

The Greg and Mary Ann Renz Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

The purpose of the 2025 Together for Children conference is to provide information and skills that support a multidisciplinary approach to improve prevention, treatment, investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. Topics presented will address emerging issues, research questions and public policy changes in child welfare and child protection. As a reminder, the materials presented at the Together for Children Conference are for continuing education purposes only. The content and material shared during this event reflect an approach, view, experience, statement or opinion of the presenters or authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Children's Wisconsin or Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin (PCAW). Moreover, the presence of any speaker, author, vendor or participant in the conference does not constitute an endorsement of their organization, views or services. Lastly, the information shared during the event does not create any patient-physician relationship and should not be used as a substitute for professional diagnosis.

2025 Together for Children

April 14 - 16, 2025

The Wilderness Resort

Wisconsin Dells, WI

Monday, April 14: Seminar Day

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Full day seminars focus on one main topic

Tuesday, April 15: Conference Day 1

9 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Welcome & Keynote

11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Breakout sessions

Wednesday, April 16: Conference Day 2

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Keynote Presentation

10:15 a.m. - 4 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Conference Fees

Registration Deadline: March 28, 2025

Early Bird Registration: General Registration:

Register by Feb. 28, 2025 Register after Feb. 28, 2025

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • 1 Day: \$150.00 | • 1 Day: \$175.00 |
| • 2 Days: \$249.00 | • 2 Days: \$299.00 |
| • 3 Days: \$320.00 | • 3 Days: \$370.00 |

The registration fee includes light continental breakfast and lunch for each day.

Who should attend?

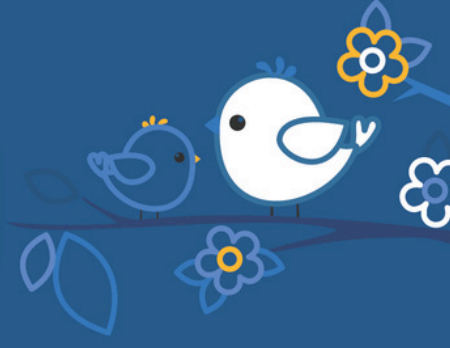
- Child advocacy center personnel
- Child protective services
- CASA staff and volunteers
- Sexual assault and domestic violence personnel
- Judicial officers, attorneys & guardians ad litem
- Law enforcement officials
- Medical and health professionals, including SANE Nurses and nurse practitioners
- School personnel
- Social workers, therapists, and psychologists
- Foster care workers and parents
- Anyone interested in child abuse & neglect issues and prevention

Conference Attendance

Conference attendees may attend up to:

- 1 full day seminar
- 2 keynote sessions
- 6 breakout sessions





Discounts

Group and Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

Group and MDT discounts are available when four or more attendees are from the same organization OR multidisciplinary team. (MDT **must** include at least two different disciplines; i.e. social work, legal, law enforcement, medical, etc.). Email [PCAW](#) for more information by March 10, 2025.

Student

Full-time students will receive a reduced fee when they register as a student. Students must email a copy of their current semester schedule to [PCAW](#).

Lodging

The Wilderness Resort, Glacier Canyon Lodge

45 Hillman Road | Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

A block of rooms has been reserved with the following rates:

- \$98 for a single (1 occupant)
- \$129 for a double queen couch glacier canyon lodge room (2-4 occupants)
- \$159 for a 2 bedroom deluxe glacier canyon lodge room (up to 4 occupants)

Contact the hotel directly to book a room before the block expires on Friday, March 14, 2025. Call 1-800-867-9453 and indicate that you are with Leader #A50085 to receive the group discount and to be placed in the group block.

If your group is tax exempt, please remember to bring your tax exemption certificate for check in.

Scholarships

Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

The Department of Justice, CJA program is providing a limited number of scholarships for MDT team members to attend the conference. Applications are available on the PCAW website.

Application Deadline: **February 17, 2025**

General

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, there are a limited number of general scholarships available. Applications are available on the PCAW website.

Application Deadline: **February 17, 2025**

Email PCAW with questions regarding scholarships.

Cancellation Policy & Refunds

In the event that a registration must be changed, substitutions from the same agency are permitted at no charge. Refund requests must be sent via email to [PCAW](#) by March 31, 2025.

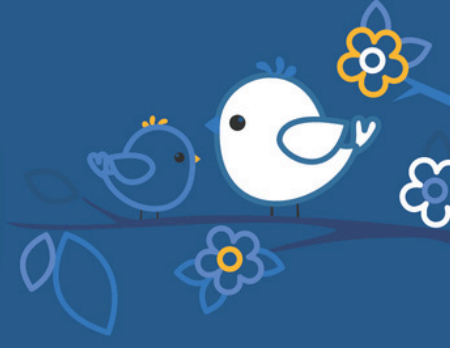
The requests received by this date will be refunded the conference fees less a \$50 administrative fee. Refund requests received after March 31, 2025 will not be granted.

No refunds will be given in the event inclement weather forces cancellation of all or part of the conference. No-shows will be responsible for the full registration fee.

Sundara Spa

Conference attendees will receive a 15% discount at [Sundara Spa](#) during their stay. Please mention your affiliation with the Together for Children Conference when booking your spa appointment.





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Continuing Education

Additional information regarding continuing education hours will be updated as the accreditation organizations approve the conference hours.

