

2024 OJP Conference on Crime and Victimization

May 21-22, 2024

Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Office of Justice Programs



Welcome, Conference Attendees!

Thank you for attending the 2024 Office of Justice Programs Conference on Crime and Victimization. This is the 36th annual conference, and *we're glad you're here!* This e-booklet provides an overview of the sessions, speakers, and helpful information about the conference.

Conference Facility

The DoubleTree's Grand Ballroom East on the second floor serves as the central location for the conference, where you will find the registration table, exhibitor fair, and an elevator for easy access to all levels of the hotel. Breakout session rooms are located on the first and second floors. Designated way finders are ready to help you navigate our space.

OJP Conference Team – Available for You

The OJP Conference Team is made up of OJP staff and members of the Training Advisory Committee. They will be wearing green ribbons on their name tags during the conference and are here to assist you. Please bring any concerns or questions you have to their attention.

Commitment to Safety

OJP is dedicated to providing a conference experience for attendees that is inclusive, safe, accessible, and welcoming for all. We invite you to help us create and maintain this space of belonging to make it a positive experience for everyone. If related concerns arise during the conference, please connect with the [OJP Conference Director](#) or a Training Advisory Committee member. Any of these people are available in person or can be contacted by email. Their email addresses are linked to their names listed below. All conference team members have green ribbons on their name tags.

Mindfulness Room, Prayer Room, and Mothers' Room

The Video Conference Room on the first level has been designated as a space for our Mindfulness Room and Prayer Room, a quiet space you can use during the conference. This comfortable, technology-free space allows attendees to take care of themselves, whether it be for processing a session, taking time for reflection, or meditation. A separate Mothers' Room can be accessed through the hotel's front desk and/or the conference director. We're grateful to have these spaces and thank you for respecting others who use the rooms by engaging in quiet activities when in or near the rooms.

Exhibitor Fair – Veranda Rooms

Organizations throughout the state can be found tabling at the Exhibitor Fair, located in the Veranda Rooms 1-4, found near the Grand East ballroom on the second floor. Visit throughout the conference to see and hear what agencies are doing and whom they are serving.

Evaluation Forms

Following each session and keynote, you'll have the opportunity to provide feedback and insight into the session via a short evaluation form distributed by a conference team member. These evaluations are used to evaluate the effectiveness of individual speakers and the quality and relevance of topics they present. In addition, we want your feedback on the overall conference format and content. The longer evaluation is used to make improvements to next year's conference and will be emailed to everyone after the conference concludes. Thank you in advance for completing these evaluations.

Turn in Your Lanyard!

Attendees can enter a name tag drawing for a chance to win a grand prize at the end of our conference, as well as other prizes provided by the exhibitors. Lanyards can be dropped in the boxes located at the OJP resource/exhibitor table. The drawing will take place five minutes after closing remarks, and you must be present to win.

Continuing Education Units/Credits

Professional continuing education credits have been applied for in *some* of the workshop sessions. A complete list of the sessions and types of credits that were approved can be found at the end of this e-booklet.

Training Advisory Committee

Thank you to the Training Advisory Committee for their guidance, support, and dedication throughout the year. Without their help in preparation and assistance, the conference would not be possible.

[Christina Busse](#) | [Monique Drier Sutton](#) | [Sarah Edstrom](#) | [Suzanne Elwell](#) | [Rebecca Kutty](#) | [Katie Rojas-Jahn](#) | [Guadalupe Lopez](#) | [Becca Muskat](#) | [Caroline Palmer](#) | [Farji Shaheer](#) | [Brenda Skogman](#) | [Drea Stephani](#) | [Ashley Sturz-Griffith](#) | [Thi Synavone](#) |



A Message from the Commissioner

Dear conference participants,

On behalf of all of us at the Department of Public Safety (DPS), welcome to the 2024 Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Conference on Crime and Victimization.

This year marks the 36th time OJP has brought dedicated public servants together to share information on the latest research and learn how to best serve the people of your communities. This multi-disciplinary conference is for anyone whose work puts them in contact with victim survivors. This includes victim advocates, tribal services and law enforcement officers, prosecutors, criminal justice professionals, and many others.

We are grateful for the dedication you have for Minnesotans when they need it the most. Your presence makes it clear that you value current research, education, information-sharing, and networking — and that you want to use all of these tools to help make Minnesota a safer place to live.

While you are here, we hope you engage in thoughtful discussions about the consistent changes we face within the challenging work we do. Keynote panelists from our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office will share how they coordinated across established systems to collaborate in new and meaningful ways during their first fully-staffed year of activities. Other guests will address the dismantling of systemic barriers that have historically prevented us from embracing equity.

The work we do changes lives. It starts with education, outreach and prevention and leads to tireless hours of response, support and recovery. The people we serve deserve strong and stable professionals to lead them through their worst days. Whether it's strengthening our knowledge of victims' rights, intervening during crises, restoring relationships, reforming established systems, or taking care of yourself, we hope this conference arms you with new information and resources you need to stay resilient in this meaningful work.

This is an opportunity for all of us to make new connections and strengthen existing bonds. The sessions go beyond short-term topics to explore enduring principles of agency collaboration, increasing organizational capacity, and applying best practices to center the voices of survivors.


On behalf of Gov. Tim Walz, Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, and everyone at DPS, thank you for all you do for the people of Minnesota, and thank you for being here.

Have a great conference,

Bob Jacobson

Commissioner

Minnesota Department of Public Safety.



7:00 a.m. Registration Table Opens

Grand Ballroom East Foyer

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Light Breakfast

Garden Court

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

Opening Performance: “From Tears of a Son That Survived the Storms”

Grand Ballroom East Stage

October, M.A.C. House Productions

Welcome ■ Kate Weeks, Executive Director, OJP, followed by Remarks from DPS Commissioner, Bob Jacobson

Keynote Panel 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Grand Ballroom East Stage

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office (MMIR): Cross-Systems Response, Coordination and Collaboration

MMIR Office Director Juliet Rudie, MMIR Community Planner Ana Negrete, MMIR Violence Prevention Coordinator Tawny Smith-Savage, MMIR Public Information Officer Amber Schindeldecker

This keynote panel presentation will provide powerful viewpoints to the work the MMIR Office has responded to and offer insight to victim service providers about cross-systems response, coordination and collaboration on MMIR cases. Discussion will include the importance of building relationships with multidisciplinary community partners prior to responding to a case to improve outcomes, what to do when a loved one goes missing, and how to assist families through the connection to online resources. Significant developments in the MMIR Office, including the creation of the MMIR Advisory Board, the development of search kits, the Gaagige Mikwendaagoziwag Reward Fund Board and other progress related to addressing the 20 mandates outlined in the 2019 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s Task Force Report will be covered. Lastly, the panelists will discuss how victim services can support Indigenous survivors, perpetrators and communities in their own work.

