop has been derived from the latest research findings within the field of developmental psychology.

## **THE MDT RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

*Laura Ng, MSW*

In FY2021, Chicago Children's Advocacy Center's Human Trafficking Team responded to 192 cases that involved 135 victims. Many of these cases were referred for sexual abuse but presented with red flags of risk of human trafficking so our team responded with technical assistance, screening for human trafficking, referrals for resources, and intense advocacy and mentoring. In addition to a discussion defining human trafficking and dispelling common misconceptions, Laura Ng will share her experience with the audience in how cases were flagged; how to consecutively train while working with MDT partners to conduct trauma-informed responses; review some case studies; and present suggestions for program development focused on helping victims and survivors of minor sex and labor trafficking.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



**DAY 2**

*Wednesday, March 2*

## **NARRATIVE PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

*Staci Whitney, L.M.S.W.*

This workshop is intended for multidisciplinary professionals who wish to expand their understanding of utilizing narrative event practice and narrative prompts when interviewing children with disabilities. Recent research indicates that children with disabilities have greater capacity for narratives than was previously understood. Participants will learn more about building [www.modellconsultinggroup.com](http://www.modellconsultinggroup.com) narratives using the narrative mapping funnel and how to gather reliable information from children with disabilities.

## **BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS TO ENSURE HOPE, HEALING AND JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN**

*Lorraine Guerrero Neumayer, LCSW and Jackie Lundquist, MSW*

This session will break down key strategies utilized by senior members of one Child Advocacy Center to build &/or repair essential relationships of their Multidisciplinary team after 5 years of tumultuous growth. This transparent session will highlight how the team effectively incorporated team building activities, fundraisers, self-care and trainings to engage and motivate all MDT members to work cohesively ensuring more positive outcomes for children and families.

This training will cover several key relationships of the MDT including Forensic Interviewers, Therapists, Advocates, Attorneys, Law Enforcement, DCFS, Donors and more.

## **VICTIMIZATION SKILLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT: WHAT EVERY INVESTIGATOR NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THE DYNAMICS OF SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN**

*Ret. Detective Michael V. (Mike) Johnson*

Law Enforcement investigation sensitivity towards the needs of both victims and caregivers is a topic not taught in traditional Basic Investigation training. What does being victim-sensitive and trauma-informed mean, and what is the significance for us in our Law Enforcement investigations? The answer is simple: there is direct bearing on our investigative mission to secure objective, factual, detailed information, and the subsequent investigative corroboration. An investigator's knowledge and sensitivity toward the child victim and non-offending parent has a direct bearing on an investigator's ability to better assess and subsequently investigate the information gained.

Specific training issues to be presented include the stages of victimization, secondary victimization, the Child Abuse Accommodation Syndrome, sexual abuse traumagenics, and PTSD behaviors. Common defense mechanisms and dissociative disorders exhibited by sexually abused, exploited and trafficked children will be discussed from a Law Enforcement perspective. Best Practice tips on recognition, documentation and practical ways to respond to these issues will also be reviewed.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



**DAY 2**

*Wednesday, March 2*

## **OVERCOMING BLOCKS AND BARRIERS WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

*Staci Whitney, L.M.S.W.*

Have you ever been interviewing a child with disabilities and felt stuck? When that little voice in your head says “Oh no, what do I do now?” or even worse “this interview is over” you may have more options than you think. This workshop is intended to introduce multidisciplinary team members to new ways to overcome blocks and barriers in an interview and some techniques on how to prevent blocks and barriers from presenting in the first place. Sometimes it takes pre-interview considerations and accommodations, other times it’s in the moment. From multi-session interviews to ensuring that the process is clear and predictable to victims, this session will encourage policies and procedures to empower victims with disabilities and make interviews as accessible as possible to this population.