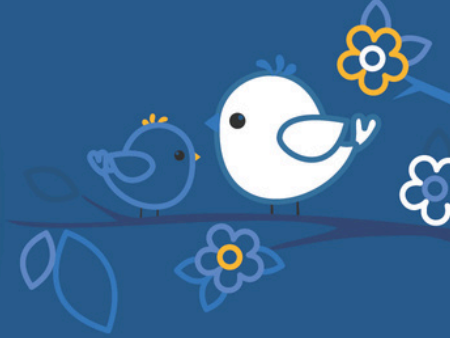
Special Accommodations

Children's Hospital and Health System fully intends to comply with the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any participant is in need of accommodation, please email PCAW.

Conference Agenda

Monday, April 14: Seminar Sessions

<p>8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Registration and light continental breakfast</p>
<p>9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Seminar Sessions</u> <i>Attend the same seminar for both the morning and afternoon sessions.</i></p> <p>Forensic Interviewing in Wisconsin <i>Elizabeth Ghilardi, LCSW; Allison Flatow</i></p> <p>This seminar is intended to develop a better understanding of the importance of collaborative multidisciplinary team approaches to investigating child maltreatment and exposure to violence. The process of gathering accurate information from children is critical to the success of investigations and prosecutions when there is a concern for maltreatment. Collaborative investigations minimize error, result in reduced trauma to families, lead to more efficient and less stressful investigations, and improve outcomes in the criminal justice system. We will provide a brief overview of the training available in Wisconsin, including new training regarding screening children for sexual abuse when this is not the primary reason for referral. We will discuss the Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines and the basic phases of a forensic interview. This will include the importance of information gathered in the pre-meeting and how it can impact the direction of the interview. Basic research that supports the phases of the interview as well as updates on new research in the field of forensic interviewing from 2023-2024 will also be presented. MDT members will learn more about the barriers and challenges related to gathering information from children and tools to support colleagues in overcoming those barriers and challenges. We will conclude with gathering corroborative information and evidence that will take the burden off the child and forensic interviewer to “prove” the case and reinforce the importance of working together as a team to improve outcomes for children, families, and the community.</p>



Objectives:

1. Participants will receive an overview of statewide support that is available from the Children’s Justice Act and Child Advocacy Centers of Wisconsin and how to match this to the needs of the interviewers and their MDT members.
2. Participants will be able to describe the Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines and learn how to use this information to support the forensic interview as an interviewer, observer or member of the multi-disciplinary team.
3. Participants will receive research updates in the field of forensic interviewing and be able to apply it to the phases of the interview.
4. Participants will be able to recognize the common barriers encountered when gathering investigative information from children and what corroborative evidence may be obtained in the interview to take the burden of “proving” the case off of the child and interviewer.

Overview of Child Trauma Investigations from an MDT Standpoint

Jesse Crowe; Melissa Fus; Jeff Wisch

This will be a full day workshop that will cover investigative techniques and a multi-disciplinary approach to investigations involving the abuse of children. Topics covered will be internet crimes against children, human trafficking of children, physical abuse of children and child homicide investigations. Multiple staff from the WI DOJ will present on a wide array of investigations into the abuse of children.

Objectives:

1. Participants will be aware of what resources the Wisconsin Department of Justice can provide during investigations into child trauma.
2. Participants will be aware of what resources can be provided to parents and community members for internet safety.

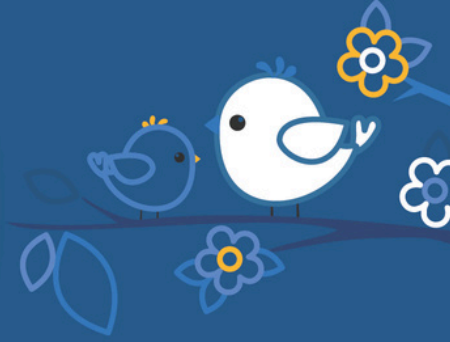
**12:15 p.m. -
1:15 p.m.**

Lunch

**1:15 p.m. -
4:30 p.m.**

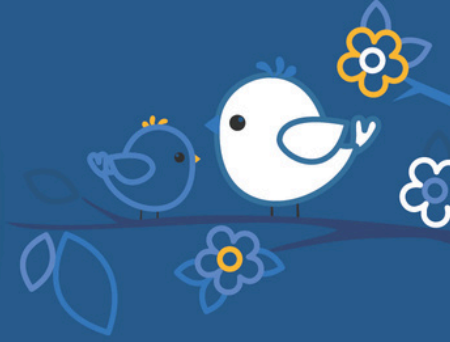
Seminar Sessions

Attend the same seminar for both the morning and afternoon sessions.