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Morning Refreshment Break in the Exhibitor Hall – Veranda Rooms 1-4

Transition to Breakout Sessions

Tuesday Morning - Breakout Session 1 ■ 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Heartmind Healing

Carrie Garcia, Carrie Your Yogi

Plaza 1

Heartmind Healing is a 90-minute mindfulness and movement practice accessible to every BODY. *Carrie Your Yogi* will lead you in helpful exercises that increase resilience in the physical and emotional bodies. Heartmind is the deep connection between the feeling center of the body (the heart) and the thinking master board (the mind). The heart influences the mind in each moment. Our bodies are sensory receivers that regularly absorb stress and tension. Our mind moves to protect the body from the stressors by thinking, problem solving, worrying, and increasing overall anxiety. We can practice strengthening the heart and decreasing anxiety by giving the heart kind attention, loving awareness and focusing compassion towards the mind. Participants will move, sit and lie down throughout this practice. Every BODY will be accommodated. Comfortable clothing is encouraged. Water, your favorite (3-4 min) song to move to, headphones (optional), a pen and paper, yoga mat or floor, cushions and/or pillows and blankets will be used to support bodies. Bring what YOUR body needs.

Child Abduction: Patterns, Profiles and Prevention

Alison Feigh, MS, Zero Abuse Project

Plaza 2

Coverage of child abduction is often reactionary, focused on a specific case, and leaves the audience feeling helpless to protect. This session highlights the academic study and learning around the topic of child abduction with an intentional focus around patterns that emerge, profiles of abductors and targets, and replicable prevention strategies. This session intends to move past the shock value fear and into what is known about these specific crimes against children.

Testifying as an Expert Witness

Jeff Edblad, Isanti County Attorney, and G. Paul Beaumaster, Assistant Dakota County Attorney

Plaza 3

Testifying at trial can be a stressful experience for those who serve victims. This session will outline and discuss common topics that advocates, forensic interviewers, social workers and health care providers are generally called upon to testify about and lead a discussion on tips for testifying as both a lay witness and expert witness in a way that takes the uncertainty out of effective court testifying.

Working with Victims with Severe Mental Illness

Madison Haeg, LGSW, Minnesota Alliance on Crime Board Member, and Becca Muskat, MA, Minnesota Alliance on Crime

Plaza 4

"They are listening in the walls." Where are the lines between trauma response, victimization, and severe mental illness? What do you do when a victim is delusional or hallucinating? Advocates working with victims of crimes are often educated and trained in basic information regarding mental health symptoms and causes, but when symptoms more resemble psychosis the line between advocacy and therapy starts to blur. In this session, advocates will be reminded of how to differentiate between the role of an advocate and that of a mental health professional. This session will also focus on de-escalation techniques and ways to mediate a mental health crisis with examples from the presenters' own experiences. Boundaries are also discussed when behavior is unacceptable or when needs are outside the scope of your role.

Meet Them Where They're At: Incorporating Harm Reduction Principals in Your Anti-Violence Work

Plaza 5

Ashley Taylor-Gougé, Sexual Violence Center

The cyclical relationship between sexual violence and substance use poses significant challenges for victims and survivors as both experiences carry individual stigma and shame. This session explores the Sexual Violence Center's (SVC) journey in integrating harm reduction principles into our rape crisis center programming through a purposeful collaboration with a local nonprofit, particularly focusing on opioids. Participants will gain practical insights into incorporating harm reduction into daily anti-violence work, extending support beyond survivors who use substances to recognizing and addressing the various intersections they navigate. Emphasizing a holistic, person-centered approach, the presentation aims to dismantle the barriers of stigma and shame, positioning SVC as an asset to the community at large. Additionally, participants will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to identify and respond to opioid overdoses through the administration of Naloxone, further empowering them to provide comprehensive support to survivors and make positive contributions to the broader community.

Unrecognized American Citizen

Plaza 6

Farji Shaheer, Innovative Solutions

The Unrecognized American Citizen breakout session unpacks some of the trauma that individuals experience within levels of care at various institutions. It challenges the unconscious bias and judgment that are at play when interacting with members of Native and African American communities. The presentation highlights discrepancies in the treatment of these communities in the media and society at large and the systemic barriers that Unrecognized American Citizens face that dehumanize or devalue their lives within multiple institutions due to the perception of others.

The War Within: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response in the Minnesota National Guard

Bloomington

Dawn Shewmaker, MSW, and Nikki Kelly, MS, Minnesota National Guard

How the U.S. Military addresses sexual assaults is significantly changing, and the Minnesota National Guard is at the forefront of many of these changes. Session attendees will gain a greater awareness of the military presence and structure in Minnesota. After exploring the historical and legal impetuses for the changes, attendees will be introduced to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program and other associated military initiatives. The presenters will also provide an overview of the response options available to sexual assault victims and discuss military/civilian intersections as well as collaborative opportunities.

**Lunch Break 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Garden Court (Wear name badge to receive a conference meal)
Visit the Exhibitor Hall in the Veranda Rooms 1-4**

Tuesday Afternoon Breakout Session 2 ■ 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Somos Comunidad/We Are Community: The Role of Men and Masculine Folks in Creating Safer Communities

Plaza 1

Sean Hayes, Men As Peacemakers, and Felix Martinez-Paz, Esperanza United

This interactive workshop created in partnership between Men As Peacemakers and Esperanza United introduces new approaches to engaging and equipping men in the Latinx community in community-level prevention of sex trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence. During this session, participants will access culturally-specific, practical tools for helping men identify their role in building safe, connected and healing communities for those impacted by violence.

Fostering Healing Centered Leadership

Plaza 2

Suzanne Koeplinger, MA, Catalyst North Consulting, Ed Heisler, Men As Peacemakers, and Rebeka Ndosu, Maji Ya Chai Land Sanctuary

The accumulated grief and exhaustion in the sector is evident as physical and emotional depletion shows up in high turnover rates and burn out. As community needs swell, resources and human capacity contract, leaving those in leadership and direct service roles struggling to find balance between personal and professional responsibilities, often relying upon old ways of doing our work that no longer serve us. This session will bring people together to explore how confronting individual, organizational and sector habits and envisioning the big, interconnected leaps toward the worldview we want to leave to the next generations lead to revitalized hope, health, strategy and capacity for growth in the sector. Lessons learned from a 2023 leadership cohort pilot will be shared. Participants will be invited to join in interactive practices to identify personal and organizational habits that settle our central nervous system and nurture compassion, creative problem solving and non-judgmental thinking.

Responding to Labor Trafficking and Exploitation in Noncitizen Youth

Plaza 3

Madeline Lohman, Advocates for Human Rights, and Cedar Weyker, Esq., Advocates for Human Rights

Drawing on lessons learned from recent cases, The Advocates for Human Rights will present best practices and areas for improvement in Minnesota's response to the labor trafficking and exploitation of noncitizen youth. These cases are complex, with schools, families, child protection, law enforcement, labor agencies, service providers, and attorneys all playing crucial roles. Noncitizen youth trapped in trafficking situations are entitled to protection and benefits, but their ability to secure those benefits depends on the knowledgeable, prompt actions of the community. Come ready to discuss how you can play a role in developing a consistent protocol for children who experience labor trafficking and exploitation!

