

# Champions of Children Conference



***A Multi-Disciplinary Training on Child Abuse***

**MARCH 11 - 12, 2019**

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**THE WESTIN  
CHICAGO NORTHWEST  
ITASCA, IL**





### **WHEN AND WHERE IS CONFERENCE CHECK-IN?**

On Sunday, March 10th the CACI staff will have a table set up in the atrium of The Westin Chicago Northwest, to the left of the main entrance from 3pm-5pm. On both Monday & Tuesday, the CACI table will be located in the atrium, to the left of the main entrance of The Westin Chicago Northwest.

### **DO I HAVE TO WEAR MY NAME BADGE?**

Yes. The wonderful people at The Westin Chicago Northwest want to keep you and everyone else safe, and they do that by keeping track of who is in the building.

### **I FORGOT THE SESSIONS I SIGNED UP FOR!**

No worries, we have you covered! We have added an app this year to keep all of your CofC19 info in one place!

### **DOWNLOAD THE COFC19 APP!**

We are excited that attendees will be able to view event content using the CofC19 app. Updates to events will be streamlined with this app via push announcements. Attendees will enjoy a paperless environment with an enhanced networking and engagement experience. More info on the app forthcoming!

### **HOW DO I ACCESS HANDOUTS?**

All handouts, received by CACI, will be uploaded to our website and to the CofC19 app.

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS, ARE THEY OFFERED?**

Champions of Children Conference historically has been an approved provider of CEUs for those professions requiring continuing education for their licensing, including: Attorney MCLE, Mental Health/Social Work CEUs, and DCFS CEUs. CEU credit will be offered pending approval. Information about obtaining Mental Health/Social Work CEU will be provided at registration.

Attorneys select the attorney pricing option for MCLE certificate to be included in your registration- this must be done at time of registration. MCLE certificate will be emailed to attorneys pending payment, and attendance at the conference sessions.

### **HOW DO I SUBMIT CONFERENCE AND SESSION FEEDBACK?**

We love hearing back from you after the Conference. Your comments, concerns and suggestions are what make us better! An evaluation form can be found in the items you receive at registration and will also be made available on our website. A marked box will be at the registration table for you to drop yours in before you leave or you can email your completed form to [cara@cacionline.org](mailto:cara@cacionline.org).

### **WHAT IS THE CANCELLATION POLICY FOR THE CONFERENCE?**

Registration fees are refundable up until February 15. NO REFUNDS will be issued for cancellations after February 15, 2019.

### **MY QUESTION IS NOT LISTED HERE. WHOM DO I CONTACT?**

We want to make sure that all of your questions are answered! Please contact Michelle at [michelle@cacionline.org](mailto:michelle@cacionline.org) for assistance.

## KEYNOTE 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

**MATTHEW SANDUSKY - HOPE AND HEALING: LIFE AFTER SEXUAL ABUSE**

## Session 2 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

**A) Andrea Zaferes - Pediatric Aquatic: Homicide Investigation**

**B) Justin Fitzsimmons - The Three Most Effective Little Known Social Media Searches**

**C) Jeannette Adkins - Preparation & Support for Children in Criminal Court Proceedings**

**D) Jan Waters & Rhiannon Reaves - Strategies for Providing Trauma Treatment to Kids with Disabilities**

## Session 3 1:15 PM - 2:45 PM

**A) Andrea Zaferes - Water-Related Abuse and Pedophilia - Part 1**

**B) Justin Fitzsimmons - Protecting Yourself in a Tech World: Digital MDT Safety and Ethical Concerns**

**C) Jeannette Adkins - Connecting Victims to Statewide & National Resources: Are We Missing Anything**

**D) Julia Matson & Laura Boillot - Integration of Expressive Therapies**

## Session 4 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

**A) Andrea Zaferes - Water-Related Abuse and Pedophilia - Part 2**

**B) Crystal Uhe & Michael O'Neil - Investigation, Trial, Conviction...Appeal: Overcoming with a Coordinated Sexual Abuse Investigation**