## **CLINICIAN’S BRIEF: THERAPIST’S ROLE IN MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CASE REVIEW**

*Alison Stoll, M.A. LPC*

What is the role of the Therapist working within a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) of advocates, forensic interviewers, law enforcement, state’s attorneys, and DCFS caseworkers? The clinical perspective within these meetings is incredibly valuable and pertinent, yet it can be hard to figure out where the clinical view fits within the MDT. As a clinician who works closely with MDTs, finding one’s voice and purpose within that sphere can be challenging but necessary. Attending and participating in MDT Case Review meetings is vital to providing the best care possible for one’s clients. Not only does the Therapist gain other perspectives on a case, and most likely perspectives that are largely different than the clinical perspective, the Therapist also gains a network of people with various skill sets that can help navigate the needs of each case. Through the review of a specific case, the presentation will provide a clinician’s personal experiences and the use of networking within a collaborative MDT.



# REGISTRATION

**\$250**

Single Registration Fee

**\$225**

Group Registration Fee

(5 or more MDT members)

**\$260**

Attorney

Registration Fee w/ MCLEs

**\$300**

Nurse

Registration Fee w/ CMEs

*Registration fee includes breakfast and lunch*

## **CACI uses the Coalition Manager platform for all trainings.**

If you do not have a Coalition Manager account:

- *and you are an Illinois CAC employee: your Director has, or will soon, add you to the system. Once this is done, you will receive an email to login and change your password.*
- *and you are a MDT member, CACI/CAC Board Member, or other collaborative partner: you will register yourself, and a CACI staff member will approve your entry. Once approved, you will be able to register.*

### **Continuing Education Credit Information**

- CEUs are ONLY available for those attending live sessions!
- If you are seeking CEUs for social workers/therapists you will receive a form after the conference to mail into Northern Illinois University requesting those CEUs. Along with that form you will have to mail in a \$9 check.
- The Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board is pending approval, session will be approved closer to the conference Mandated Training Requirements for the 2022 Champions of Children Conference!
- Attorneys who paid the attorney pricing, their MCLE credits will be sent within two weeks from the close of the conference. Credits will only be given for the live sessions.
- Continuing education for healthcare professionals is outlined below:

**This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois. The SIU School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.**

- SIU School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 12.0 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity
- American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) accepts certificates of participation for educational activities certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ from organizations accredited by ACCME. Physician assistants may receive a maximum of 12.0 AAP Category 1 CME credits for completing this program.
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners National Certification Board (AANPCB) accepts AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ issued by organizations accredited by the ACCME as an equivalent number of hours of participation.
- SIU School of Medicine is pre approved as a continuing nursing education provider pursuant to Section 1300.130, subsection c), 1), B) and P) of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation Nurse Practice Act. Nurses may receive a maximum of 12.0 contact hours for completing this activity.
- SIU School of Medicine is a licensed provider for continuing education for clinical psychologists (license # 268-000008) and professional counselors/clinical counselors (license number 197-000073). This program offers a maximum of 12.0 CE hours.

### **Cancellation Policy**

Written cancellations received at least 30 (2/1/2022) days prior to the beginning of the CofC22 are refunded less a \$75 administrative fee.

Registration is transferable to another qualified applicant within the same organization.

No refunds will be given if cancellation is not received within 30 days of CofC22 or if the registrant is a 'no show' and fails to show up for the conference.

In the event the CACI cancels the training for any reason, 100% of the registration fee will be refunded.

Payment credits are available for all cancellations at the same rates described above.

**Disclosure Policy:** It is the policy of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Office of Continuing Professional Development, to ensure balance, independence, objectivity and scientific rigor in all its educational programs. All faculty participating in these programs are expected to disclose to the program audiences any real or apparent conflicts of interest related to the content of their presentation.

**Sessions will be available for participants to access after the conference for 30 days. This excludes Ret. Det. Mike Johnson and Amber Clayborne's sessions. Links will be provided via email, at the close of CofC22.**

# THE WESTIN CHICAGO NORTHWEST



**Rate: \$114/ per night**

**A valid credit/debit  
card must be  
presented  
at check in**

Registration is the responsibility of the individual for making their room reservation at the Westin Chicago NorthWest by clicking here.

**Last Day to Book:  
February 15, 2022**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Where Will I Find Presenter Handouts ?** All materials, received by CACI, will be made available on Coalition Manager and the CACI website, at the completion of the Conference

**Where Will I Find My Certificate of Completion ?** You will receive a certificate for each session attended, once you have completed the evaluation. Certificates will be sent via email, and will also be stored in your Coalition Manager account.