Tuesday, April 15: Conference Day 1

<p>8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Registration and light continental breakfast</p>
<p>9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Welcome and opening comments</p>
<p>9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Keynote</u> These Kids Deserve Our Help, too: Children and Teens with Problematic Sexual Behavior <i>Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., MA, LPC National Children's Advocacy Center</i></p> <p>All children and teens deserve help and support, even those who initiate problematic sexual behaviors with other children. Research is clear that an evidence-based response to these youth results in success for the initiating youth, child recipients, and their families. In this session, you, the professional, will learn how to make a positive difference in these cases by learning what the research suggests about these children and teens and what we know makes a difference.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will be able to summarize common characteristics of children and teens with problematic sexual behavior. 2. Participants will be able to describe strategies to enhance professional response to cases of children and teens with problematic sexual behavior.
<p>10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Breakout Sessions</u></p> <p>Child Abuse Pediatrics 101 <i>Rachel Segal, MD, MPH</i></p> <p>This session will educate professionals on the medical specialty of Child Abuse Pediatrics. It will explain the training that CAPs undergo, the importance of a medical evaluation during maltreatment cases, and discuss how to refer to teams within the state of Wisconsin. Another aim is to provide general education regarding sentinel injuries/a physical abuse overview.</p>



Objectives:

1. Understand what a child abuse pediatrician does and how to refer child maltreatment cases for medical evaluations
2. Participants will be able to identify sentinel injuries in children

Appropriate for all attendees

Multi-Disciplinary Response when a Child Recants Abuse: A review of the Brown County MDT Recantation Guidelines

Kristie Sickel, MSW, CSW; Megan Hackl; Stefanie Burton

This presentation will focus on the MDT approach when investigating child abuse cases involving a recantation of prior abuse. The presentation will begin with an overview of child sexual abuse dynamics, primarily highlighting delayed disclosure and the process of disclosure. Presenter will outline the risks of recantation, common reasons why a child recants abuse, supports MDT members can put in place to help prevent recantation, as well as an overview the Brown County MDT Recantation, which has been adopted to the Willow Tree CAC Brown County Interagency Agreement on a Collaborative Response to Child Maltreatment. Attendees will be able to learn how MDT partners can work together to better understand the reason for the recantation and that a recantation of abuse, should not automatically mean the case should be dismissed. Past cases involving recantation of abuse, will also be reviewed.

**11:00 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.**

Objectives:

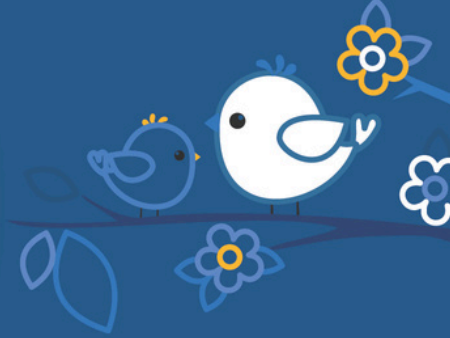
1. Understand reasons children recant by exploring risks while also looking at ways to minimize recantation.
2. Describe best practice and how to collaborate effectively as an MDT when a child is reporting a recantation.

Appropriate for all attendees

Reimagining Child Welfare: A Cost Analysis Framework for Advancing Protection

Gabriel McGaughey, MSW; Colleen Janczewski, PhD; Marc Seidl, MSW; Eric Calvino, MSW, Peter Power, MSW; Shelbey Puppe, MSW; Julie A. Ahnen, MSW

This workshop, "Reimagining Child Welfare: A Cost Analysis Model for a Shift Towards Prevention," focuses on supporting the child welfare system shift from a reactive, investigation-heavy approach to one that is prevention-focused. By examining the prevalence of neglect in Wisconsin, participants will learn about the financial and social costs of the current system, particularly regarding unsubstantiated investigations.



The workshop will highlight how cost analysis and the Strong Families, Thriving Children, Connected Communities (SFTCCC) initiative identify opportunities for change, promote equity, and support systemic change. Attendees will benefit from a mix of data presentations, panel discussions, and real-world case studies designed to offer actionable insights for integrating prevention-focused practices into their daily work.

Objectives:

1. Equity-Focused Content: The content will specifically address racial disproportionalities and economic disparities in child welfare.
2. Interactive Discussions on Bias and Inclusion: During group discussions, participants will be encouraged to reflect on how implicit biases may influence child welfare decision-making in their own jurisdictions.
3. SFTCCC's Role in Promoting Equity: The workshop will highlight how the Strong Families, Thriving Children, Connected Communities (SFTCCC) initiative has been advancing inclusive and equitable practices by focusing on collaborative community-driven solutions.

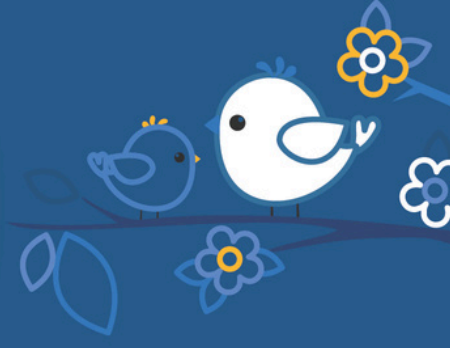
Intermediate

**11:00 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.**

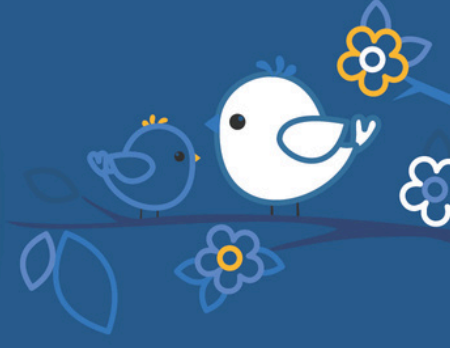
The Treatment Court's role in healing families affected by substance abuse and the Child Protection System

Samantha Reynolds, MSW; Cassie Pakkala

1 in 8 children ages 17 or younger are living in households with at least one parent who has a substance use disorder. Brown County Family Recovery Court is a multidisciplinary team consisting of a Judge, Child Protection, Criminal Justice Services, Probation and Parole, District Attorney, Green Bay Police, Corporation Counsel, Public Defender, AODA, and Mental Health clinicians who work collaboratively to achieve the common goal of reunifying families after being separated as a result of substance use. This workshop will discuss the inception and operation of the Brown County Family Recovery Court. Members of the treatment court team will explain the timeline and process of the implementation of the Brown County Family Recovery Court, as well as it's successes and challenges and how multiple agencies and professionals partner to achieve the family's goals.