**C) Jeannette Adkins - Advocacy and the Impact on All MDT Members**

**D) Gene Liebler - Empathy, Validation & Creating a Safe Space for Families**



## **Session 1 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

**Amy Stoeber - ACES and Trauma: How to Create a Map of Safety for Children and Families**

## **Session 2 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM**

**A) Beverly Tucker - Truth and Justice for All**

**B) Robert Peters & Mike Sloan - When the Child Abuser Carries a Bible**

**C) Amy Stoeber - Trauma Informed Care and MDTs**

**D) Rachel Clingenpeel, M.D. - Bruises, Fractures, and Burns: Case Studies in Child Physical Abuse**

## **Session 3 1:15 PM - 2:45 PM**

**A) Rachel Happel & Bonnie Fries - A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Presenting Evidence in the Forensic Interview**

**B) Robert Peters - Surviving the Stand: How to Testify in a Child Sexual Abuse Case**

**C) Irish Burch : Strengthening the MDT**

**D) Rachel Clingenpeel, M.D. - Effects of Childhood Trauma: Why Your Work Matters**

## **Session 4 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

**A) Rachel Happel & Bonnie Fries - Sextortion**

**B) Robert Peters & Mike Sloan - Engaging Faith Communities**

**C) Irish Burch - Charting the Future of CAC Multidisciplinary Teams**

**D) Rachel Clingenpeel, M.D. - Why it's Normal to be Normal: The Physical Exam in Child Sexual Abuse**



# MEET THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## Matthew Sandusky



Matthew Sandusky, Founder and Executive Director of Peaceful Hearts Foundation, was a victim of childhood sexual abuse from the age of 8 to 17 at the hands of his adopted father, Jerry Sandusky. Matthew is working to turn his traumatic personal experience into a mechanism to prevent childhood sexual abuse and help other survivors heal.

Through his work with Peaceful Hearts, Matthew, raises awareness around child sexual abuse in local communities, supports the life-saving work of children's advocacy and sexual assault treatment centers, and advocates for legislative changes. Matthew works with researchers, clinicians, the media, politicians, social workers, and child protection professionals to raise awareness and improve the quality and availability of services to survivors nationwide.

In addition to his advocacy work, Matthew is committed to empowering and educating children to use their voices and help protect them against abuse. He is working with other advocates to implement an in-school curriculum to empower children to use their voices as a first line of defense, along with parents and teachers. Matthew is also an accomplished author, chronicling his years of abuse in his memoir, *Undaunted: Breaking my silence to overcome the trauma of child sexual abuse*, which sheds light on the truth about abuse and the healing journey that a victim goes through to become a survivor.

As an internationally recognized spokesperson, on the topic of child sexual abuse, Matthew is asked regularly to comment on breaking news. He has done a one-on-one interview with Oprah Winfrey, been featured in two documentaries, *Happy Valley* and *Invisible Scars*, and is regularly published in major newspapers across the country.

Matthew attended Penn State University, studying Business. He along with his wife and children currently reside in State College, PA. Through his work with Peaceful Hearts Foundation, Matthew Sandusky has moved from victim to survivor of child sexual abuse.

**HOPE AND HEALING:  
Life After Sexual Abuse**

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Mr. Sandusky is the adopted son of Jerry Sandusky, the subject of one of the most publicized child sexual abuse cases in history. Matthew recently published his memoir, *Undaunted* and hopes that it will motivate others to prevent child sexual abuse and create a safe society for survivors to heal. Matthew talks about life after sexual abuse sharing his journey of healing to encourage hope and empowerment for other sexual abuse survivors.

## Amy Stoeber



Dr. Stoeber is a licensed psychologist in Portland, OR. She owns a private practice and works with children and families of all ages. She is endorsed in early childhood mental health and pediatric health. Dr. Stoeber serves as a member of the Healthcare Reform Taskforce for the Oregon Psychological Association. As well, Dr. Stoeber was a statewide trainer for The Department of Human Services and now works with Children's Health Alliance to promote wellness for children of all ages in pediatric settings. Her current work is promoting resilience within schools and pediatric medical homes.

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Dr. Stoeber has trained many professionals across disciplines and will share her knowledge and experience in working with children and families regarding ACES, trauma and resilience building strategies. Dr. Stoeber will provide an overview of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) with new research on ACES and neurobiology. During this engaging discussion, Dr. Stoeber will emphasize how professionals' understanding of trauma and its impact on the brain can better aid them in reaching children and families with whom they work. In order to be effective, professionals must understand how the brain maps to create safety versus threat. Participants will come away from this discussion with practical ways to more effectively interface with traumatized children.