### Thank you to our partners!

We are grateful for your continued support of this essential event.

Thank  
you



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# Testimonial

*So their voices can be heard*



Headquartered in Quincy, IL, Advocacy Network for Children serves a rural and urban population of 200,000 across 5,000 sq. mi. of Western Illinois. Its nine CACs are accredited by National Children's Alliance and provide Forensic Interviewing and MDT services..

## Challenge

In 2016, Advocacy Network for Children (ANC) traveling Forensic Interviewers were using different analog forensic interview recording systems in each of its nine Western Illinois county CACs. This technology hodge-podge made keeping track of how to use each site's system unsustainable. As ANC's new Executive Director, Todd Shackelford knew ANC had to not only improve their interview recording but also standardize systems.

## Solution

V2 Advocate Interview Room Recording for Child Advocacy Centers (V2) was chosen because it would not only build continuity across the centers and be easy to use, but also give interviewers the latest digital technology. With some budget adjustments and the help of VOCA grants, seven systems have been installed since 2018. In these centers, V2 is the only system Forensic Interviewers need to know to record and manage interviews. According to Todd, "It's obvious that V2 was developed for our industry. It is very easy to use and the recordings are fantastic!"

In addition, to the seven centers, there are two mobile V2 units ready to travel with interviewers to victims at hospitals, schools or even rural county areas – wherever is most convenient for victims and their non-offending caregivers.

## Largest CAC Service in Illinois Chooses V2 Advocate to Record Forensic Interviews

### 5 Reasons Why:

- 1** Interviews are recorded in MP4 which downloads fast to flash drives -- getting videos into the chain-of-evidence quicker, saving attorneys and Law Enforcement valuable time.
- 2** Organizing the videos is easy. This is especially helpful when you have several recordings from victims who needed more than one session to open up and share their full stories.
- 3** Capability to securely send live interview feed to an alternate observation room. When an MDT has more than three observers, a CAC's conference room can become a temporary observation room. This gives the expanded team room to spread out their paperwork as they watch via secured WIFI.
- 4** Superior recording clarity provides stronger case evidence because the interviews are recorded in HD video with crystal-clear audio.
- 5** Two Mobile units are a seamless addition:
  - ▶ Post interview, recordings can be securely downloaded to the system at the center assigned to case.
  - ▶ Temporary interview and observation rooms are easily set up with wireless technology.

*It's obvious that V2 was developed for our industry. It is very easy to use and the recordings are fantastic!*

*Todd Shackelford  
Executive Director  
Advocacy Network for Children*



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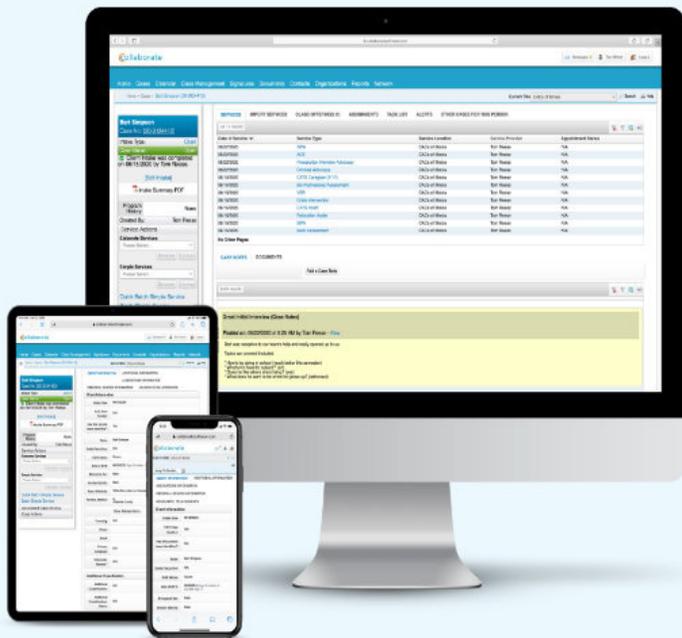
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CAC of East Central Illinois

Franklin-Williamson CAC

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Madison County CAC

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