More than Capes and Spandex: Connecting through Comic Books

Plaza 4

Sarah Edstrom

Comic books have served as a source of entertainment for over 100 years. But what if they could be used for connection and healing? Sarah will share her experiences of connecting to youth and survivors of crime through comic books. Get to know the backstories of famous characters and meet some lesser-known characters. Learn about characters who have experienced real-world issues. Explore diversity within comics and comic book creators. Learn how to design your own character. Get real practice dealing with someone who is ultra-mega excited to talk about comics by watching Sarah geek out for the entire session!

Disclosure to Sentencing: Supporting Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Violence through the Criminal Justice Process Plaza 5

Anne LaFrinier-Ritchie, Someplace Safe, and Carly Hiti, PAVSA

Adolescents aged 13-17 fall into a unique category when it comes to being the victim-survivor of a crime. Oftentimes professionals struggle to gauge an adolescent's level of understanding of systems and ability to process the information we typically provide to victim-survivors throughout the criminal justice process. This presentation will walk attendees through how each step of the process, from initial disclosure to a victim-impact statement and sentencing, can be approached with a youth-centered, trauma-informed lens. Presenters will provide practical skills and information for attendees to better understand and support teenagers through the system by keeping them informed and involved in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Strangulation: What you Don't Know CAN Kill You

Bloomington

Jane Straub, CornerHouse

Strangulation and suffocation often occur within abusive and violent relationships and acts. Often the victim doesn't recognize signs and symptoms such as loss of consciousness, labored breathing, hoarse and rasping vocalizations and delayed symptoms such as dizziness, nausea and blood clots. Unfortunately, many professionals also miss the symptoms and fail to screen for strangulation and/or suffocation. If you work with victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and general assault, adding screening questions is imperative. Not only is strangulation a felony, it is also potentially deadly immediately and delayed for victims. Please join this session to be introduced to the basics of strangulation and suffocation.

Outside the Lines

Plaza 6

Karen Wussow, Author and Survivor

In this powerful story, Karen describes her journey from poverty, neglect and abuse to her current position as a licensed social worker. Removed from her alcoholic parents at age nine, Karen was placed in an orphanage and a succession of foster homes, where she was virtually abandoned by child protection services. Through sheer will and perseverance, Karen overcame huge barriers and reached her goal of becoming a social worker.

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Afternoon Refreshment Break

Exhibitor Hall – Veranda Rooms 1-4

Tuesday Afternoon - Breakout Session 3 ■ 3:30– 4:30 p.m.

From Stress to Wellness through Meditation

Plaza 1

Arvind Naik and Ashwini Naik, Science of Spirituality Meditation Center, Minneapolis

The ancient tradition of meditation has become even more valuable for people of our modern times. People today still face a great deal of turmoil in their private lives and in the world, however, meditation is a tool that can be used to cope with the challenges of everyday life and reduce stress. There are many benefits that come from meditation on a physical, emotional and spiritual level. During this engaging workshop, you will learn a simple, time-tested technique and even have the chance to try this out! Please join Arvind Naik and Ashwini Naik, long time meditators, for this powerful workshop guiding us through introduction, conversation and explanation of technique and a brief 10-20 minutes practice of meditation.

. . . and Sexual Violence: Improving Services to Sexual Violence Survivors at Dual and Multi-Service Agencies, Part 1

Plaza 2

Ashley Sturz-Griffith, Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA), and Jude Foster, Cornerstone

Prepare to enter a challenging but non-judgmental space as we discuss improving services to sexual violence survivors at dual and multi-service agencies. Since the late 1990s, domestic violence programs began offering sexual violence services while still using similar delivery models. While domestic and sexual violence are overlapping issues in many ways, survivors of these types of violence often need different advocacy responses. The facilitators will detail how these agencies can identify and improve services to sexual violence survivors in their communities through community outreach, helpline calls, support groups and safety planning. The Session is geared towards advocates working in dual and multi-service agencies, but anyone engaged in both the sexual violence and domestic violence movements is encouraged to attend. Part one was presented at the 2023 OJP Conference. Join this session for a refresher if you attended last year.

Housing Challenges for Immigrant Families and Singles

Plaza 3

Maitzeng Chang, Asian Women United of Minnesota

Asian Women United of Minnesota (AWUM) has been working with immigrant families and singles since the mid-1990s. AWUM's mission is to end domestic violence by promoting safe and healthy relationships within the AAPI community and beyond. As AWUM continues their mission, housing has been a constant barrier for families and singles to overcome. For this workshop, we will be discussing specific housing challenges that immigrant families and singles face, the ways advocates utilize for their housing, and finally, share testimonials from participants.

Violations of DANCOS, OFPs, and HROs: Are they really intimate partner violence? A prosecution and law enforcement perspective . . . and the answer is YES.

Plaza 4

Wendy Murphy, Rice County Attorney's Office, and Sgt. Matt Long, Faribault Police Department

Protective order violations can be difficult to prosecute because the offender may be using social media, which is hard to track or capture; the offender may be utilizing a masking app which conceals their identity; the protected party may appear as a willing participant in the violation and/or violations rarely include acts of physical violence. Defense attorneys and courts frequently characterize protective order violations as "technical" or "less egregious," which reinforces what the offender has often said to the protected party, thereby giving victims the impression "the system" does not care about the violation. This session will discuss protective orders, how prosecutors and law enforcement view those orders and provide insight into how to create institutional knowledge throughout your organization or practice to combat society's incorrect perception of protective orders. We will also examine how to deal with protective orders that are amended to allow contact but prohibit assaultive or harassing contact.

Adolescent Sexual Intimate Partner Victimization: Research-to-Practice Using Quantitative Intersectionality Methods

Cory Cole, MPH, Minnesota Department of Health, and Marissa Raguette, MPH, Minnesota Department of Health

Plaza 5

In the first half of the session, researchers from the Minnesota Department of Health and University of Minnesota will share findings and lessons learned from using quantitative intersectionality methods to assess patterns of adolescent intimate partner sexual violence victimization in a statewide survey. In addition to the findings themselves, researchers will describe the methodological challenges of meaningfully utilizing an intersectionality framework in quantitative research and the iterative process used to structure the investigation around community experiences and the needs of practitioners. In the second half of the session, workshop participants will be invited to share their own reflections on the presented methods and findings to further generate implications for practice.