Through Dr. Stoeber's experience working with multiple agencies and professionals, learn how MDT's can practice Trauma-Informed care to increase their effectiveness with each other and with families. Dr. Stoeber will review resilience as a mitigating factor for ACES and discuss specific resilience interventions. Participants will leave with hands-on tools to utilize with their MDT's and the families with whom they work.

**ACES & Trauma: How to  
Create a Map of Safety  
for Children and Families**

**Trauma Informed  
Care and MDTs**

# SPEAKER BIOS AND SESSIONS DESCRIPTIONS

## Jeannette Adkins



Ms. Adkins served as the Director of the Victim/Witness Division of the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Xenia, OH from its inception in 1982 until her appointment as the Executive Director for the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) in December of 2004. A family illness brought her back to Ohio and the Prosecutor's Office in 2006 where she served as the Administrator and the director of Greene County's Michael's House Child Advocacy Center until her retirement in December of 2014. Professionalizing the field of advocacy through credentialing has been a strong career objective for her evidenced by her role as co-founder of the Ohio Advocate Network (OAN) and the National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP). As a long-time NOVA national crisis response team member, a certified crisis responder and as co-founder of the NOVA-trained Ohio Crisis Response Team, Adkins has participated on many state and national crisis teams including the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, the terrorist attacks of September 11th and the violent courthouse shootings in Atlanta, GA. She is a national trainer on issues related to crime victim assistance and has published three books; the first speaking directly to victim assistance professionals, *The ABC's of Crime Victim Advocacy* and two books for child victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence, *Lily Lightning Bug* and *Her Stolen Glow* and *Benny Bee and His Secret Hive*.

**Preparation & Support for Children in Criminal Court Proceedings**

The criminal justice system is overwhelming and confusing for adult victims and witnesses of crime so imagine the child's perception who must testify in a criminal proceeding. This workshop will discuss effective ways to prepare and provide support for children from the perspective of the crime victim advocate. The advocate's role is crucial to helping guide the child victim/witness through the intimidating criminal justice process and to assisting the prosecutor responsible for presenting the case.

**Connecting Victims to Statewide & National Resources: Are We Missing Anything?**

Many resources may be available right in the counties or jurisdictions where the local CAC serves families. However, there may be other vital referral sources at the state and national levels which may fill gaps in services providing invaluable information and support not only to the families you serve but to you as a victim advocate or MDT member. Some "go-to" resources will be shared by the presenter, but come prepared to share your vital referral sources and to discuss presenting problems for which you have found no resources.

**Advocacy and the Impact on All MDT Members**

The role of the crime victim advocate on the MDT can be confusing at times especially if an offender has not been identified or prosecution may never actually occur. The advocate's primary role may be clear in the criminal justice system but as a member of the MDT, advocates may struggle with how they fit in with or what they can provide to the team. This workshop will include a frank discussion about the role of advocates on the MDT in relation to the other team members and especially with the families the MDT serves. Based upon 32 years of experience as an advocate, a forensic interviewer and the director of her county's CAC, the presenter will propose the role of the advocate as an integral cog in the MDT wheel.

## Irish Burch



Irish Burch joined the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACTX) in August of 2017 as the Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives - where she is a member of the Strategic Advancement Department. Irish has worked in the child abuse field for the past 25 years in a variety of positions including: Child Protectives Services and Child Care Licensing Investigator with the Texas Department of Family and Protectives Services, as well as joining the CAC world in 2003. At the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center, Irish worked as a forensic interviewer, supervised the department for several years before serving her remaining years as the Chief Partner Relations Officer. Irish earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Counseling degree from East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas

# SPEAKER BIOS AND SESSIONS DESCRIPTIONS

*Irish Burch continued..*

## Strengthening the MDT

MDT collaboration is vital in saving the lives of child abuse victims. No one discipline can or should do it alone. Miscommunication disengaged team members and lack of understanding of team members' roles and responsibilities are common issues faced by many multidisciplinary teams. Unfortunately, these dysfunctional behaviors can hinder a teams' desire to protect the children in their community. Building an effective, high functioning MDT, can create an environment where children can be safe and team members can be heroes. This presentation will provide practical tools and tips for addressing the importance of effective communication, team engagement, peer accountability and conflict resolution. These key factors are essential in creating a MDT that extends beyond the disciplines and focuses on the needs of the victims.

