



COMMUNITY
RESPONSE
TO CHILD ABUSE
CONFERENCE

24th Annual Conference

October 3-4, 2024
Sioux Falls Convention Center
SDCPCM.com/Conference

OVERVIEW

The conference steering committee welcomes you to the 24th Annual Community Response to Child Abuse Conference.

This conference includes national and regional speakers that will address a wide variety of topics in order to help professionals and the general public better understand child abuse prevention and response efforts.

Who Should Attend?

Join the effort to end child maltreatment. This conference is ideal for:

Medical Providers
Nurses
Legal Community
Behavioral Health

Social Workers
Law Enforcement
Business Community
Educators

Counselors
Community Advocates
Dental Professionals
Students

Event Details

Thursday, October 3, 2024
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Breakfast and lunch provided

Friday, October 4, 2024
8:00 am - 12:15 pm
Breakfast provided

Sioux Falls Convention Center
1201 N West Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Conference Highlights

- 15+ unique breakout sessions provided by local and regional leaders.
- 4 general sessions feature local and national experts and current best-practices.
- In 2023, attendees gathered from 40 South Dakota communities and 4 area states.
- 8+ hours of continuing education credits available.

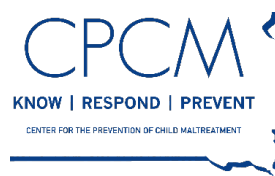
Sponsorship Opportunities

As a sponsor of the Community Response to Child Abuse Conference, you support the multidisciplinary professionals across our state as they support the effort to end child maltreatment in South Dakota. Conference attendees gain access to best practices to better respond to and prevent child maltreatment and to foster resilience in children and families.

CEUs Are Available

- Approved CEUs will be listed at SDCPCM.COM/CONFERENCE/CEUS.
- A transcribed 1-credit course through University of South Dakota is available for this year's conference, additional cost applied.

CONFERENCE HOSTS



SPONSORS



EXHIBITORS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>SD Voices for Peace
Helpline Center
Southeast Technical College
A Hand 2 Hold, Inc.
The Compass Center
Delta Dental of South Dakota
SD Department of Social Services,
Stronger Families Together
All About U Adoptions
University of South Dakota,
Graduate Admissions
SD Department of Social Services,
Division of Behavioral Health
Center for the Prevention of Child
Maltreatment
Child's Voice at Sanford Health
South Dakota State University,
School of Education, Counseling, and
Human Development
LSS of South Dakota
Health Connect of South Dakota
South Dakota Center for Disabilities
South Dakota Network Against Family
Violence and Sexual Assault</p> | <p>SDPB
Call to Freedom
Children's Home Society of South Dakota
University of South Dakota,
School of Health Sciences
National Association of Social Workers -
South Dakota Chapter
SD Department of Social Services,
Kinship South Dakota
SD Department of Education
SD SAVIN
Avera
Volunteers of America, Dakotas
SD Parent Connection
Sanford Children's CHILD Services
Black Hills Special Services,
Community and Family Services
Sioux Falls Area CASA Program
Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board,
Navigator Program
SD Department of Health
Children's Advocacy Centers of SD</p> |
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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, October 3

7:30 to 8:00	Check-In: Breakfast, Exhibitors, Self-Care
8:00 to 9:45	Opening General Session: Exhibit Hall 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Justice Welcome Message • Opening Session Drum Group and Dance Sharing; Cheyenne War Bonnet and Family • The Digital Child; Warren Binford
9:45 to 10:00	Break: Exhibitors in Ballroom A, Self-Care Area in Concourse
10:00 to 11:00	Breakout Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Negative Impact of Social Media on Child and Adolescent Mental Health; A.R. Ascano • Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Child Sexual Abuse Cases; Shelly Hruby, Kirsten Persson, and Kelly Wharton • Personal and Professional Perspective of Utilizing Lakota Culture to Heal and Examine Social Determinants of Tribal Health; Damon Leader Charge • A Multi-Tiered Community-Based Approach to Trauma-Informed Care for Youth in Southeastern South Dakota; Ellen Knowles • Handle with Care; Angela Waldner
11:00 to 11:15	Break: Exhibitors in Ballroom A, Self-Care Area in Concourse
11:15 to 12:30	Breakout Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the Perpetrator is a Child; Warren Binford • Ghosts in the Nursery and Child Abuse: The Relationship to Infant Mental Health; Nancy Free • Appropriate Involvement of Minors in Custody and Dependency/Neglect Cases; A.R. Ascano • Family First Prevention Services: Next Steps; Ashley Schlichenmayer-Okroi and Kassy Dunn • Behavioral Health, Education, Access and Management for South Dakota - Increasing Capacity to Address Pediatric Behavioral Health Needs Across South Dakota; Aimee Deliramich and Nikki Eining
12:30 to 1:30	General Session: Exhibit Hall 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch • Outstanding Service Award Presentation
1:30 to 2:45	Breakout Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every Connection Counts: Strengthening Cases Through Victim-Centered Investigation and Prosecution; Roxanne Hammond and Scott Sitzes • Breaking Barriers: Reducing Stigma and Harm in Substance Disorder and Child Welfare; Melissa Dittberner • Engaging Fathers: Enhancing Family-School Partnerships; Keith Ferguson • Indigenous Approach to Addiction Healing and Mental Health Management; Gene Tyon • Hope is an Action: The Next Step in Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences; Tifanie Petro
2:45 to 3:00	Refuel & Recharge Break: Snack and Exhibitors in Ballroom A, Self-Care Area in Concourse
3:00 to 4:30	General Session: Exhibit Hall 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Question is How; Sean Covell