<p>11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deepen Understanding: Attendees will understand what a Family Recovery Court is, the professional partnerships, and how it operates 2. Implementation: Attendees will learn the basics of implementing a Family Recovery Court and have insight on the barriers and successes that Brown County's Family Recovery Court faced 3. Empowerment: Attendees will hear inspiring success stories from Family Recovery Court participants and how this multidisciplinary team supported them through their recovery and reunification of their children <p>Appropriate for all attendees</p>
<p>12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Breakout Sessions</u></p> <p>Enhancing the Multidisciplinary Coordinated Response to Cases of Child/Teen Problematic Sexual Behaviors Part 1</p> <p><i>Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., MA, LPC; Abbey VandenBush, BSW, CSW; Matthew Torbenson; Alanna Pahos, MS, CSW; Liz Ghilardi, LCSW</i></p> <p>You can make a difference...with children and teens with problematic sexual behavior (PSB), child recipients of PSB, and their families. The multidisciplinary coordinated response is best practice for these cases and is the responsibility of professionals who collaborate in cases of child abuse. Through mini-didactics and a moderated panel of multidisciplinary professionals, participants will learn how to improve the coordinated responses to cases of youth-initiated PSB.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will be able to identify how multidisciplinary professionals and teams can address the needs of children and families impacted by youth-initiated problematic sexual behavior. 2. Participants will be able to formulate a basic strategy for modifying protocols to serve children and teens with problematic sexual behavior, recipient children, and their families. <p>Appropriate for all attendees</p>



**1:30 p.m. -
3:00 p.m.**

Reimagining Mandated Reporting

Leah Cerwin, LCSW; Julie A. Ahnen, MSW; Marc Seidl, MSW

This interactive workshop invites multi-disciplinary teams to explore innovative approaches to reforming mandated reporting systems. Participants will learn about national and Wisconsin-based efforts to transform mandatory reporting practices. Local representatives will share insights from county-level training reforms, highlighting key outcomes and lessons learned. The session will include small group discussions focused on the stressors families face and the most effective community resources for support. Participants will collaboratively envision alternative community response systems that go beyond traditional CPS interventions. This workshop aims to foster local dialogue and problem-solving for a more supportive and holistic approach to child and family welfare.

Objectives:

1. Participants will be aware of alternatives to reporting and how to connect with local CPS to learn more about community resources.
2. Participants will explore the benefits of reporting to CPS with a family rather than anonymously, in certain circumstances.
3. Participants will understand the significant impact of asking a few more questions to gain greater context around child and family concerns as a way to determine if there is reasonable cause to suspect maltreatment.

Appropriate for all attendees

Layering Prevention: How to build non-traditional partnerships across organizations

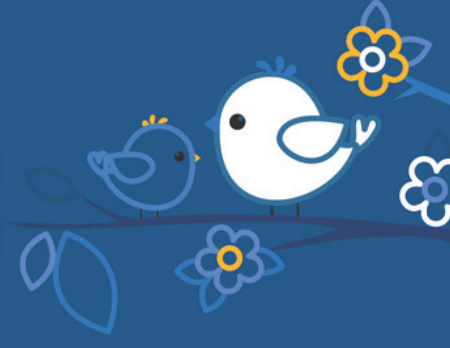
Laura Staats, MSW, APSW; Heather Dederling, BA; Aviva Herman, LCSW

With numerous approaches and focuses within child abuse prevention, the work can end up in silos, stretching resources and limiting the impact that the community sees. In this session, learn how a child sexual abuse primary prevention program – Awareness to Action – found a non-traditional partner in the Wisconsin Department of Corrections – Sex Offender Registry and united in a collective impact strategy alongside Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin. This example of discovering shared purpose across programs will demonstrate how to look beyond usual community partners and inspire innovation.

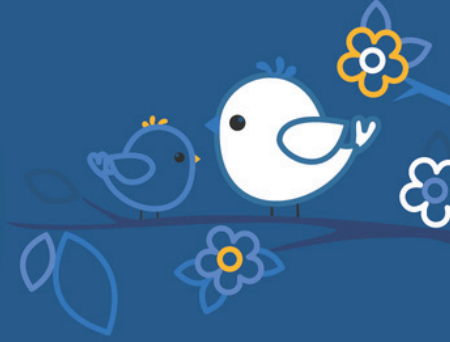
Objective:

1. Understand how organizations with seemingly different goals and strategies can discover and cultivate areas of alignment, allowing them to coordinate prevention efforts across professional fields.