## Charting the Future of CAC Multidisciplinary Teams

The CAC MDT is the cornerstone of the CAC model and the subject of a two-year, in-depth research study conducted from a communication perspective by the University of Texas to assess the health and well-being of the CAC MDT. CACTX will share the research findings, recommendations, and deliverables, as well as tangible ways to implement the recommendations to improve and enhance the MDT. Participants will leave with a renewed focus on the CAC MDT that highlights the critical importance of the CAC's role in enhancing the future sustainability and strength of the CAC MDT.

## Dr. Rachel Clingenpeel



Dr. Clingenpeel received her Bachelor of Science from Duke University in 1998 in psychology and biology with a certificate in neuroscience. She then completed a two year post-baccalaureate research program at the National Institutes of Health before attending medical school at the University of Virginia, from which she graduated in 2004. She completed her pediatric residency training and chief residency at Tulane University in New Orleans, and fellowship in Child Abuse Pediatrics at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Dr. Clingenpeel joined the faculty at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in fall 2012. She now serves as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UAMS, as well as Associate Director for the Team for Children at Risk at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Dr. Clingenpeel's practice as a child abuse pediatrician includes duties such as inpatient and outpatient evaluation of suspected child abuse and neglect, medical directorship of the new Emergency Department Sexual Assault Response Team, and education of other health care providers as well as community partners locally and around the country regarding all aspects of child abuse and neglect.

## Bruises, Fractures, and Burns: Case Studies in Child Physical Abuse

In this session we will discuss common injuries of child physical abuse using a case-based format to introduce how injuries may look, mechanisms of injury, medical evaluation of physical abuse, and potential mimics of physical abuse.

## Effects of Childhood Trauma: Why Your Work Matters

The effects of early life trauma can be profound and long-lasting. Scientific knowledge about effects of trauma has been rapidly expanding in recent years. This session will review for the nonscientist about what aftereffects trauma can have on physical and mental health and how those effects may occur, as well as what is currently known about mitigating them.

## Why it's Normal to be Normal: The Physical Exam in Child Sexual Abuse

Professionals who work in child welfare will be familiar with the fact that most sexually abused children do not have diagnostic physical findings. This session will review the science behind this fact – why it is so, how scientific evidence has demonstrated the truth of this observation, and case examples.

# SPEAKER BIOS AND SESSIONS DESCRIPTIONS

## Justin Fitzsimmons



Mr. Justin Fitzsimmons is a Program Manager in the High-Tech Crime Training Services (HTCTS) department of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics. He helps coordinate training with law enforcement agencies, prepares budgets, oversees the HTCTS project staff, and develops high-tech crime training projects for justice, public safety, and homeland security agencies nationwide. He also conducts legal, policy, and regulatory research, prepares white papers, and provides assistance and instructional services to justice, public safety, and homeland security agencies, particularly in digital evidence recovery, investigation, and prosecution.

Mr. Fitzsimmons is conducting a national research effort to determine the current capabilities of law enforcement to investigate crimes with digital evidence and make recommendations to decision-makers about resources to assist law enforcement. He also presents at conferences and trainings, participates on advisory committees and task forces, and supports agencies and jurisdictions as they create and implement effective procedures, practices, and technology applications that seek to combat high-tech crime and recover digital evidence.

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Social media is a common part of everyday life, so there is little surprise that it has become commonplace to investigations. However, there are capabilities within social media websites that are little-known within the Crimes Against Children community. This lecture will detail how you can use three specific social media searches to enhance the investigation and prosecution of cases. Topics discussed include: using the geocode: search in Twitter to find tweets from a specific latitude and longitude; using site: in Google to search specific social media websites; and using URL manipulations in Facebook to find photo likes and comments from a target profile

Nothing is more important than officer safety, whether on the street or on the computer. Students learn how they leave traces of themselves when visiting websites, what information can be traced, and how to ensure that they are not compromising their safety or their investigations by broadcasting this information. Instruction covers website data, IP tracing, cell phone considerations, Bluetooth snarfing, and home wireless networks. Participants will also learn about ethical considerations for posting on social networking sites. Hypotheticals will also be given.