Friday, October 4

7:30 to 8:00	Check-In: Breakfast in Exhibit Hall 2, Exhibitors in Ballroom A, Self-Care Area in Concourse
8:00 to 9:15	General Session: Exhibit Hall 2 Understanding Vulnerable Child Syndrome; Suzanne Starling
9:15 to 9:30	Break: Exhibitors in Ballroom A, Self-Care Area in Concourse
9:30 to 10:45	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monsters Among Us: Catching Predators and Keeping Kids Safe in a Digital Abyss; Heather Knox and Matthew Almeida• The Medical Evaluation of Abusive Head Trauma in Children; Suzanne Starling• Understanding the Impacts of Social Determinants of Health in Early Childhood; Jennifer Weber• Laying the Foundation for Tribal and State Partnerships: Strategies to Expand Diversion Access for Indigenous Youth; Annie Brokenleg and Tamera Marshall
10:45 to 11:00	Break: Exhibitors in Ballroom A, Self-Care Area in Concourse
11:00 to 12:15	Closing General Session: Exhibit Hall 2 Risk Management: Trauma-Informed (Self) Care; Michelle Trent and Briana Halse Door Prize Drawing

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Visit the Exhibits

Thursday, October 3 - 7:30am to 3:00pm
Friday, October 4 - 7:30am to 11:00am

As you enter the Exhibitor area, grab a door prize drawing entry card and complete each booth stamp. Place completed cards in the drop box in the Exhibitor area by 10:00am on Friday, October 4 to be entered into the door prize drawings to be held during the Closing General Session.

Certificate of Attendance

For those participants requiring a self-reported, general certificate of attendance (not for CEU purposes), please pick this up at the registration table at any time.

Credit Hour Available

A transcribed 1-credit course through University of South Dakota is available for this year's conference. The approximate additional cost is \$50. The course is available as a 400 or 500 level. Students can expect 9 hours of work outside of the CRCAC schedule, all online on students' own time.

Technology

To access wifi, select Midco, no password needed. Two charging stations are located in the concourse.

Social Media

Share conference participation online using the hashtags #CRCAC24 and #KnowRespondPrevent.

Self Care Area

Space is intended for attendees to stop by and get self-care tips to be easily implemented in your life.

Quiet Room

Room is intended for those who may need to step away from the heavy content. A counselor is available by request for conference attendees who may need help processing conference information. Access instructions will be posted in the room. Please note: the Quiet Room is not to be used for a breakroom, phone calls or computer work.

Nursing Pod

A Sanford Nursing Pod is available near the Arena doors.

WELCOME REMARKS

Opening Session Welcome Message

Chief Justice Steven R. Jensen



Justice Jensen was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Dennis Daugaard. He was sworn in on November 3, 2017. Justice Jensen represents the Fourth Supreme Court District consisting of Union, Clay, Yankton, Hutchinson, Hanson, Davison, Bon Homme, Douglas, Aurora, Charles Mix, Gregory, McCook, Turner and Lincoln Counties. Justice Jensen grew up on a farm near Wakonda, South Dakota. He received his undergraduate degree from Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1985 and his Juris Doctor from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1988. He clerked for Justice Richard W. Sabers on the South Dakota Supreme Court before entering private practice in 1989 with the Crary Huff Law Firm in Sioux City, Iowa and Dakota Dunes, South Dakota. In 2003, Justice Jensen was appointed as a First Judicial Circuit Judge by former Governor Mike Rounds. He became the Presiding Judge of the First Judicial Circuit in 2011.

Opening Session Drum Group and Dance Sharing

Cheyenne War Bonnet and Family

Cheyenne War Bonnet and family will provide a conference opening that includes prayer, singing and dance according to teachings per Lakota culture and traditions. Attendees will be guided through protocol the day of the event. - With gratitude Sincerely War Bonnet Thiwahe

GENERAL SESSIONS

The Digital Child

Warren Binford, International Children's Rights Scholar and Advocate

This presentation provides an overview of the latest research on how digital experiences are changing children's lives in the 21st century. It explains how and why digital technology was developed without any meaningful effort to avoid negative impact on children and youth and presents evidence that the digital technology industry is intentionally and knowingly exploiting the developmental vulnerabilities of children and youth, as well as giving unfettered access to others to exploit and abuse children as well. The presentation ends by highlighting efforts nationally, internationally, and at the state level to better protect children in the Digital Age.



Warren Binford is an international children's rights scholar and advocate whose work focuses on tackling some of the toughest challenges children face in the 21st century including child exploitation online and tech-facilitated child abuse. She frequently works in collaboration with children's organizations, governments, and nonprofits to build transnational, cross-disciplinary and solution-focused approaches to 21st century problems. She has published almost 100 works, given approximately 300 lectures worldwide, and received approximately 50 awards and distinctions for her work. Her media interviews have been featured in the New York Times, BBC, NPR, USA Today, Washington Post, CNN, Fox News, and many other outlets.

Professor Binford is the inaugural W.H. Lea Endowed Chair for Justice in Pediatric Law, Policy and Ethics at the University of Colorado where she is a tenured Professor of Pediatrics and a Professor of Law (by courtesy). She has a B.A. in Literature and Psychology, summa cum laude with distinction, and an Ed.M. in Early Childhood from Boston University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

A former foster parent and inner-city teacher, she spends her free time with her husband and children horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, skiing, snowboarding, and occasionally, climbing mountains.

The Question is How

Sean Covell, Film and Television Producer

The producer of the blockbuster film Napoleon Dynamite, Sean Covell relays how of a movie producer leads diverse groups of people toward a single goal. You must align the vision of creatives, such as actors and cinematographers. You must work within tight schedules and strict budget constraints. The goal is to create an experience that entertains, educates, and enlightens. The very same is true for professionals!

The result of this presentation is fresh thinking in building teams, new methods of problem-solving and renewed excitement for conquering the challenges ahead.