Appropriate for all attendees



<p>1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Social Connectedness One Relationship at a Time <i>Meghan Christian, LCSW; Lori Jensen; Jessica Frost; Josh Mersky</i></p> <p>Prevention resources, while abundant, often remain unknown to those who need them most. This social disconnection fuels the severity and number of people in crisis, creating difficult situations for overloaded families, first responders and policy makers. In this session, hear about collective caregiving from Safe Families for Children, Children’s Community Health Advocacy and Family Resource Centers. Participate in a moderated discussion around successes in accessibility and propose strategies to increase awareness and utilization among influential stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify at least five underutilized child neglect prevention resources available in our state. 2. Learn how these prevention services are improving the social connectedness of parents and caregivers impacted by social isolation. 3. Understand barriers and enhancers in access to these resources. <p>Appropriate for all attendees</p>
<p>3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Breakout Sessions</u></p> <p>Enhancing the Multidisciplinary Coordinated Response to Cases of Child/Teen Problematic Sexual Behaviors Part 2 <i>Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., MA, LPC</i></p> <p>You can make a difference...with children and teens with problematic sexual behavior (PSB), child recipients of PSB, and their families. The multidisciplinary coordinated response is best practice for these cases and is the responsibility of professionals who collaborate in cases of child abuse. Through mini-didactics and a moderated panel of multidisciplinary professionals, participants will learn how to improve the coordinated responses to cases of youth-initiated PSB.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will be able to identify how multidisciplinary professionals and teams can address the needs of children and families impacted by youth-initiated problematic sexual behavior. 2. Participants will be able to formulate a basic strategy for modifying protocols to serve children and teens with problematic sexual behavior, recipient children, and their families. <p>Appropriate for all attendees</p>



Connections & Supports with Relatives

Moe Green, MSW, APSW; Shannon Braden, MS

This workshop will focus on outlining Wisconsin's efforts to align with the federal legislation; Family's First. Specifically, DCF's vision of all Wisconsin children and youth being safe and loved members of thriving families and communities, with a goal of maintaining connections and support with relatives. Children initially placed with relatives, on average, see more placement stability and opportunities to stay connected to family, community and culture when compared with children initially placed with nonrelatives. In the first half of 2024, of all the children who entered out-of-home care, only 41% were placed with relatives as their first placement. Some barriers to placement with relatives include their past criminal history, their "allegiance" to their family rather than the child welfare agency, and because the foster parents are "known" by the child welfare agency. Policy and best practice support working with relatives through these perceived barriers so children can be with who they know and love. So then why are more children placed in non-relative care than with their relatives? Together we will take a closer look at these barriers and discuss whether these barriers are true safety concerns, or values held by the child welfare workforce, and how to work those barriers.

Objectives:

Participants will be provided an overview of the structure of the child welfare system and how a family's case flows through it. Families First will be explained emphasizing of the importance of keeping children connected to their families and maintaining connections with relatives during non-relative placements.

Participants will also learn about:

1. The vast reach of the CW system.
2. Inequities in the CW system.
3. Misconceptions about the CW system.
4. Poverty vs. neglect

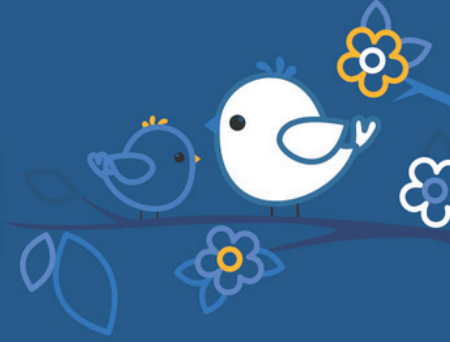
Appropriate for all attendees

What's in your cup? Practical, Whole-Person Self-Care

Rebecca Green Blanks, MSW, APSW, Pn1

We hear it all the time... "You can't pour from an empty cup!" "You have to take care of yourself in order to take care of others." "Your health is your wealth." We are inundated with what we should do for self-care, but how often do we intentionally engage in quality self-care habits? Do we even know what deep-health practices work best for us? This workshop engages and empowers you to better identify healthy and practical self-care and care for self options across the domains of mind, body and spirit. You will leave with a individualized self-care menu and skills to help others identify ways to be their best self.

**3:15 p.m. -
4:45 p.m.**



**3:15 p.m. -
4:45 p.m.**

Objectives:

1. Identify the connection between mental, emotional, and physical self-care
2. Develop an individual self-care menu

Appropriate for all attendees

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Learning Styles, Behavior, and Intervention

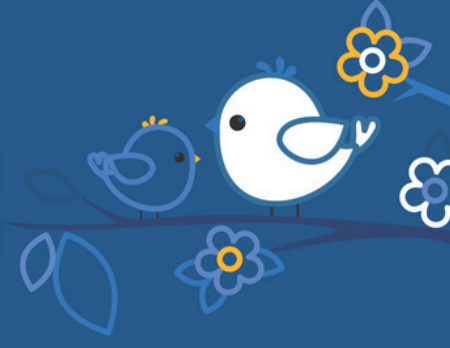
Tristin Nyman-Mallis, PhD

Children exposed to alcohol in utero are at risk of having a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) - the leading preventable cause of intellectual disability in children. This workshop provides an overview of FASD diagnosis, common learning styles, behavior challenges, and recommendations for working with the FASD community. While there are barriers to early identification of FASD, knowing the common features, learning styles, and behavior patterns of children with FASD can support access to early intervention across settings.