Restorative Parenting: Resetting, Rebuilding & Strengthening Parent-Child Relationships in the Aftermath of High Stress, Trauma or Violence in the Family – Part 1

Plaza 6

David Mathews, PsyD, LICSW

This will be a series of two workshop sessions focused on Restorative Parenting Practices and Strategies to apply and use in the work being done with parents and families where the children have experienced high stress, trauma and violence in the home. The sessions will be primarily focused on the implementation and application of information, principles and actual Restorative Parenting tools. Many of the strategies will also be useful in working with youth or adults who are parents. It will be done in a combined presentation and consultation format so the information can be used specifically by the team members in real life work situations through the interaction between the presenter and the attendees gained in both 60-minute sessions. This is the first of two sessions, with the second session offered on Wednesday during the 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. time slot. Please attend both presentations for their mutually cohesive benefit.

Tuesday Afternoon - 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

4:30-6:00 p.m. Social Hour in the Garden Court

Joint Coalition and OJP sponsored

Whether you're staying for the evening or heading out, please stop by for an informal gathering to enjoy appetizers and refreshments and a chance to relax and connect with colleagues.

Self-Care Opportunities | All are welcome!

Carve out space and time for relaxation, self-care and empowerment through movement.

Tuesday Evening 4:45 – 5:30 p.m.

Pilates for All

Atrium 1

Julie Marie Muskat, Founder, Deeper Waters Arts & Mind/Body Center

No experience required. Through low-impact exercise with emphasis on core strength and proper form, each workout provides the information and guidance to practice the skills of coordination, strength, endurance, balance and integration and the opportunity to try new challenges every time. Pilates is useful for any age or occupation, and this class allows participants to connect with and strengthen their own bodily knowledge and to cultivate healthy, happy and whole selves.

Wednesday Morning 6:30 – 7:30 a.m.

Yoga Fusion

Atrium 1

Julie Marie Muskat, Founder, Deeper Waters Arts & Mind/Body Center

Flow through a mind/body class together that incorporates Pilates and somatic principles into Vinyasa-style yoga. This class is for all ages and abilities and provides options for modification or amplification of movement every step of the way. Explore flexibility, strength, mindfulness, and finish the class with a relaxing meditation.



DAY TWO – WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Light Breakfast

Garden Court

7:30 a.m. Registration Table Opens

Grand Ballroom East Foyer

Wednesday Morning - Breakout Session 4 ■ 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Minnesota Criminal Justice Reforms and the Impact on Victims

Plaza 1

Bobbi Holtberg, Minnesota Alliance on Crime, Kelly Nicholson, Dakota County Attorney's Office, and Liz Richards, Minnesota Department of Corrections

The Minnesota Legislature has passed a number of criminal justice reforms over the past few sessions that have direct impact on crime victims/survivors. We will walk through the most recent reforms, the statutory mandates for victim notification and best practices for providing trauma-responsive notification and advocacy. Most of these reforms result in the possibility of an offender's early release from probation, supervised release and incarceration. Most of the original sentences were made as part of a plea agreement that a victim/survivor participated in and potentially agreed with. Now, those sentences are being impacted by new legislation. Many victims have moved on with their lives, believing they knew how long the offender would be under supervision or incarcerated, and when they receive notification that the sentence is now not what they believed it would be, many will feel re-victimized and triggered.

Criminals and Victims: Trauma Recovery in Re-entry Services

Plaza 2

Marvin Clark, Larcell Mack and Ted Thompson, Emerge Community Development

This workshop explores the complex intersections of crime, victimization, incarceration and trauma through the lived experiences of the presenters and their work to initiate trauma recovery groups within a reentry services program. The presenters will discuss and take questions on learnings from these groups, de-identified stories and feedback and outcome data. What experiences of trauma, crime and victimization were common among participants? How do group participants perceive their own trauma? How do participants see understanding trauma as affecting their past involvement with crime, their experiences of incarceration, their recovery and their future likelihood to re-offend? What stories and experiences can we learn from and apply to our work to reduce crime in Minnesota? How and why should reentry programs offer mental health and trauma recover supports?

Journey Towards Collective Care: A 40-Hour Sexual Assault Advocacy Training Approach

Plaza 3

Schoua Na Yang and Tracy Thao, Transforming Generations

In this session, Transforming Generations (TG) will show how the Hmong value of collective care can transform community-based sexual assault advocacy, engaging both professional advocates, as well as the everyday community members who are often the first point of contact for many victims and survivors. Through interactive group discussions and activities taken from TG's 40-hour Sexual Assault Advocacy Manual and Training Program (in development), participants will be introduced to a new paradigm for advocacy: *"Advocacy as Collective Care."* The core values and ways of practicing *"Advocacy as Collective Care"* are not just for Hmong advocates or mainstream advocates serving Hmong victims. Incorporating these values and practices can help *all* community-based advocacy programs better meet the complex needs of victims across their individual lifespans, but also across their connections to family, clan and community.

Restorative Justice and People Who Have Been Harmed

Plaza 4

Kara Beckman, MA, University of Minnesota Healthy Youth Development Prevention Research Center, Michele Braley, MSW, LICSW, Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice MN, Sal Lee, Carlton County Restorative Justice Program, Dr. Tamara Mattison, PhD., Generation 2 Generation

Research consistently demonstrates people who have been victimized by crime feel more heard, respected and healed when the harm caused to them is addressed through restorative justice compared to traditional legal system approaches. However, several recent evaluations of restorative justice approaches in Minnesota have recommended programs improve their engagement levels of people harmed. This session will invite panelists and attendees to unpack some of the beliefs and assumptions that get in the way of meaningful accountability that truly brings together the experiences of those who have been harmed and caused harm to determine the path forward. We will invite perspectives on shared accountability for harm (especially harm caused by children and youth), what we believe meaningful accountability looks like in different situations and whether a focus on healing rather than punishment can begin to heal us all.

Crisis Intervention

Plaza 5

Farji Shaheer, Innovative Solutions

The purpose of this session is to educate on how to develop genuine bonds with participants/clients who are traumatized or dealing with crisis. Every client/participant communicates in a different style/technique, and to better serve the population as staff we need to communicate effectively to understand the situations and crises that our participants face. There are multiple resources when dealing with individuals in crisis, but the most valuable resource is an effective staff member.

Taming the Roar: Strengthening Emotional Regulation Practices in High-Stress Environments

Bloomington

Johnanna Ganz, PhD, Johnanna Ganz Consulting, LLC

Working in chronically stressful environments, like crime and victimization response services, impacts our minds, bodies and spirits—even when we know our work matters to us, our neighbors and communities. Chronic stress reduces our capacity to stay emotionally connected and manage stress in ways that support our wellbeing. Join us to learn more about *emotional regulation*—building the skills, practices and routines that increase our ability to effectively channel emotions in ways that increase our sense of wellbeing and stability. Regulation is not about stopping, minimizing or avoiding feelings. It's about acknowledging your emotions and processing them in ways that leave you better and healthier for having done so. A highly interactive conversation focused on supporting your emotional regulation skills when working in high-stress environments, the emphasis in this session will be on individual skills paired with tools to reduce the structural conditions causing chronic or high stress work environments.