Sean Covell is a Los Angeles-based Film and Television Producer who grew up in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Covell's credits include: Beneath for Paramount Pictures, The 12 Dogs of Christmas directed by Academy Award Winner, Keith Merrill, and the iconic independent film, Napoleon Dynamite. Together, Covell's films have won multiple awards, generated over one-quarter-billion dollars in revenue internationally and gotten nerds prom dates across the globe. He very much wishes that would've been the case when he was in high school.

Covell travels the globe on various film shoots but maintains close ties to his small-town Midwestern roots. In 2015 he founded The 12 Days of Pizza charitable program, which supplies food insecure families with elementary school children consistent meals during the Christmas break. In its first year, the program provided 144 meals to Black Hills area families. Within the first 3 years the program grew to provide over 12,000 meals.

Additionally, Covell's new children's book; Porter the Hoarder and the Ransacked Room has been developed into an interactive reading initiative for elementary aged kids. With the help of the United Way, Black Hills Reads, and Black Hills Special Services, over 60,000 copies of the book will be given free of charge to 1st grade students, teachers, and libraries across South Dakota. The books are accompanied by a reading program designed to create parent engagement at home, and boost grade level reading successes.

Covell holds an undergraduate degree in Broadcast Management and Acting from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts, where he guest lectures each spring. Covell enjoys traveling, keynote speaking, and lecturing at universities and film festivals internationally, but he hangs his nun-chucks in Deadwood, SD.

Understanding Vulnerable Child Syndrome

Suzanne Starling, MD, Board Certified Child Abuse Pediatrician and Professor of Pediatrics

Vulnerable Child Syndrome is common in children, but often unrecognized and underdiagnosed. In this session, the participants will learn to recognize the signs of vulnerable child syndrome and see how they are similar to and different from those of medical child abuse. Management of this patient population of vulnerable children will be discussed.



Suzanne Starling has served as a leader in Child Abuse Pediatrics for more than 30 years. She is a board certified Child Abuse Pediatrician and a Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Child Abuse Pediatrics at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Dr. Starling has served as Medical Director of the child abuse programs at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Chadwick Center for Children and Families in San Diego, and the Children's Advocacy Center at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk Virginia. Presently, Dr Starling is the director of medical consulting company in San Diego. Dr Starling is a charter member of the Helper Society, an honorary society for physician specialists in child abuse. Dr. Starling helped shape the direction of the field as a past chair of the American Board of Pediatrics' subboard on Child Abuse Pediatrics. She has authored more than 40 journal articles and book chapters in the field. She lectures nationally and internationally for medical, investigative, and legal audiences and has provided court testimony in child abuse cases across the US.

Risk Management: Trauma-Informed (Self) Care

Michelle Trent, Executive Director and Briana Halse, Director of Clinical Services, The Compass Center

Today it is hard to ignore the large amount of turnover that occurs in helping professions due to burnout or situations where an employee has acted in an unethical manner. This presentation challenges organizations and supervisors of individuals in helping and/or high risk professions to utilize self-care as an intentional practice of risk management. This presentation focuses on ways the organization can prevent secondary trauma stress and burnout, as well as provides tools that can be utilized on an individual or group basis to promote a supportive and healthy place of work.



Michelle Trent is a seasoned mental health professional with over 15 years of experience in the non-profit sector. Currently serving as the Executive Director of the Compass Center for the past three years, Michelle has focused her career on sexual violence and domestic violence prevention for the last decade.

Passionate about community engagement in combating domestic and sexual violence, Michelle prioritizes the well-being of her staff, recognizing the challenges inherent in their work. With a deep understanding of the impacts of non-profit work, Michelle advocates for protecting employees and fostering a supportive organizational culture. Her dedication to mental health advocacy and staff care makes her a respected leader in the field.



Briana Halse is a licensed mental health professional and registered play therapy supervisor. Briana has provided services to adolescents in psychiatric residential treatment facilities and currently serves as the Director of Clinical Services at the Compass Center for the past three years. Briana has focused her career in supporting children and their families through sexual, relational, and other family-related traumas.

Due to roles Briana has held, she has become aware of the importance of self-care not only for self preservation but as a tool of prevention of abuse, neglect, and other ethical matters. Briana has been committed to implement self-care strategies to parents, graduate-level students, mental health professionals seeking licensure, and staff in hopes to decrease the amount of turnover and burnout in the helping profession.



TOPICS & PRESENTERS

Breakout Session 1: Thursday, 10:00 to 11:00

The Negative Impact of Social Media on Child and Adolescent Mental Health

A.R. Ascano, PhD, JD, Licensed Professional Counselor, Intermodal Interventions

While there can be positive aspects of social media access for adolescents, there is a strong correlation between child and adolescent access to social media and moderate to severe mental health issues, as well as making other mental health issues which are already present worse. This talk will address the three primary factors of social media which drive the negative impact: sleep disruption, technology facilitated harm, and lack of physical activity.

A. R. Ascano is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Colorado. Her education includes a PhD in Developmental Psychology, Master of Science in Clinical Psychology, and a Juris Doctorate. During her time as an attorney, her practice was child-focused as a guardian ad litem and custody investigator. She has continued this child-focused practice as a counselor with an emphasis on traumatic stress and adverse childhood experiences. Dr. Ascano currently provides direct therapy services for young children, consultation for attorneys as it relates to developmental psychology and legal issues, and training in areas where there is overlap between developmental psychology and law.



Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Child Sexual Abuse Cases

Shelly Hruby APRN-CNP, Child's Voice at Sanford Health

Kirsten Persson, PA-C, Child's Voice at Sanford Health

Kelly Wharton, APRN-CNP, Child's Voice at Sanford Health

Children and adolescents that have experienced sexual abuse are at risk for acquiring sexually transmitted infections. It is imperative that the clinician have the knowledge and skills to know how to appropriately respond, evaluate, and interpret diagnostic testing results in child sexual abuse cases. The clinician should consider many factors and interpret positive test results with caution given the medicolegal implications.