Objectives:

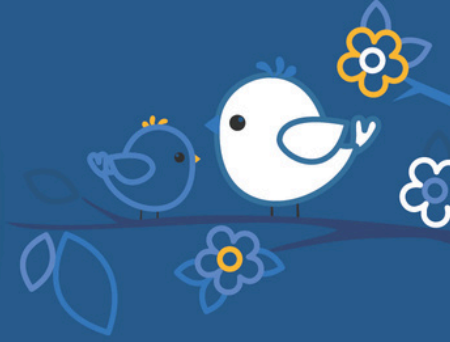
1. Increase familiarity with common learning, behavioral, and emotional profiles for children with FASD.
2. Incorporate knowledge of neurobehavioral and neuropsychological outcomes in FASD to inform intervention and interactions with FASD population.

Appropriate for all attendees



Wednesday, April 16: Conference Day 2

<p>8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.</p>	<p>Registration and light continental breakfast</p>
<p>8:50 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Welcome and keynote introduction</p>
<p>9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Keynote</u> Working Together, How MDTs and CACs can Accommodate Children with Disabilities <i>Dermot Whelan Modell Consulting Group, LLC</i></p> <p>Research shows children with disabilities experience abuse and neglect at disproportionate rates. This training is intended for multidisciplinary professionals seeking to advance their understanding of best practices for accommodating children with disabilities in a child advocacy setting. Participants will learn about biases and assumptions related to investigating cases, practical accommodations, and how these accommodations can be made within policy and practice to best serve child victims and witnesses with disabilities.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will be able to identify common biases regarding investigating cases with children with disabilities. 2. Participants will be able to describe the adaptations and considerations for accommodating children with disabilities in a child advocacy setting. 3. Participants will be able to recall pre-interview considerations for cases involving child victims and witnesses with disabilities.
<p>10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Breakout Sessions</u></p> <p>Investigating Crimes Against Children with Disabilities <i>Dermot Whelan</i></p> <p>This workshop is intended for law enforcement professionals who wish to increase their knowledge about the needs of crime victims with disabilities and learn about the most effective preliminary investigative steps to take when called to handle a matter involving a victim and/or witness with disabilities.</p>



At the conclusion of this workshop, participants will have increased understanding of the unique vulnerabilities for individuals with disabilities and specific strategies for an effective and successful investigation.

Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to describe the unique vulnerabilities to victimization for children with disabilities.
2. Participants will be able to identify effective strategies when responding to cases involving child victims and witnesses with disabilities.
3. Participants will be able to identify preliminary investigative considerations when investigating cases involving child victims and witnesses with disabilities.

Appropriate for all attendees

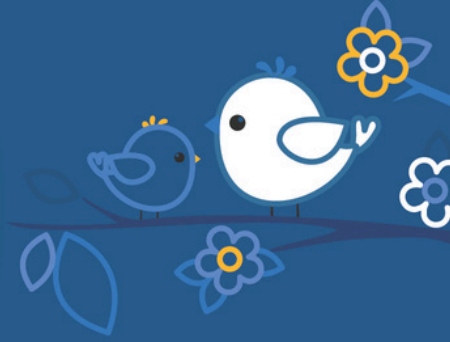
Pathways to Economic Stability: The Promise of Guaranteed Income Programs

Luke Waldo, MEd; Blake Roberts Crall, MS, MA

While Wisconsin defines neglect as the failure, refusal, or inability to care for a child for reasons other than poverty, we can't ignore the fact that 85% of families investigated by our child welfare system live below 200% of the federal poverty line. In 2023, Chapin Hall reported on the impacts of poverty on child neglect and abuse that shows that supports to families with low incomes, like those provided through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, reduce the risk of child maltreatment. What if we were to think about programs like TANF and Guaranteed Income that we commonly think of as anti-poverty programs as child maltreatment prevention programs that keep families together? How might we build partnerships across systems that empower the economic stability of overloaded families, so that we may change the conditions that overload families and make them vulnerable to our most intrusive systems?

Join us as we explore the impacts of poverty and economic instability on parental stress, child neglect, and child protective services; the impacts of economic stability on child and family well-being; the potential and promise of Guaranteed Income programs like the Madison Forward Fund; and how our Strong Families, Thriving Children, Connected Communities network can help advance these promising practices and policies for overloaded families.

**10:15 a.m. -
11:45 a.m.**



Objectives:

1. Explore the impacts of poverty and economic instability on parental stress, child neglect and child protective services exposure and involvement.
2. Explore the impacts of economic stability on child and family well-being.
3. Learn about Guaranteed Income and a local pilot, the Madison Forward Fund, how it was implemented, and its potential to improve family economic stability.
4. Learn about the Strong Families, Thriving Children, Connected Communities initiative and how to engage with its statewide network that seeks to advance practices and policies that improve family economic stability.

Appropriate for all attendees

Human Trafficking of Foreign Minors

Mariana Rodriguez, BA

This session will provide an in-depth overview of human trafficking involving foreign minors. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the unique vulnerabilities faced by foreign minors who become victims of trafficking, including the factors that make them more susceptible to exploitation. The session will cover the different forms of trafficking—such as sex trafficking and labor trafficking—and offer practical guidance on identifying signs of trafficking in minors. Attendees will also learn about the legal frameworks, local response efforts, and support services available to assist these vulnerable victims. Through case studies and real-life examples, participants will leave the session better equipped to recognize and respond to the trafficking of foreign minors in their communities.

Objective:

1. Attendees will be able to identify the types of human trafficking and recognize the signs of human trafficking of foreign minors.