**The Three Most Effective  
Little Known Social  
Media Searches**

**Protecting Yourself in a Tech  
World: Digital MDT Safety and  
Ethical Concerns**

## Bonnie Fries & Rachel Happel



Bonnie I. Fries joined the FBI as a Child/Adolescent Forensic Interviewer in July 2016. As part of her job duties, Bonnie provides forensic interviews, expert testimony, case assistance, and training to FBI personnel, United States Attorneys, and other federal, state and local agencies. Bonnie is a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Illinois with specialized training in child and adolescent welfare and abuse related trauma. She received her Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1998 from Illinois State University's Jane Addams College of Social Work and Master of Social Work degree in 2001 from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Rachel N. Happel joined the FBI as a Child/Adolescent Forensic Interviewer in November 2012. As part of her job duties, Rachel is able to provide forensic interviews, expert testimony, case assistance, and training to FBI personnel, United States Attorneys, and other federal, state and local agencies. Rachel is a licensed professional counselor in the state of Missouri with specialized training in delivering Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology in 2004 and Master of Science degree in Clinical Psychology in 2006, both from Missouri State University in Springfield, MO.

**A Picture is Worth a  
Thousand Words: Presenting  
Evidence in the FI**

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

# SPEAKER BIOS AND SESSIONS DESCRIPTIONS

*Bonnie Fries & Rachel Happel continued*

## Sextortion

Sextortion refers to the broad category of sexual exploitation in which abuse of power is the means of coercion and can be coupled with the threatened release of sexual images or information. Because the method of coercion is usually non-physical these cases are sometimes thought of as less egregious than cases with hands on offenses. This block of instruction will focus on the dynamics of sextortion, the victims, the forensic interview and special case considerations when a large number of victims are involved.

## Gene Liebler, LCSW



Mr. Liebler is a member of senior leadership and is responsible for operations across all behavioral health services. He has dedicated his clinical and leadership skills to serving the emotional and behavioral needs of children and adolescents. Prior to his position at La Rabida he was the Director of the Partial Hospitalization Program at Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, a short term intensive outpatient treatment for children with severe emotional and behavioral challenges. He has also served as an inpatient child and adolescent psychiatry social worker, outpatient child and adolescent therapist at Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, and has a private practice.

Mr. Liebler spent 10 years working as an engineer prior to his career in social work. During that time he returned to school, receiving a B.A. in Philosophy with a special interest in post-modernism and existentialism. These two schools of philosophy, coupled with volunteer work both domestically in agencies such as Women In Need Growing Stronger, Association House, and Reach Out and Read, and internationally spending time assisting in rebuilding homes in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch and in a rural area of Guatemala, ultimately led him to pursue his graduate studies in social work and subsequent career path.

## Empathy, Validation & Creating a Safe Space for Families

This session will focus on teaching the principles of empathy and validation to promote child and family centered communication and support families experiencing environments as safe. Further, communication traps to be avoided will be discussed as well as how to provide information to families in a non-threatening manner to increase their ability to hear and incorporate new information will be reviewed. The learning session will combine didactic style teaching with heavy audience involvement and use of role plays to facilitate learning. This learning session will also focus on providing audience members with tangible skills that can be immediately implemented after the learning session as well as guidance for further development for those interested in developing greater mastery of skills.

## Julia Matson & Laura Boillot



Laura is an LCPC and also a clinical supervisor at Chicago CAC with 7 years experience in treating and working with families experiencing trauma. She has also had most of her therapeutic experience in providing expressive and relational therapy, as well as some experience in community engagement and prevention.

Julia Matson, LCSW, is a clinical supervisor at Chicago Children's Advocacy Center. Julia has over 10 years of experience in providing trauma treatment to children. Julia has expertise in working with children who have experienced sexual abuse and also in providing expressive and relational therapies to children and families

## Applying Expressive Therapies in Evidence-Based Trauma Treatment

This presentation will provide a space to explore a variety of expressive modalities that can be used in trauma treatment with children and families, as well as opportunities to practice through experiential learning. It will focus on gaining increased understanding of how trauma impacts areas of childhood development and how expressive therapies may address areas of deficit as well as finding alternative ways of expression and healing. Areas of Art Therapy, Play therapy, movement or body-based approaches, and musical or rhythmic modalities will be explored. Those attending will be able to learn through practice and discussing case examples of how these may be applied using other evidence-based treatments. We will address how expressive therapies can be used in a structured framework such as Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for children and families, as well as a brief overview of the Attachment, Regulation and Competency model and the Integrative Treatment of Complex Trauma.