Shelly Hruby is a Certified Nurse Practitioner practicing at Child's Voice since 2016. Shelly obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from South Dakota State University and a Master's Degree in Nursing with a Family Nurse Practitioner focus from the University of Cincinnati. Prior to working at Child's Voice, Shelly worked for over a decade as a staff nurse and charge nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and as a Nurse Practitioner in Gastroenterology.



Kirsten Persson obtained a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Kansas. Kirsten worked in the social work field for 8 years, primarily working in the area of mental health and serving youth and their families. Kirsten obtained her Master of Science in the Physician Assistant Studies degree and has worked at Child's Voice since 2015.



Kelly Wharton is a Certified Nurse Practitioner practicing at Child's Voice since 2021. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of Sioux Falls and her Master's Degree in Nursing with a Family Nurse Practitioner focus from South Dakota State University. Prior to working with Child's Voice, Kelly was employed in the Sanford Emergency Department for over 6 years as a staff nurse, charge nurse, and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner for both adult and pediatric patients.



Personal and Professional Perspective of Utilizing Lakota Culture to Heal and Examine Social Determinants of Tribal Health

Damon P. Leader Charge, Director of Tribal Outreach, University of South Dakota

A follow-up to Leader Charge's 2023 session will provide a continuation of his personal and professional perspective of utilizing Lakota culture and education to heal, ensuring a better future for generations to come. Reconnecting and revitalizing the language and songs of our ancestors and examining social determinants of tribal health. Ultimately, breaking cycles of inter-generational trauma, creating healthy lifestyles and homes.



Damon P. Leader Charge, MA, Sicangu Oglala Lakota, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is the director of tribal outreach for the University of South Dakota's Office of Academic Affairs and Assistant Coordinator of USD's Sanford School of Medicine's Diversity and Inclusion Offices. Damon's professional interests focus around reducing disparities among Native Americans as well as culturally grounded prevention and intervention efforts. Prior to returning to USD, Leader Charge was the director of health administration for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Other experience includes Indian education, suicide prevention, tribal legislative affairs, community outreach, and cultural humility trainings.

A Multi-Tiered Community-Based Approach to Trauma-Informed Care for Youth in Southeastern South Dakota

Ellen Knowles, M.A., Doctoral Student, University of South Dakota

Trauma exposure is an unfortunately common experience for youth in the US; around 67% of youth will be exposed to trauma before their sixteenth birthday. For these children and adolescents, receiving evidence-based care is critical to improving mental and emotional outcomes. However, it is estimated that less than 20% of these children receive science-backed mental health care. Furthermore, of those who do, half receive mental health care at school. The National Child HELP Partnership is implementing a community-based, multi-tiered initiative designed to improve connections between families, schools, youth programs (e.g., Boys and Girls Clubs), and mental health agencies. Schools and community members are trained on how to deliver services for youth impacted by trauma. These interventions are targeted at decreasing trauma symptoms and increasing resilience among these youth. The goals of this project are 1) to increase early identification of children who need help, 2) prevent long-term trauma-related problems, 3) increase access to evidence-based mental health care, and 4) create more positive home, school, and community environments. This presentation will provide an overview of the National Child HELP Partnership initiative and an introduction to the interventions used within the project. This project was co-authored by Elissa J. Brown, PhD., Imad Zaheer, PhD., BreAnne Danzi, PhD., & Jean Caraway, PhD.



Ellen Knowles received her bachelors of science in Child Psychology from the University of Minnesota. She is currently a doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology PhD program at the University of South Dakota and is a site coordinator for the National Child HELP Partnership. Ellen has provided evidence-based psychodiagnostic assessments and psychotherapy services for youth, families, and adults through several organizations. These include the Center for Disabilities in Sioux Falls through their Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) program, LifeScape in Sioux Falls, and the University of South Dakota Psychological Services Center in Vermillion. Many of the individuals she serves have been exposed to a range of traumatic experiences, including neglect and maltreatment. Through her research and clinical services, Ellen aims to improve outcomes for individuals who have been exposed to trauma in addition to building community awareness and access to trauma-informed resources.

Handle with Care

Angela Waldner, School Safety Specialist, SD Department of Public Safety

Handle with Care is an initiative designed to promote communication between local law enforcement and schools. When law enforcement, or other first responders are on the scene of an incident that school-aged children witnessed or experienced, emergency responders will find out what school the child attends and a "Handle with Care" notice will be sent to the child's school by the next day. School staff are encouraged to use trauma informed care with the child and observing for potential signs of trauma that the child may have experienced that is affecting his or her behavior or ability to be successful in school. If additional support for the child is needed, the school will then contact those additional resources for the child. The number one goal of this program is to help students continue to see educational success daily.



Angela joined the South Dakota School Safety Center in November of 2023 and has spent her professional life, working in leadership and advocacy roles with vulnerable victims, primarily children. Angela understands the value of evidence-based mental and behavioral health programming for schools and its direct correlation to school safety. She brings a wealth of experience in this field to her role as School Safety Specialist.

Angela leads the implementation of Handle with Care and provides training for South Dakota K-12's in Youth Mental Health First Aid and Safe2Say SD. Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach administrators, teachers, and school staff how to help a youth who is experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or is in crisis. YMHFA is primarily designed for adults who interact daily with youth. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews the typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help youth both in crisis and non-crisis situations. Safe2Say SD is anonymous tip reporting platform that works to keep schools and communities safe.



TOPICS & PRESENTERS

Breakout Session 2: Thursday, 11:15 to 12:30

When the Perpetrator is a Child

Warren Binford, International Children's Rights Scholar and Advocate

This session focuses on recent tech-facilitated harms research demonstrating that the perpetrator is often another child. From sextortion to bullying to imagery-based sexual assault (aka, revenge pornography), this session reviews the most current research showing the frequency of peer abuse and sexually problematic behaviors and considers the ways in which a negligently constructed digital world appears to be contributing to an increase in harmful behaviors among children and youth. The session will explore ways in which we could prevent these harms in the future, while also examining how to support and help heal children and youth involved both in victim roles as well as in offending roles when these harms occur.