Creating and Sustaining Transformative Programming

Laura Thro, M.P.S., ThroKindness

Plaza 6

In this workshop, we will delve into the creation and maintenance of transformational programming using specific examples the presenter has created and implemented in her own work. The distinction between transactional and transformational programming and providing valuable insights for those aiming to design and sustain transformational programs will be discussed. Drawing upon a case study of a successful transformational program that has positively impacted more than 500 students in three years, we will identify the core elements of a program, establish methods for monitoring its progress, and ensure it remains transformational as it scales. This session will equip you with practical strategies to create and sustain programs that drive meaningful and lasting change in people's lives.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Morning Refreshment Break in the Exhibitor Hall – Veranda Rooms 1-4

Please transition to the Grand Ballroom East for the Keynote Plenary Speakers

Keynote Plenary 10:30 a.m.

Embracing Equity: A Guide for Dismantling Structural Barriers in Systems

Grand Ballroom East Stage

Connie Rhodes and Nate Carter, Culturally Competent Consulting

This engaging keynote address is designed to confront the multifaceted structural barriers faced by clients in accessing services and navigating systems. Specifically, we will explore barriers to services like healthcare, human services, and the criminal justice system. It examines the structural barriers embedded within these systems and provides strategies and tools for effectively dismantling them. By examining and dismantling these structural barriers, this seminar can help empower attendees and improve the effectiveness of support services. Join us to be a part of reshaping the future of inclusivity and fostering an equitable society.

Lunch Break 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Garden Court (Wear name badge to receive a conference meal)

Award Ceremony 12:45 p.m.

Exhibitor Hall Open in the Veranda Rooms 1-4

Wednesday Afternoon - Breakout Session 5 ■ 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Victim Privacy Rights in Criminal Prosecutions; Lessons from In Re Hope Coalition

Wendy Murphy and Sean McCarthy, Rice County Attorney's Office

Plaza 1

This session will discuss recent changes related to crime victims' privacy rights in criminal cases based on recent case law and new amendments to the Rules of Criminal Procedure. The presenters will detail how these changes differ from the traditional view of victim records in criminal cases, the impact these changes have on prosecuting criminal cases in terms of admissible evidence, and practical tips on how to educate the bench, the defense bar and victim service providers on these changes. The presenters will provide actual case examples, as well as best practices for making a strong district court record that will be useful for pre-trial appeals or extraordinary writs.

. . . and Sexual Violence: Improving Services to Sexual Violence Survivors at Dual and Multi-Service Agencies – Part 2

Ashley Sturz-Griffith, Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA), and Jude Foster, Cornerstone

Plaza 2

Prepare to enter a challenging but non-judgmental space as we discuss improving services to sexual violence survivors at dual and multi-service agencies. Since the late 1990s, domestic violence programs began offering sexual violence services while still using similar delivery models. While domestic and sexual violence are overlapping issues in many ways, survivors of these types of violence often need different advocacy responses. The facilitators will detail how these agencies can identify and improve services to the sexual violence survivors in their communities through community outreach, helpline calls, support groups and safety planning. The session is geared towards advocates working in dual and multi-service agencies, but anyone engaged in both the sexual violence and domestic violence movements is encouraged to attend. *Part one will be presented on Tuesday during the 3:30- 4:30 p.m. breakouts; this is the second of two parts.*

Indigenous Legacy “Community is Sacred”

Christy Goulet, Indigenous Legacy

Plaza 3

Christy Goulet will share how Indigenous Legacy has implemented a new community service program in collaboration with Clay County Drug Court to help individuals/Indigenous peoples lower the rate of incarceration and recidivism. She will talk about how the program has helped previously incarcerated Indigenous peoples find gainful employment, help with substance-use disorder and housing and connect to Indigenous Culture. Also discussed will be how programming data show the advantages over incarceration and the overall positive impact a community service program can provide to an area.

Synergizing Victim Services and Community Policing through Leadership, Cultural Intelligence and Innovative Training in Law Enforcement Education

Plaza 4

Dr. Shawn Williams, EdD, Alexandria Community and Technical College

The transformative landscape of police recruit education will be explored in this dynamic workshop. Delve into the pivotal role of leadership, unveiling strategies within law enforcement education that build community trust through transparent and victim-centric practices. Journey into the realm of cultural intelligence, discovering how its integration into police recruit education enhances community policing and fosters better communication with diverse victims, contributing to more inclusive victim services. Uncover the power of innovative training methodologies specifically tailored for community-oriented policing and designed to strengthen relations and improve responsiveness to victim needs. Join us to understand how these educational approaches shape a new generation of law enforcement professionals committed to empathy, collaboration and community well-being.

Restorative Parenting: Resetting, Rebuilding and Strengthening Parent-Child Relationships in the Aftermath of High Stress, Trauma or Violence in the Family – Part 2

Plaza 5

David Mathews, PsyD, LICSW

This will be the second of two sessions focused on Restorative Parenting Practices and Strategies to apply and use in the work being done with parents and families where the children have experienced high stress, trauma and violence in the home. The sessions will be primarily focused on the implementation and application of information, principles and actual Restorative Parenting tools. Many of the strategies will also be useful in working with youth or adults who are parents. It will be done in a combined presentation and consultation format so the information can be used specifically by the team members in real life work situations through the interaction between the presenter and the attendees gained in both 60-minute sessions. *The first of the two sessions will be held on Tuesday during the 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. time slot. This is the second session. Please attend both presentations for their mutually cohesive benefit.*

Standing Up for Gender-Based Violence Survivors

Plaza 6

Mikki Morrissette, Minnesota Women's Press, and Guadalupe Lopez, Violence Free Minnesota

Bystanders curricula and toolkits help people learn how to support victims of exploitation, assault and domestic violence. Yet advocates report that survivors continue to feel isolated in confronting these issues, not always wanting to get police involved as a way to get behaviors to stop, being afraid to put loved ones in harm's way and not always hearing men stand up to bad behavior from other men. In this Q&A, we will interactively discuss — with a few advocates and then the audience — what survivors would like to see happen and how that offers additional alternatives to 911. Minnesota Women's Press has been connecting with gender-based violence advocates for a few years. This interactive Q&A will be the basis for continuing conversations and stories that can be shared statewide.

Addressing Victims' Needs Throughout the Post-conviction Process

Bloomington

Claire Exley, MS, Healing Justice, and Carrie Sperling, JD, Minnesota Attorney General's Office

Crime victims and survivors are the first to be hurt and often the last to be remembered. In many cases, case activity continues long after a conviction and sentence. However, most victims and survivors are led to believe that a conviction equates to closure and finality. Rarely are victims and survivors provided with details about post-conviction case activity, which can often leave victims and survivors unprepared for a variety of re-traumatizing events. The Minnesota Attorney General's Office Conviction Review Unit, along with Healing Justice, will share their experiences and knowledge with engaging victims and survivors throughout the post-conviction case activity and process. Presenters will go in depth about the unique needs of victims/survivors in the post-conviction setting and best practices to provide support and services. Presenters will share examples and specific instances of how and when service providers can engage victims/survivors in a trauma-informed, sensitive and equitable way.