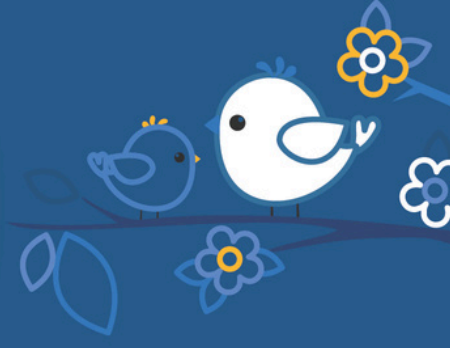
Beginner

What Lives in the Dark: Drug Endangerment and the CAC

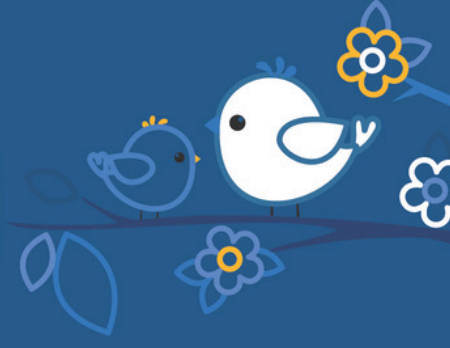
Samantha Nauman, MSW; Sarah Blodgett; Michael Thielke

It is critically important to capture the full experience of a drug endangered child, or we risk information living in the dark forever. This session is co-facilitated by a forensic interviewer and drug experts with a background in drug investigations. You will learn about what children may see or witness during acute or chronic situations of drug exposure and endangerment.

**10:15 a.m. -
11:45 a.m.**



<p>10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</p>	<p>As the trainers outline and describe common drug types, how they are made and used, what forms they come in, and how they affect an adult who uses them, we will begin to recognize the valuable information that can often be gathered from children about the prevalence of drugs and its impact on their safety. This drug overview will be paired with a forensic interviewer lens so that you are more likely to capture the nooks and crannies of the drug exposure these kids face head on. Approaches to screening and questioning children about drug exposure will be offered to highlight the importance of considering utilizing forensic interviews on drug endangerment cases.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain a comprehensive understanding of common drug types and trends we are facing in Wisconsin 2. Recognize the importance of getting drug endangered children to a child advocacy center when possible, and/or to a forensic interview 3. Engage in thinking about new areas to explore in the forensic interview, and as a result increase the details gathered around drug exposure <p>Intermediate</p>
<p>11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Breakout Sessions</u></p> <p>Confronting Myths of Child Sexual Abuse by Understanding Perpetrator Manipulation <i>Lynn Cook, MSW, APSW; Gerise LaSpisa</i></p> <p>With a strong understanding of each phase of perpetrator manipulation, the behaviors of children experiencing sexual abuse make sense. This presentation will cover the dynamics of perpetrator manipulation or “grooming” and how the court process can benefit from identifying, developing, and supporting experts who can educate juries to ensure just outcomes in the criminal justice system. This presentation will cover the dynamics of perpetrator manipulation or “grooming” and how the court process can benefit from identifying, developing, and supporting experts who can educate juries to ensure just outcomes in the criminal justice system.</p>



Objectives:

1. Participants will gain understanding about the phases of grooming and how they impact every aspect of a child's behavior before, during, and after abuse.
2. Observers will be made aware of foundational research in the area of child sexual abuse and how it can support expert testimony.
3. Participants will obtain information and resources for developing expertise in the area of child sexual abuse and will learn more about what to expect as an expert on a child sexual abuse case.
4. The audience will learn about ways that this kind of expert testimony can be structured for trials.

Appropriate for all attendees

Asking the Right Questions: Child Witnesses to Suspected Maltreatment

Hillary Petska, MD, MPH; Jacqueline Gremler, MS, CSW

One in four children experience maltreatment during their lifetime, with children younger than 1 year old having the highest rate of victimization. Gathering information, however, can be challenging in cases involving children who are too young to describe what they have experienced. Older siblings or other children in the home are often able to provide valuable information about how and/or when an injury occurred. This workshop will focus on what and how to ask child witnesses about suspected maltreatment when the victim cannot speak for themselves.

**12:45 p.m. -
2:15 p.m.**

Objectives:

1. Describe expected symptoms and common caregiver responses that can be observed with various types of injury in infants and young children.
2. Formulate questions to elicit information about injury mechanism and timing from child witnesses to suspected maltreatment.

Appropriate for all attendees

Learning Brain & Survival Brain: Understanding the Biology of Trauma

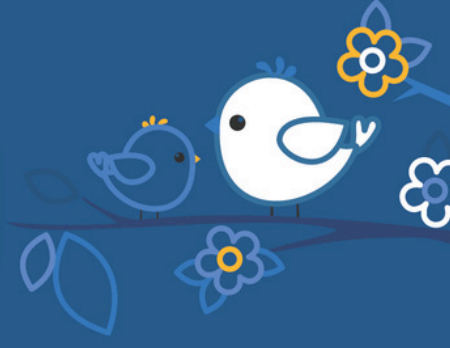
Ricky Ferrari Traner, CSW, MPA, CTICP

This workshop will provide a detailed explanation of how adversity affects human growth and development. Participants will leave this workshop with a greater understanding of and practical framework for applying trauma-informed care in their work.