Warren Binford is an international children's rights scholar and advocate whose work focuses on tackling some of the toughest challenges children face in the 21st century including child exploitation online and tech-facilitated child abuse. She frequently works in collaboration with children's organizations, governments, and nonprofits to build transnational, cross-disciplinary and solution-focused approaches to 21st century problems. She has published almost 100 works, given approximately 300 lectures worldwide, and received approximately 50 awards and distinctions for her work. Her media interviews have been featured in the New York Times, BBC, NPR, USA Today, Washington Post, CNN, Fox News, and many other outlets.

Ghosts in the Nursery and Child Abuse: The Relationship to Infant Mental Health

Nancy Free, DO, Child's Voice at Sanford Health

The promotion, prevention, and intervention in mental health needs of infants, children, and families involves all who form relationships with families. Fundamental factors that influence the development of good mental health in infants and children, and forces that influence parents, caregivers, and service providers when interacting with infants and young children will be addressed. Intervention opportunities and practical approaches to improving infant mental health and decreasing episodes of child maltreatment will be discussed.



Nancy Free, DO, is the Medical Director of Child's Voice Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls and Avera St. Mary's Central South Dakota Child Assessment Center in Pierre. Dr. Free is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. She lives in Sioux Falls and enjoys spending time with her family.



Appropriate Involvement of Minors in Custody and Dependency/Neglect Cases

A.R. Ascano, PhD, JD, Licensed Professional Counselor, Intermodal Interventions

Children and adolescents often report their perceptions of a severe lack of autonomy and being voiceless in custody as well as dependency/neglect cases. This perception leads to negative mental health outcomes, particularly when, regardless of functional age, all minors are treated similarly. This talk will address the need to balance the risk of harm in allowing or restricting minors' involvement in litigation impacting them, as well as the impact on minors of court ordered mental health services when the minor is not a party to the case.

A. R. Ascano is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Colorado. Her education includes a PhD in Developmental Psychology, Master of Science in Clinical Psychology, and a Juris Doctorate. Dr. Ascano currently provides direct therapy services for young children, consultation for attorneys as it relates to developmental psychology and legal issues, and training in areas where there is overlap between developmental psychology and law.



Family First Prevention Services: Next Steps

Ashley Schlichenmayer-Okroi, Program Specialist II, Child Protection Services, Department of Social Services and Kassy Dunn, Juvenile Services Program Manager, Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Social Services

The Family First Prevention and Services Act, child welfare prevention services, are now a reality in our state after years of strong teamwork, planning, and preparation.

In 2023, an Overview of Family First was presented. Join again for a status update, more detail on the plan, answers to questions on aspects which were still in development last year, learn of community resources, ways to get involved and glean information about implementation action steps related to Family First in South Dakota.

The South Dakota Family First Prevention Plan is a statewide child welfare plan, not only a Child Protection Services plan, offering a variety of pathways to prevention services, including evidence-based programs to help children and families meet their needs. This is an upstream approach, focused on impacting the future of individual families, as well as transforming the child welfare system in the state. Partnerships are key to drive this work. The South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health, has been an integral partner throughout plan development and will share in this presentation. The goal of the continuum of behavioral health services is to foster independent and healthy individuals and families in South Dakota.

Ashley (Ash) is a Program Specialist II with the South Dakota Department of Social Services, Child Protection Services. She has worked with CPS for several years as the Family First Program Specialist including managing parenting education programs.

Her past roles with state government include the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, as Children's Supports Manager, Lead Investigator, and Critical Incident Manager.

Prior to her move to Pierre, SD, Ashley worked with Aspire, Inc., a Community Support Provider, supporting people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, in various roles including Quality Assurance Coordinator for the agency, completing her bachelor's degree at Northern State University in Aberdeen. Ashley currently serves as co-chair for the Vista Care Human Legal Rights Committee in Pierre, SD.

Kassy Dunn is a Licensed Addictions Counselor in the state of South Dakota. She currently works at the Division of Behavioral Health as the Juvenile Services Program Manager overseeing mental health and substance use services for youth across the state. Kassy began her career in behavioral health services as an outpatient substance use counselor in 2012 and has worked in various levels of care with both adults and juveniles and has experience as a supervisor of a substance use disorder services program. Kassy earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Addiction Studies from the University of South Dakota.



Behavioral Health, Education, Access and Management for South Dakota – Increasing Capacity to Address Pediatric Behavioral Health Needs Across South Dakota

Aimee N. Deliramich, PhD Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Center for Disabilities

Nikki Eining CSW-PIP QMHP Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program Coordinator, Center for Disabilities

Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Programs (PMHCA) expand access to behavioral health care for youth by building the capacity of primary care, school and emergency department providers to diagnose, treat and refer youth with behavioral health conditions. PMHCA programs' statewide teleconsultation, training, resources and referral services are designed to mitigate workforce shortages of psychiatrists during the rising children's behavioral health crisis. Come and learn more regarding The South Dakota Center for Disabilities BEAM-SD statewide initiative in support this effort.