Conference Closing ■ 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Please transition to the Grand Ballroom East Stage

Reshaping our Hope Chantel Randle, MSW, TellaWorks

We will discuss how to take care of ourselves as we go back out into the world to help others, and how we must first restore, reshape and reframe our own hope with everything we heard to better our community and clients by first taking time to see the hope in ourselves.

Closing Ceremony ■ Prize Drawings *(must be present to win)*

Overall prizes are given at the end of the conference, including the grand prize of free conference registration next year!

Speaker Biographies



Paul Beaumaster

Dakota County Attorney's Office

Paul Beaumaster serves as an Asst. Dakota County Attorney IV. Mr. Beaumaster was the elected Rice County Attorney from 1999-2014. Prior to being Rice County Attorney, he served as an Asst. Isanti County Attorney. He attended the University of Arkansas School of Law and received a Master of Law (LL.M.) degree, J.D. from Mitchell Hamline School of Law and a bachelor's degree with majors in History, English, Business and Economics from Cornell College. Mr. Beaumaster has earned the Julius E. Gernes Prosecutor Award of Excellence, the MN State Bar Association; the Johnson Distinguished Service Award, and has been recognized by the MN County Attorney's Association.



Kara Beckman, MA



[U of M Healthy Youth Development Prevention Research Center](#)

Kara Beckman (she/her) is an applied researcher at the University of Minnesota's Healthy Youth Development Prevention Research Center. She partners with school- and community-based practitioners and local government agencies to develop meaningful, developmentally-tailored approaches to learn about restorative justice with young people. She fills her soul by being near water or in forests, growing and cooking good food, spending time with loved ones or attending Lynx games.



Michele Braley, MSW, LICSW

[Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice MN](#)

Michele Braley (she/her) became familiar with restorative justice while working for Hennepin County when she helped develop and facilitate re-entry circles for people leaving prison. For the past 15 years, she has led Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice, which is dedicated to cultivating a culture where restorative justice is the preferred choice in response to many types of harm and crime. She is a facilitator for Victim-Offender Dialogues in crimes of severe violence for the Department of Corrections. She is the co-author of the study, "Challenges and Opportunities to Using RJ for Gender-based Violence." She has presented her research by invitation of the MN Justice Research Center and National Association of Social Workers – MN Chapter.



Nate Carter ■ Keynote Speaker
[Restoration, Inc., | Culturally Competent Consulting](#)

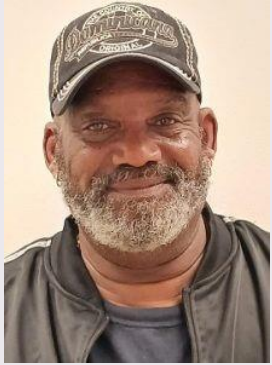
Nate Carter is a leader and a profound force for transformation, whose passionate commitment to social justice resonates with unparalleled power and purpose. As a distinguished author, thought leader, and fervent kingdom builder, Nate's contributions illuminate paths towards a more equitable and just society. With a formidable foundation in Physics and Applied Mathematics from Stony Brook University, enhanced by advanced studies at prestigious institutions, Nate has transformed his mastery of data analytics into a dynamic tool for social innovation. His tenure at Apple was marked not just by technical prowess but by a visionary approach that championed inclusivity and accessibility, reshaping technological engagement. Amidst its complex tapestry of vibrancy and challenge, Nate's leadership shines as a beacon of hope in Minneapolis through initiatives like the Hope Project and the FATHER Project, where he has implemented programs,

revitalized communities, and offered a lifeline of safety, support and renewal. His literary masterpiece, "Letters to My Son," delves into the essence of Black fatherhood, articulating the profound joys and significant responsibilities of nurturing the next generation of leaders with wisdom and love. As an esteemed member of the 100 Black Men Twin Cities, Nate's influence extends through his profound mentorship, embodying the principles of restorative justice that he champions. His role as a Circle Keeper has not only transformed lives but has redefined the possibilities of community healing and personal redemption. Nate's presence at the 2024 OJP Conference on Crime and Victimization is not merely participatory, it is a cornerstone of visionary dialogue and transformative insight. His keynote address is poised to be a powerful call to action, inspiring attendees with a potent blend of passion, purpose, power and profoundness. His words are set to ignite the potential within each individual, challenging the status quo and deepening our collective understanding of justice and healing. Nate Carter's journey is an enduring testament to his boundless love for humanity and his relentless pursuit of a world defined by fairness, opportunity and compassion. His life's work is a profound movement, a ceaseless endeavor to uplift, empower, and transform, leaving an indelible legacy of change and hope.



Maitzeng Chang
[Asian Women United of Minnesota](#)

Maitzeng Chang was born and raised in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies at the University of Oshkosh – Wisconsin. Maitzeng moved to Minnesota in 2022 to join Asian Women United of Minnesota (AWUM) as their Housing Advocate and hopes to bridge the gaps between housing and immigrant families and singles.



Marvin Clark

[Emerge](#)

Reentry Housing Program Manager Marvin Clark has been active in housing, re-entry and workforce since 1999. He is an experienced service provider in GCDF (Global Career Development Facilitator, OES (Offender Employment Specialist), tenant landlord relations, client-centered case management and Motivational Interviewing and has served as a cognitive behavioral skills trainer to incarcerated people through the Power of People Leadership Institute and EMERGE. Prior to his career in social services, Marvin spent time in incarceration and brings this invaluable expertise to his work.



Cory Cole, MPH

[Minnesota Department of Health](#)

Cory Cole, MPH, is an applied epidemiologist at the Minnesota Department of Health with a master's degree in epidemiology from Tulane University School of Public Health. Her work involves using applied epidemiology practice to measure and respond to interpersonal violence and leveraging the power of public health professionals to address the inequitably distributed harms of the criminal legal system.



Jeff Edblad

Isanti County Attorney's Office

Jeff Edblad is in his seventh term as the Isanti County Attorney. He served as a member of the MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission from 2003 to 2016 and as its chair from 2007 to 2015. His prior public service positions include being an Asst. Public Defender in Chisago and Isanti Counties (1989) and an Asst. Chisago


County Attorney (1989-1994). Jeff is a member of the Board of Directors of the MN County Attorneys Association and is an adjunct professor at Anoka Ramsey Community College in the Political Science Department. He also serves as President of the Board of Directors of North Star Family Advocacy Center.



Sarah Edstrom

Sarah spent 11 years at the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center as a Sexual Assault Advocate. After leaving direct service work, she has continued to provide trainings for crime victim advocates. She is a yearly presenter at the Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy speaking about burnout within advocacy. She is a firm believer that the only way we can create change is by having uncomfortable conversations and challenging our discomfort. She enjoys bad horror movies, growing and killing succulent plants, and plans to learn how to yoyo once she finally takes the yoyo out of the package.