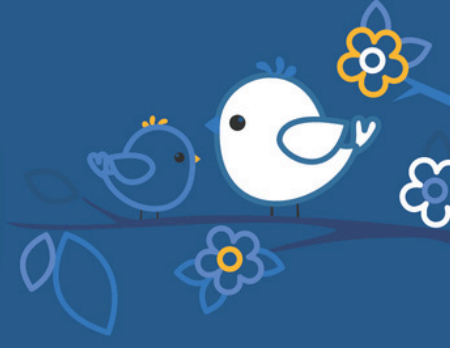
Objectives:

1. Participants will understand how adversity can affect child and adult biology & behavior
2. Participants will explore how to effectively apply trauma-informed care principles into practice

Appropriate for all attendees



	<p>Building a Culture of Safety: Fostering Quality Initiatives for Group Care Providers <i>Jeannette Paules, MSW; Katie Davis, MS, MPA</i></p> <p>Discover how the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families' child welfare licensing team (CWLS) and group care providers are working towards changing their relationship from purely oversight and regulation to one of communication and collaboration by focusing on empowering group care staff in utilizing safety science principles to improve the quality of care. In this session, learn how Practice Communities facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration, enabling providers to implement best practices and mitigate risks effectively. Discover the transformative role of the Safe Systems Improvement Tool for Congregate Care in driving systems change through data-driven decision-making and targeted interventions. And explore how Learning Labs foster a culture of safety, where knowledge sharing and reflection drive innovation.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will gain knowledge about DCF's Quality Initiatives with group care providers 2. Participants will identify the principles of psychological safety and mindful organizing 3. Participants will understand and complete the Safe Systems Improvement Tool for Congregate Care <p>Appropriate for all attendees</p>
<p>2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Child Discipline: "I turned out just fine!" <i>Kelly McGregory, DO, MS, FAAP</i></p> <p>This session will explore trends in child physical abuse and physical discipline, practice difficult conversations around child discipline and learn about advocacy opportunities to raise awareness about the harms of physical discipline.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants will describe current trends in child discipline 2. Participants will practice communication strategies for difficult conversations around child discipline 3. Participants will describe advocacy opportunities to explore and share with others <p>Appropriate for all attendees</p>



**2:30 p.m. -
4:00 p.m.**

The Role of CASA Volunteers in Supporting Youth Affected by Sex Trafficking

Meaghan Henry, BS; Cheri Dvorak, BA; Brianna Bero

Every year, countless young lives are endangered by sex trafficking, with youth in foster care being particularly vulnerable. Participants will gain insight into the unique challenges faced by youth in the child welfare system and explore how CASA volunteers can act as front-line advocates to support victims of trafficking and exploitation. The session includes an overview of sex trafficking risk factors, strategies for early intervention, and the vital importance of building trust with at-risk youth. Real-life success stories will illustrate how CASA in Dane County is working in collaboration with law enforcement, social services, and community partners to create meaningful change.

Objectives:

1. Understand the Role of CASA Volunteers: Participants will gain an understanding of the critical role that Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers (and other consistent caring adults) can play in supporting youth, particularly those in circumstances that put them at risk for sex trafficking, within the child welfare system.
2. Identify Risk Factors and Signs of Trafficking: Attendees will learn about the specific risk factors that make youth in the child welfare system more vulnerable to sex trafficking and exploitation. Additionally, participants will learn how to identify signs of trafficking, intervene effectively, and advocate for the necessary services to prevent exploitation of at-risk youth.
3. Explore Collaborative Efforts and Community Involvement: Attendees will understand the importance of working alongside law enforcement, social services, and community partners to address trafficking, and will explore opportunities for getting involved in anti-trafficking initiatives or volunteering with CASA in their own communities.

Appropriate for all attendees

Diaper Rash or Something Else? Ano-genital Skin Findings that Raise Concern for Maltreatment

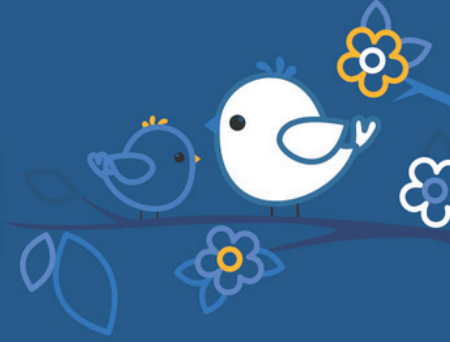
Amanda Palm, PA-C, LCSW

This presentation will review findings commonly seen when children are medically evaluated for concern of sexual abuse. The presentation will cover normal examination findings, medical mimics of abuse, and findings that should raise concern for the possibility of child sexual abuse.

Objectives:

1. Compare and contrast normal and abnormal genital findings in cases of suspected sexual abuse.
2. Describe multiple medical mimics of childhood sexual abuse.
3. Describe findings that do raise concern for possible childhood sexual abuse.

Appropriate for all audiences



**2:30 p.m. -
4:00 p.m.**

Childhood Begins at Home: How Family Foundations Home Visiting is Making a Difference.

Terri Enters, MS

Family Foundations Home Visiting (FFHV) is a collective of evidenced-based home visiting models working together across 40 counties and 6 federally recognized tribes. This session will focus on how home visiting contributes to strengthening families by uplifting caregivers and children to reach their fullest potential. The session will include lecture on how FFHV is organized, outcome data and success stories. There will be time for the opportunity to make collaborative connections with audience participants.

Objectives:

1. Participants will understand the structure of Family Foundations Home Visiting Program.
2. Participants will understand how evidence-based home visiting can lead to better outcomes for caregivers and children in their community.

Appropriate for all attendees