Aimee Deliramich, PhD Dr. Deliramich is a licensed clinical psychologist and an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at University of South Dakota, Center for Disabilities, in Sioux Falls, SD. In her role at the Center for Disabilities, Dr. Deliramich evaluates children and adults as part of an interdisciplinary diagnostic team within the Autism Spectrum Disorder Clinic and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Clinic. These training clinics allow LEND (Leadership, Education, and Excellence in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) graduate students across 12 disciplines to observe and participate under the direction, supervision, and mentorship of Dr. Deliramich. As a member of the LEND clinical faculty, Dr. Deliramich teaches courses related to mental health and disabilities, evidence-based treatments, and community resources. She is also part of the outreach education team working in partnership with South Dakota's Department of Education, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Health creating continuing education and graduate level course opportunities for educators, mental and healthcare providers, community members, etc. within the areas of disabilities, mental health, and evidence-based treatment. Dr. Deliramich was the project co-coordinator for a new ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) series focusing on disability cultural competence within a community of practice, was selected as a 2022-2023 AUCD/CDC Childhood Mental Health Champion, has continued as the 2023-2024 CDC/AAP Childhood Mental Health Champion, and is on the core team for the development of a new pediatric mental health care access program in South Dakota called BEAM-SD. Dr. Deliramich received her bachelor's degree in psychology from University of Wyoming, her master's degree in counseling psychology from University of Hawaii, Hilo, and her doctorate degree in clinical psychology from University of South Dakota. Dr. Deliramich completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Kansas Medical Center and her post-doctoral training at LifeScope, an organization serving children and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities, in Sioux Falls, SD.



Nikki Eining is a private independent practice licensed social worker who serves as the Statewide Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program Coordinator for The USD Center for Disabilities and Owner of G3 Grace Grit Growth LLC. Nikki brings a diverse set of experiences and passions spending over 17 years working in the mental health field. Her previous experience has focused on supporting youth and families in office, school, and community settings. She has professional experience in clinical mental health, education, research design, non-profit, program development, and trauma-informed care practices.

Nikki is very passionate about trauma and healing-informed practices and the power of protective factors along with collaboration across communities to help decrease barriers for youth and families. Nikki is a Theraplay Level 1, 2 and Group trained therapist, SAPST trained prevention provider, and an ACE Interface Certified educator.



TOPICS & PRESENTERS

Breakout Session 3: Thursday, 1:30 to 2:45

Every Connection Counts: Strengthening Cases Through Victim-Centered Investigation and Prosecution

Roxanne Hammond, Senior Deputy State's Attorney, Pennington County State's Attorney's Office
Scott Sitzes, Sergeant, Penning County Sheriff's Department

Understand the strength of victim-centered investigation and prosecution, specifically in sexual abuse and child abuse cases. Every person who encounters a victim during the course of an investigation up through trial will benefit from this session co-presented by an investigator and prosecutor as they outline how to connect with victims to keep them actively engaged and involved. The session will outline important information needed to prosecute these types of cases and the best ways to collect it. Learn how to recognize a victim that may not immediately present as a victim, how to NOT handle a victim, and ways to ensure we are not revictimizing in the process. Case examples will be used to walk through how a collaborative effort can make or break a case and issues professionals may encounter during the course of a case.



Roxanne Hammond, JD, MA, serves as a Major Crimes Senior Deputy State's Attorney in the Pennington County State's Attorney's Office. She works on the Major Crimes Unit, prosecuting major felony files, with an emphasis on sex crimes. Prior to moving to Rapid City, she served as the Hughes County State's Attorney, where she was awarded Prosecutor of the Year from the State's Attorney's Association in 2019. Prior to prosecution, she worked as a Senior Legislative Attorney for the South Dakota Legislature. After trying a substantial 1st degree rape case in 2019, she used her previous legislative experience to spearhead a law to allow therapy dogs in court rooms for victims. She continues policy work as the chair of the Legislative Committee in the State's Attorney's Association, and testifying in front of legislative committees regularly during session. She keeps a busy trial calendar, trying over 25 major felony cases since moving to Pennington County in 2020, including a triple homicide in January of 2023, which resulted in a guilty verdict on all counts. Her passion is working with child and sexual assault victims, and ensuring they are protected throughout the criminal justice process.



Sergeant Scott Sitzes has served with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office for over thirteen years. He has spent much of his career investigating sexual assaults as well as child sexual and physical abuse. Sgt. Sitzes currently has direct supervision of Crimes Against Persons in Rapid City and Pennington County, this includes but is not limited to Sexual Assault, Child Abuse and Homicides. Sitzes is a proponent of conducting investigative interviews using a trauma informed approach to collect the vital information for a case with the least amount of impact to a victim.

Breaking Barriers: Reducing Stigma and Harm in Substance Disorder and Child Welfare

Melissa Ditterner, PhD, CPS, PS, LMT, Addiction Counseling and Prevention Faculty, University of South Dakota

This session will examine the origins and impact of stigma associated with substance use disorder (SUD). Learn about strategies to combat stigma in clinical, social, and community settings and ways to foster an environment of empathy and support for individuals with SUD.



Dr. Mo, (Melissa Dittberner), PhD, CPS, PS, LMT, is an award winning faculty in the Addiction Counseling and Prevention department at the University of South Dakota. She has a Ph.D. in Counseling and Psychology in Education, a master's in Addiction Studies and a bachelor's in Health Sciences. Dr. Mo is a TEDx speaker, prevention specialist and peer specialist. She is the CEO of Straight Up Care, a telehealth platform for peer specialist. Dr. Mo is the Executive Director of Midwest Street Medicine. She is a co-author of, The Alcohol Reset. She does research on college students' substance use, pedagogy, addiction, trauma, body brokering, tattoos as healing and harm reduction. Dr. Mo is a person in long-term recovery and her mission is to empower individuals to learn and navigate their paths to recovery and well-being.

Indigenous Approach to Addiction Healing and Mental Health Management

Gene Tyon, Director, Oaye Luta Okolakiciye

Learn about the Oaye Luta Okolakiciye's Indigenous approach to addiction healing and mental health management. A brief description of the 12-week curriculum and 6-protocol healing ceremonies. Address acculturation as we do in our healing session orientation to ceremony, then provide solutions to history and inter-generational conditioned behavior.