Claire Exley, MS 

[Healing Justice](#)

Claire Exley is the Director of Justice Programs for Healing Justice. Claire is a trained victim service provider and has extensive experience in Minnesota and Wisconsin prosecutors' offices providing victim services. Claire holds a Master's Degree in Leadership from Winona State University and has led numerous multidisciplinary teams to increase their agency capacity for providing trauma-informed and holistic victim services. Claire has a history of improving outcomes for victims and survivors and is passionate and driven to continuously evaluate and improve the legal system. Claire regularly presents and conducts in-depth training for prosecutors, victim advocates and others.



Alison Feigh, MS

[Jacob Wetterling Resource Center](#) | [Zero Abuse Project](#)



Alison Feigh is the Director of the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center, a program of Zero Abuse Project. In her role as a subject matter expert on child and teen safety, she works with students, parents, youth workers, faith leaders, law enforcement and the media to help prevent childhood abuse and abductions. Alison's work also includes writing curricula for youth-serving organizations, training professionals about online challenges kids face, and advocating for families of the missing. She speaks and trains on a national stage on topics related to online and personal body safety.



Jude Foster

cornerstone.org

Jude Foster has been working with victims/survivors of sexual violence and professionals in the field for more than 25 years. She has worked extensively in developing and managing crisis services programs; working with and coordinating multidisciplinary teams; and providing training and technical assistance to victim services, medical forensic programs and criminal justice professionals. Jude serves as the Director of Community Services at Cornerstone. Previously, she led the Advocacy, Medical Forensic and Prevention efforts at MNCASA and was instrumental in program development and implementation, providing technical assistance, supporting staff and statewide coordination.



Johnanna Ganz, PhD

[Ganz Consulting, LLC](#)



Johnanna Ganz is a highly analytical, data-focused pragmatist who turns ideas into action. Dr. Ganz earned their doctorate studying occupational and organizational identity development in victims' services agencies. Johnanna took this knowledge into a wide variety of mission-driven positions, such as Professor of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies, Domestic Violence Victim Advocate, Sexual Assault Response Team Leader, Rural Project Coordinator promoted to Director of National Training and Technical Assistance, and Training Manager in memory care. As a consultant and coach, Johnanna collaborates with mission-driven staff and leaders to build sustainable mission-driven careers and healthy work cultures.




Carrie Garcia

Carrieyouryogi.com



Carrie Garcia is Carrie Your Yogi. Wellness Coach, Yoga, Meditation teacher (RYT 560). She is certified in yoga throughout the lifespan. She grew up in Minnesota immersed in music and mindful play. She is a Zen Buddhist and meditation teacher. She has been practicing meditation for 27 years. Carrie works as a special education consultant where her specific work is with children with autism and developmental delays. She brings her passion for yoga and mindfulness to adults and youth with an intention to decrease racism, bullying, isolation, and anxiety and increase compassion and well-being.



Christy Goulet 

[Indigenous Legacy | Cultural Diversity Resources/Multi-Cultural Alliance](#)

Wiishkobizi Nibi Ikwe (To be sweet like the water women) is the Indigenous name of Christy Goulet, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Christy founded Indigenous Legacy to meet the needs of Indigenous people through connective recourse, cultural experiences and personal development facilitated by ceremonies, mentorship, education and economic opportunities. With an emphasis on engaging youth with their culture, Indigenous Legacy utilizes Elders to mentor youth and show the importance of Jingle dress, hand-drum making, dance, language (both Ojibwe and Lakota), positive parenting and financial management in their programming. Christy experienced the ceremonial rite of passage, including the Sundance, Vision Quest, Naming Ceremony – all significant elements to living the lifestyle and teaching it to family and community.



Madison Haeg, LGSW

Maddie is an advocate and licensed social worker who has been working in the field since 2016, with a majority of that time spent in crime victim services and advocacy. She has helped to support victims through direct advocacy and educational outreach and enjoys using her experience to help educate and train future advocates and team partners. Maddie is committed to advancing services for victims of crime and helping people access justice through the criminal court system.



Sean Hayes
[Men As Peacemakers](#)

Sean Hayes coordinates male engagement programming at Men As Peacemakers (MAP), including the Don't Buy It Project (engaging men/masculine folks in addressing root causes

of sex trafficking) and the Men and Masculine Folks Network (building a hub where men/masculine folks from diverse communities can connect, heal and grow together). He has also participated in restorative justice circles with repeat offenders of domestic violence within MAP's Domestic Violence Restorative Circles program. Sean is also the co-founder of Trans Northland, a community-based nonprofit providing support, advocacy and connection to transgender communities.



Ed Heisler 
[Men As Peacemakers](#)

Ed Heisler has nearly 20 years of experience working for safe, equitable communities where everyone can thrive. Over the course of 11 years as Executive Director of Men As Peacemakers (MAP), he specialized in developing and implementing innovative, community-driven strategies to promote equality and prevent gender-based violence. Ed has 10 years of experience as a Core Trainer for A CALL TO MEN, co-facilitated batterer's intervention classes, is a founding member of the Restore Forward Cooperative, and is a core collaborator with Spiritual Alchemy. Ed's current work supports healing, storytelling and reconnection to spirit as essential elements of

community peacemaking and violence prevention.



Carly Hiti
[PAVSA.org](#)

Carly provides supportive services across four counties to youth who have experienced sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and/or sex trafficking as the Safe Harbor Youth Advocate at PAVSA. In addition to direct services, Carly provides education and outreach to students in local middle and high schools, trains professionals and frequently collaborates with prosecution, child protection, law enforcement and juvenile corrections to support youth in a variety of settings. Carly has earned certifications in Sexual Assault Advocacy, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and ChildFirst® Forensic Interviewing Protocol and most recently presented at the Minnesota Corrections Association Annual Training Institute.



Bobbi Holtberg

[Minnesota Alliance on Crime](#)

Bobbi Holtberg has been the Executive Director of the Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC) for the past eight years. Bobbi has more than 25 years of experience working as an advocate with individuals and communities impacted by crime, developing and providing training to crime victim advocates, law enforcement and other criminal justice system professionals. MAC works to support programs to meet the complex needs of all crime victims using trauma-responsive and equity focused advocacy. For more than 10 years, Bobbi has been involved in statewide public policy development and is a member of the Aiding and Abetting Felony Murder Task Force.




Nikki Kelly, MS

[Minnesota National Guard](#)

Nikki Kelly holds a master's degree in forensic psychology with concentrations in victimology, family violence and sex offender behavior and treatment and has over 10 years of victim advocacy experience. Nikki is currently a member of the Minnesota National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response team. Nikki's past presentations include addressing the Minnesota Supreme Court and frequent presentations to Minnesota's military service members.