# SPEAKER BIOS AND SESSIONS DESCRIPTIONS

**Det. Sgt. Mike O'Neill**



Detective Sergeant Mike O'Neill has been with the Alton, IL police department for over 18 years. In 2007, O'Neill joined the Criminal Investigations Division, where he is still currently assigned. During the majority of this time in the Investigations Division, O'Neill primarily investigated over 1,000 child sexual & physical abuse cases, as well as sexual crimes against adults, child pornography, and missing persons. O'Neill currently is the General Case Supervisor in the Investigations Division, which oversees all felony investigations outside of Narcotics.

In addition to his day to day investigative duties, O'Neill is also the Southern Illinois Child Death Investigation Task Force Commander, where he has oversight over 34 Illinois counties separated into 6 districts. O'Neill is a member of the Greater St. Louis Major Case Squad, and a Crisis Negotiator Team leader for ILEAS, in which he is a Certified Hostage/Crisis Negotiator. O'Neill also teaches Sexual Assault/Abuse Investigations for SILEC and Mirikitani and Associates.

**Crystal Uhe**



First Assistant State's Attorney for Madison County State's Attorney's Office. Crystal Uhe is a life-long resident of Madison County. She completed her Bachelor's in Science in Psychology with emphasis on Criminal Justice, Criminology and Political Science in 2004 at Southeast Missouri State University. She then attended the Saint Louis University School of Law where she obtained her J.D. in 2007 and was admitted to the Illinois Bar.

She has been an Assistant State's Attorney for the Madison County State's Attorney's Office since 2007. Crystal has prosecuted various types of misdemeanor and felony cases throughout her career, including cases involving child victims and child sexual assaults. Presently Crystal Uhe primarily prosecutes violent crimes and homicide cases. Crystal is an instructor for SILEC and Lewis and Clark Community College.

**Investigation, Trial, Conviction...  
Appeal: Overcoming with a  
Coordinated Sexual Abuse  
Investigation**

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Presenting a case study of the investigation and prosecution of a 2011 Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault case that arose out of Alton, Illinois. Beginning by presenting the investigation & prosecution that occurred in 2011 & 2012, followed by a subsequent appeal ending in 2017, & finally a retrial in 2018. Best practices for police interrogation, utilizing the CAC for successful investigation & prosecution, successful/unsuccessful pre-trial motions, trial issues, appeal, special issues involved in subsequent re-trials, expert testimony (specifically in the areas of false confessions and child testimony) & finally sentencing will be addressed.

**Robert Peters**



Robert J. Peters, J.D., is the Senior Cyber and Economic Crime Attorney with the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C). Robert's efforts include innovating the prosecution of high-tech crimes, serving as a subject matter expert on topics and trainings related to child abuse, human trafficking, and child pornography, and acting as lead instructor for NW3C's Judges & Prosecutors courses. Peters' goal is to make a significant impact in the field by pioneering and exporting best practices for the law enforcement community, both nationally and internationally.

Previously, Mr. Peters served as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Marion and Hampshire counties in West Virginia, as well as Special Prosecutor in multiple state-wide jurisdictions where he specialized in the prosecution of sexual offenses, child pornography, and juvenile crime. Peters was one of the first state prosecutors in the United States to prosecute a Dark Web Case. He has authored several child protection articles in peer-reviewed publications, including the Florida Journal of International Law and Christian Ethics Today, and served on the faculty of the 34th International Symposium on Child Abuse. Peters co-created and designed the S.H.I.E.L.D. Reporting Initiative, which partners with Child Advocacy Centers and local stakeholders to encourage reporting of sexual abuse and online safety.

## Mike Sloan



*Robert Peters &  
Mike Sloan continued*

Rev. Mike Sloan (M.Div.) is the Director of Safeguarding Certification at GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment). For the last eight years, Mike has trained churches, schools, and other child serving ministries across the U.S. and abroad in child abuse education and prevention. Mike worked with board member Victor Vieth (Founder and Long-time Director of the Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center) to develop the GRACE Seminary Curriculum, the first 3 credit hour seminary course on child maltreatment in churches, which was piloted at Biblical Seminary in Philadelphia in 2017. He has served as a local pastor in congregations in Atlanta, GA, and Columbus, OH.