Gene Tyon is a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe and founder and executive director of Lakota-led nonprofit Oaye Luta Okolakiciye – (Moving Forward in a Sacred Way) based in Rapid City, SD, within our spiritual homeland of the Hé Sapa (Black Hills), that serves a wide catchment area in western SD including the surrounding Tribal Reservations. Gene has a master's in administration, specializing in alcohol and drug studies and possesses decades of experience in culturally grounded programming, community organizing, nonprofit organization and management. Gene's passion to promote Oaye Luta Okolakiciye is not only a testament, but also to navigate the multitude of barriers for sustaining nonprofits and collaborating with both western and Indigenous partners within an area contextualized by both high trauma and deeply rooted systemic racism. Gene's leadership role within the community displays an advocate, mentor, and front runner of individual and community Indigenous health and wellness through culture.

Engaging Fathers: Enhancing Family-School Partnerships

Keith Ferguson, Family Engagement Learning Specialist, Black Hills Special Services Cooperative

In this session, we will delve into the crucial role of fathers in family engagement within schools and explore strategies to enhance their involvement to benefit students' academic success and overall well-being. The presentation will conclude with a summary of key takeaways, actionable steps, and tools for enhancing father engagement in schools. Attendees will be encouraged to participate in partner and group dialogue through collaboration to create a supportive and inclusive education.



Keith Ferguson serves as a Family Engagement Learning Specialist for Black Hills Special Services Cooperative. Prior to joining the team at BHSSC Keith's career was primarily in Education ranging from time spent as an Athletic and Activities Director, Physical Education and Health Teacher in all grades from K-12 along with coaching numerous high school sports.

Additional experiences outside of the primary classroom while still working within education include positions with the University of South Dakota as a Talent Search Advisor serving schools on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, as a Regional Coordinator for GEAR UP with Black Hills State University and as a Student Success Coach for Western Dakota Technical College. Keith has found his passion working within Education and looks forward to the various opportunities with BHSSC. Beyond his professional career Keith also serves area Boards serving as a Director for the Lakota Nation Invitational along with a local Director for the Rapid City USBC Bowling Board.



Hope is an Action: The Next step in Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences

Tifanie Petro, Director of Child and Family Services, Children's Home Society of South Dakota

It has been over two decades since the adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) study was conducted, and South Dakota has been on a mission to educate the state since 2018. The conversations around ACEs has so left many individuals and communities with the question of "now what...?" Dr. Chan Hellman's research through the University of Oklahoma has provided the answer to that question. Hope is a science and an actionable step we can take to reduce and address ACEs in the State of South Dakota. During this session we will have a conversation around the science of Hope and the high-level view of how we take what we know about how we move forward in the conversation around healing and reducing intergenerational trauma.



Tifanie Petro, MS, serves as the Director of Child and Family Services, overseeing the community-based programming for Children's Home Society. Tifanie provides oversight to the Child Advocacy Center, a statewide prevention program, Wendy's Wonderful Kids, and outpatient clinical services specializing in therapeutic foster care, adoption and case management. Tifanie works to collaborate with partners across the state, serving on boards, leading advocacy efforts, and facilitating community partner meetings. Tifanie delivers prevention and awareness trainings to professionals, community agencies, and the general public in the areas of child abuse and trauma related topics at local, state, national, and international speaking engagements. Tifanie believes that by empowering children, families, and individuals that we can create self-healing communities. Tifanie received her BS degree in Psychology from Black Hills State University, her MS in Public Health from Capella University, Minnesota and her MS in Human Services from Capella University, Minnesota.



TOPICS & PRESENTERS

Breakout Session 4: Friday, 9:30 to 10:45

Monsters Among Us: Catching Predators and Keeping Kids Safe in a Digital Abyss

Heather Knox, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Human Trafficking Coordinator for the District of South Dakota
Matthew Almeida, Detective, Rapid City Police Department & Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

Certain social media applications, combined with the ability of child predators to choose and groom vulnerable victims, have made the internet a dangerous place for kids. This presentation will detail the investigative efforts and successful prosecution of two online predators in Western South Dakota, both of whom selected multiple victims, groomed them, and exploited them sexually and psychologically.

Recognizing the warning signs of internet exploitation is a vital part of keeping minors safe online. Predators often use catfishing, fake profiles, and threats to gain compliance of their victims to not only get victims to send explicit photos of themselves, but often to meet in person and engage in sexual abuse of those victims.

Heather Knox is an Assistant United States Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Human Trafficking Coordinator for the District of South Dakota. Ms. Knox prosecutes a wide array of criminal offenses involving the sexual exploitation of children and adults, human trafficking, child sexual abuse material, and other internet crimes against children. She also prosecutes violent crimes that occur on the Pine Ridge Reservation, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and elsewhere in Western South Dakota, with an emphasis on homicides and sexual assaults of adults and children.

Ms. Knox has served as co-chair of the West River Human Trafficking Task Force since 2021. In 2018, the Western South Dakota Child Protection Council recognized Ms. Knox with the "Helping Strengthen Families" award for her commitment to keeping children safe from abuse and neglect. In 2016, she was awarded the Victims' Champion Award for her work on cases related to domestic violence in Rapid City. Ms. Knox recently joined the board of The Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment, and is a member of the South Dakota State Bar Association, the Pennington County Bar Association, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys, the South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault, and the West River Infant/Child Death Review committee.

Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Ms. Knox served as a deputy state's attorney in both Pennington County and Minnehaha County. She has been a prosecutor since 2013. Ms. Knox received her law degree and undergraduate degree in criminal justice from the University of South Dakota.

Detective Matthew Almeida has worked for the Rapid City Police Department for 13 years. He spent the first five years of his career assigned to the Patrol division. During that time, Almeida was a DUI Enforcement Officer, Police Training Officer, Drug Recognition Expert, and a member of the Black Hills Fugitive Task Force. In 2017, Almeida became the School Resource Officer at Rapid City Central High School. At the school, Almeida worked with students and their families who were the victims of sexual abuse crimes and crimes committed against them using the internet. Almeida was also the Junior Varsity Boys Soccer Coach at Central for three years. The experience and knowledge working in the schools and with students, helped Almeida in his current assignment as a Detective/Forensic Examiner assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Almeida has been in this position since 2020. Almeida holds numerous certificates in the computer/mobile forensics field. Almeida has testified in State and Federal Court as an expert witness as it pertains to forensic work. Almeida commonly investigates crimes involving Sex Trafficking, Enticement/Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, and Child Pornography cases. Almeida also assists on major crime investigations in this region, to include murders, robberies, and rapes.



The Medical Evaluation of Abusive Head Trauma in Children

Suzanne Starling, MD, Board Certified Child Abuse Pediatrician and Professor of Pediatrics

The diagnosis of head injury in children will be reviewed, including the signs and symptoms, physical findings, x-ray findings, and patient outcomes. The mechanism of brain injury in children will be discussed. Associated injuries such as fractures and eye injuries also will be reviewed.



Suzanne Starling has served as a leader in Child Abuse Pediatrics for more than 30 years. She is a board certified Child Abuse Pediatrician and a Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Child Abuse Pediatrics at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Presently, Dr Starling is the director of medical consulting company in San Diego. Dr Starling is a charter member of the Helfer Society, an honorary society for physician specialists in child abuse.

Understanding the Impacts of Social Determinants of Health in Early Childhood

Jennifer Weber, MPH, RD, President and Founding Principal, Weber Moore Partners, LLC

In this session, we'll explore how social determinants of health (SDOH)—such as family context, economic stability, health care access and neighborhood environments—affect young children's health outcomes. The session will delve into the differences between poverty (and other SDOH) and child abuse. It will then address the importance of concrete supports to families for providing protective factors to promote better well-being and create a more equitable future for all children.



Jennifer A. Weber, MPH, RD, is the President and Founding Principal of Weber Moore Partners, LLC. Jennifer is an advocate for children's health and well-being with experience building effective strategies and partnerships and translating science into understandable and actionable messages. Jennifer has worked in the non-profit, association and government sectors, bringing these diverse perspectives to her work. She previously served as the Children's Executive Portfolio Lead at the American Heart Association. In this role, she was responsible for providing leadership in planning and execution of the enterprise-wide strategy for improving kids' health and establishing life-long engagement. Prior to joining AHA, Jennifer was at Nemours, one of the nation's leading pediatric health systems. In that role, she facilitated development and implementation of policy priorities in the areas of child nutrition, quality, and multi-sector systems of care and prevention. Jennifer also served as a nutrition advisor for the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in the Department of Health and Human Services where she worked on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Healthy People initiative. Jennifer is also an Adjunct Professor at Marymount University.



Laying the Foundation for Tribal and State Partnerships: Strategies to Expand Diversion Access for Indigenous Youth

Annie Brokenleg, State Juvenile Diversion Coordinator, SD Unified Judicial Court System
Tamera Marshall

In 2021, Native American youth represented 42% of the youth referred to detention centers across the state, while only making up 15% of the youth population age 10-17 across South Dakota. The state has seen a dramatic reduction in detention admissions and an increase in diversion utilization in the last decade, but the disparities still exist. This presentation will share the challenges and lessons learned to achieve the first state-tribal partnership in South Dakota that is serving youth through a culturally responsive diversion program across jurisdictions. This partnership would not have happened without Indigenous Leaders, who is well respected in Indian Country and has lived experience within the system.



Annie Brokenleg serves as the State Juvenile Diversion Coordinator in South Dakota. In this position, Annie has been instrumental in helping jurisdictions across the state build robust diversion programs and enhance their capacities. Her efforts have focused on finding effective alternatives to secure detention for young offenders, aiming to rehabilitate rather than punish.

As the coordinator of South Dakota's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) committee, as well as the tribal JDAI subcommittee, Annie has led initiatives that have significantly reduced secure detention admissions. Under her leadership, there has been a notable increase in the number of youths diverted into community programs. Additionally, she has been pivotal in connecting Indigenous youth with culturally relevant programs within their home tribal jurisdictions, fostering a sense of community and cultural continuity.

Annie holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of South Dakota, where she also serves as an adjunct professor for the graduate social work program. Her dedication to macro social work is evident in her commitment to systemic change and community-based solutions. She is passionate about empowering communities, advocating for at-risk youth, and creating sustainable, culturally sensitive diversion programs.



Tamera Marshall is an accomplished professional with a double major in Criminal Justice and Psychology. An enrolled member of the great Oglala Lakota Nation, Tamera has dedicated over 13 years to working with youth, providing them with the support and encouragement needed to overcome their challenges.

Growing up, Tamera faced significant personal struggles, including issues with alcoholism, drugs, dropping out of school, truancy, and encounters with law enforcement. These experiences have profoundly shaped her commitment to youth work, allowing her to connect deeply with those who face similar obstacles.

Currently, Tamera is going on her third year of coordinating the first-ever Tribal-State Youth Diversion Program with the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe and Bennett County. The program aims to prevent youth from re-offending and to connect them to protective factors. Serving as an alternative to court involvement for youth offenders ages 10-17, the Youth Diversion Program is designed to help these young individuals understand the consequences of their actions and hold them accountable for their crimes.

Tamera's personal interests are diverse and enriching, including archery, sewing and quilting, volleyball, and biking. Beyond her professional and personal pursuits, Tamera takes immense pride in her family, counting her two amazing children and grandchildren among her greatest achievements.

Through her work and personal experiences, Tamera Marshall embodies resilience and dedication, serving as a powerful role model and mentor for the youth she works with.

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