### When the Child Abuser Carries a Bible

In many cases of child sexual and physical abuse, perpetrators use religious or spiritual themes to justify their abuse of a child. Although no known religion in modern culture suggests that sexual abuse is condoned or taught as part of its tenets, some church leaders engage in conduct suggesting the child is equally, if not more to blame than the perpetrator, while also urging immediate reconciliation between the perpetrator and victim.

This workshop, co-presented by a former prosecutor and a pastor, provides best practices and practical tips to effectively serve victims of abuse perpetrated in the context of a faith community. Topics include the general dynamics of secrecy in particular religious settings; distortion of faith issues to manipulate victims; spiritual blocks to disclosure or compliance with investigations (and their implications for forensic interviews); exploitation of authority; and effective strategies for CACs to navigate the convergence of faith and abuse.

### Surviving the Stand: How to Testify in a Child Sexual Abuse Case

How do you escape traps on cross examination? How can you avoid them? Can you recover from mistakes in testimony? This workshop will equip CPS workers and forensic interviewers with practical tools and tactical insight to succeed in the stressful environment of courtroom testimony. The presentation includes multimedia components and integration of hypotheticals to illustrate principles, and will include practical, concrete, verbal and nonverbal tips for testifying and interacting with judges, juries, and defense attorneys. Specific strategies for case preparation, recovering from mistakes on the stand, and surviving cross examination will be discussed and illustrated.

### Engaging Faith Communities

As we work to educate communities about the realities of abuse and implement effective prevention and response, religious communities are often isolated and resistant. Effectively reaching faith communities with education and resources presents a huge challenge, yet it must be a priority for CACs as so many in our communities take their deepest beliefs and behaviors from their faith community.

This session will help CACs understand some of the underlying challenges in reaching out to faith communities as well as outline strategies to connect with leaders in our local faith communities. Questions addressed will include: Why is it critical for CACs to bring prevention education to faith communities? What beliefs and behaviors in faith communities prevent openness to education and prevention training? What strategies can CACs use to overcome the resistance and isolation of many faith communities? What multi-disciplinary partnerships can CACs use to get a foot in the door in faith communities?

# SPEAKER BIOS AND SESSIONS DESCRIPTIONS

**Beverly Tucker**



Beverly Tucker began her career in 1982 working with adjudicated youths. She later worked with the Division of Family Services in a number of roles including conducting “Hotline” Investigations, supporting children in Alternative Placements, and provided Intensive In-Home Services. Beverly joined the Children’s Advocacy Services in 1999 as a Forensic Interviewer. She has received training from a number of nationally recognized organizations, including: The National Child Advocacy Center, The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center, Cornerhouse, and others.

Beverly is a proud native of Southeast Missouri and earned a Bachelor degree in Criminal Justice from Southeast Missouri State University. She later received an MS in Criminal Justice Administration from Lindenwood University. Beverly continues to conduct forensic interviews and has been a faculty member of Missouri’s ChildFirst Training Program since 2005.

**Truth and Justice  
for ALL**

Recorded forensic interviews are a vital tool in child abuse investigations, including cases where the child is over the age of hearsay exception. However, many multidisciplinary teams shy away from interviewing older children/teenagers at a child advocacy center. This session will discuss the benefits of interviewing this specific subset of children and why it may be in the child's best interest. Participants will also learn how to address some of the potential concerns others may have with interviewing this age group of children.

**Jan Waters**



Senior Director of Clinical Services at Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center, Ms. Waters manages the mental health services and the PATHH collaboration (a network of treatment providers seeking to improve service delivery for children needing mental health services in Chicago) at ChicagoCAC. She has 20 years of clinical and managerial experience and working with children and adults who have experienced abuse and other types of trauma with a subspecialty in working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She has extensive training and experience providing clinical interventions, as well as volunteer services, to children and adults who have experienced child sexual abuse and sexual assault.

Prior to working at ChicagoCAC, Ms. Waters managed the community mental health programs for the Canadian Mental Health Association Kawartha Lakes Branch, where services focused on chronically and severely mentally ill individuals as well as building community mental health for the broader community. Prior to that, she was Director of Clinical Services for Little City Foundation, an agency specializing in services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ms. Waters has presented and offered trainings internationally on topics such as developmental psychotherapy, trauma, autism, and mindfulness. She is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in Illinois and holds a Master in Counseling Psychology from Benedictine University

**Rhiannon Reaves**



Rhiannon Reaves, MS LCPC, is the Assistant Director of Clinical Services at Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center. She earned a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology/Community Mental Health from Western Illinois University & is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in Illinois.

Rhiannon has over 15 years of experience in the mental health field and has expertise in working with children and adolescents who have experienced trauma. Rhiannon has extensive experience providing therapy to individuals involved in the child welfare system as well as to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Rhiannon has conducted trainings on working with children who have experienced trauma and on conducting therapy with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

*Jan Walters &  
Rhiannon Reaves continued*

## Strategies for Providing Trauma Treatment to Kids with Disabilities

Data demonstrates that children with developmental disabilities are highly vulnerable to sexual abuse and experience sexual abuse in much higher numbers than the general population. Mental health treatment is demonstrated to be effective in ameliorating problematic emotional, behavioral, and physical symptoms that can result from the abuse in all populations, including kids with disabilities. However, many trauma therapists lack experience and training in working with this population. This session will review the underlying theories and introduce treatment strategies and specific interventions that can be used with kids with developmental disabilities and their families.

## Andrea Zaferes



With 30 years of working in the field of submerged body/evidence recovery and investigation with TeamLGS teaching fire, law enforcement and military teams, Andrea is a noted innovator in aquatic death investigation. She is an investigator for Dutchess County Medical Examiner office, is the NYS DCJS Aquatic Death Investigation Instructor, a published author, an aquatic consultant for the National Center for Missing & Exploited children, has presented at well over 150 forensic, aquatic and rescue conferences, has taught thousands of enforcement, death investigators, child advocacy practitioners, and prosecutors and serves as a body-found-in-water expert witness for homicide cases. She's a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the International Assoc. of County Coroners & Medical Examiners, and an affiliate with the National Assoc. of Medical Examiners.

## Pediatric Aquatic Homicide Investigation

This is the prerequisite for the other two presentations which will not make sense if you don't first attend this

It is likely that more aquatic pediatric homicides are being missed than caught. Drowning is a diagnosis of exclusion; there are no recognized medical tests for drowning. A toddler can be suffocated with a pillow and placed in a bathtub to stage an accidental drowning. A drowned infant can be dried off and placed in a crib to mimic SUIDI. Hence, a thorough investigation is absolutely critical for determining the actual cause and manner of death. Obstacles include: few responders/investigators are trained in aquatic homicide investigations, officers are often responding in rescue mode to 'grieving loved ones' performing CPR, assumptions of drowning COD and accident MOD are made by all, clearly dead infants/children are transported to hospitals, etc with the result that critical evidence is often lost, necessary questions aren't asked, and incorrect assumptions can be perpetuated. Training can change this so let's start now.

## Water-Related Abuse and Pedophilia - Part 1

In this session, Zaferes will explain several water-related forms of abuse, including submersion child abuse, pedophilia and aquatic sexual sadism. Submersion abuse with scalding water is well-known in the child-abuse community, and a lesser-known, yet more common, form of abuse and punishment is submersion in normothermic or cold water. Zaferes will demonstrate how these submersions are easily missed — especially when they do not result in death — and thus require specialized knowledge to discover and recognize. Sexual assault in a pool or bathtub/pool can be purposeful or accidental. Submergence can be done to silence a screaming child, to kill the child so they cannot "tell." It can also occur accidentally when the pedophile is fixated on the assault and not paying attention to the location of the child's airway. Lastly, Zaferes will discuss aquatic sexual sadism or lust killings using drowning as the form of torture for sexual gratification — showing how victims can be revived for repeated assaults over extended timeframes or drowned to death.

## Water-Related Abuse and Pedophilia - Part 2



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The Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI) is dedicated to the development and growth of Illinois' Children's Advocacy Centers. CACI accomplishes this by offering its members a cadre of services which are rooted in the not-for-profit organization's driving principles: leadership, education and collaboration.

Established in 1995, CACI is the network that coordinates and provides a comprehensive response to child abuse in Illinois. As the leading resource on child abuse issues, CACI stays abreast of the latest research and literature in the child abuse field, as well as the most child-friendly approaches in investigation and treatment of child abuse.

CACI is dedicated to the multidisciplinary, child advocacy approach and a coordinated, comprehensive response to child abuse. To that end, CACI offers discipline-specific trainings to its members throughout the year; CACI seeks opportunities to collaborate with partner agencies, such as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Illinois Attorney General's Office, on education and public policy issues; and CACI guides its members on "best practices" in the field.



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