Suzanne Koeplinger, MA 

[Catalyst North Consulting](#)

Suzanne Koeplinger is the founder of Catalyst North Consulting: fostering healing centered organizational cultures and leaders. Previously, she served eight years as founding director for the Catalyst Initiative at the George Family Foundation and the Minneapolis Foundation. Suzanne was the executive director of the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center from 2003 to 2014, leading the first research and community response in the country to address sex trafficking of American Indian women and girls. She has extensive international experience as a trainer and public speaker, most recently around fostering healing organizational cultures for philanthropy and nonprofits.



Anne LaFrinier-Ritchie

[Someplace Safe](#)

Anne LaFrinier-Ritchie, White Earth Anishinaabe, works as a Safe Harbor Regional Navigator for Someplace Safe in West Central Minnesota. Anne has worked in the anti-trafficking field in direct services and training and technical assistance in Minnesota and North Dakota since 2016, with previous history in advocacy and tribal child welfare. She is a 2020 graduate of the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center's (NHTTAC) Human Trafficking Leadership Academy Class. Anne presents regularly at state and national conferences and most recently presented for San Manuel Band of Mission Indians' Human Trafficking Event.



Sal (Stephanie) Lee

[Carlton County Restorative Justice Programs](#)

With a listening heart, Sal Lee has had the honor of serving youth and families through her work with restorative justice and grief support. Recognizing the importance of meeting the changing needs of people harmed, people who cause harm, families and community, she strives for ever-evolving program development, growth and improvement. In her spare time, Sal enjoys tending the garden, walking the fence lines on her farm, and hugging her grandchildren. She currently serves as the Carlton County Restorative Justice Program Specialist.



Madeline Lohman

[The Advocates for Human Rights](#)

Madeline Lohman is an Associate Program Director for training and technical assistance with The Advocates for Human Rights. She develops training resources on human rights advocacy for social justice organizations, international monitoring and reporting and guidance for pro bono volunteers. Madeline is also one of The Advocates experts on labor trafficking and exploitation.



Detective Sergeant Matthew Long
[Faribault, Minnesota Police Department](#)

Detective Sergeant Matthew Long has worked for the Faribault Police Department for 18 years. Sergeant Long has served as an Officer, Field Training Officer, Use of Force Coordinator, Detective, Patrol Sergeant and Detective Sergeant. Currently, he supervises the investigative division of the police department, a position he has held for the past five years. Sergeant Long has extensive training and experience in domestic violence, stalking, harassment and court order enforcement. He sits on and has assisted in the formulation of numerous committees regarding domestic violence response and criminal sexual conduct investigations in Rice County.



Guadalupe Lopez
[Violence Free Minnesota](#)

Guadalupe Lopez, Leech Lake Anishinaabe, is the Executive Director of Violence Free Minnesota: the coalition to end relationship abuse. Guadalupe has worked extensively with and on behalf of Native American people who have experienced relationship abuse, sexual assault and trafficking. From 2007 to 2021, she was a culturally-specific technical assistance provider for the Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and has provided technical assistance to over 30 North American tribes under OVW's Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program. While at the Minnesota Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC), Guadalupe was one of five researchers for the groundbreaking report: *Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota* (2011), a collaboration between MIWSAC and Prostitution Education and Research. As Executive Director of Violence Free Minnesota, she leads a coalition of 90+ member programs that share a common goal of ending domestic violence. She also serves as a Technical Assistance Partner and Advocacy Learning Center faculty for Praxis International.



Larcell Mack
[Emerge](#)

EMERGE Reentry Services Director Larcell Mack has worked in reentry services both as an incarcerated person and as a service provider for more than 10 years. He brings deep personal and professional knowledge of work in reentry and a deep understanding of and commitment to supporting African American men struggling with issues of employment post-incarceration to this role. He leads a reentry team where 75% of staff have lived experience in reentry. He led the development of Reentry Trauma Recovery mental health support groups at EMERGE and has a long professional history of political advocacy for the rights of returning citizens.



Felix Martinez-Paz
[Esperanza United](#)

As the Engaging Men and Boys Program Specialist at Esperanza United, Felix works to build stronger connections with organizations and individuals doing direct work in our communities. He connects with Latino students in public schools, creating safe spaces for boys to have conversations about healthy masculinity, teen dating violence, and more. Felix also engages men in community so they can learn together, discussing topics like healthy masculinity and gender-based violence. He provides tools for them to become allies in the violence prevention movement. Felix co-coordinates the Men and Masculine Folks Network, a program of Men As Peacemakers, as well.



David Mathews, PsyD, LICSW

Dave currently works at People Incorporated as a therapist overseeing the Men's Domestic Abuse and Emotion Regulation Group Programs and the Restorative Parenting Process. He has worked 40+ years in various agencies and private practice with victims-survivors, those who have been abusive/hurtful, children, youth, adult men and women, parents, couples, groups and families as a therapist, facilitator, and consultant in the fields of trauma, domestic abuse and violence prevention. Dave is a Community-Faculty member at Metropolitan State University in the psychology department. He provides consultation, trainings and workshops locally, nationally and internationally.



Dr. Tamara Mattison, PhD
Generation 2 Generation

Dr. Tamara Mattison is a restorative practitioner, circle keeper, and founder and CEO of Generation 2 Generation, a community provider of restorative justice diversion for youth in Ramsey, Washington and Dakota counties. Dr. Mattison conducts circle training for the Minnesota Department of Education and has more than 30 years of experience working in the Minneapolis and St. Paul regions with BIPOC youth who have been over-represented in school pushout and the juvenile justice system.

Sean McCarthy

[Rice County Attorney's Office](#)

Sean McCarthy has more than 18 years of experience as a criminal prosecutor and appellate attorney, having worked as an assistant attorney general, a city attorney, and an assistant county attorney. Sean is a frequent presenter at CLEs and law enforcement trainings. He has also taught at Hamline University School of Law, Brown College, and Inver Hills Community College.



Mikki Morrissette

[Minnesota Women's Press](#)

Mikki Morrissette has been a media consultant and publisher for several decades, including with The New York Times and Time Inc. She is now publisher of Minnesota Women's Press, the longest continuously run feminist publication in the United States.

Wendy Murphy

[Rice County Attorney's Office](#)

Wendy Murphy has been an assistant city attorney and assistant county attorney since 2007. Currently, Ms. Murphy is the Chief Assistant Rice County Attorney. Ms. Murphy has extensive experience prosecuting intimate partner violence cases and a passion for working with crime victims. Ms. Murphy has provided law enforcement training related to intimate partner violence, trauma informed best practices when dealing with victims, and her experiences with the Rice County Blueprint Protocol.



Becca Muskat

[Minnesota Alliance on Crime](#)

Becca Muskat (She/Her) currently works as the Director of Training at the Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC), a network for victim service professionals, where she designs monthly trainings for professionals. Prior to working at MAC, Becca was a project specialist for the Family Advocacy Division at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Becca has also worked as a victim advocate for the City of Alexandria, Virginia Sexual Assault Center. Becca has a Master of Arts in forensic

psychology from Marymount University and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Smith College.



Julie Marie Muskat

[Deeper Waters Arts & Mind/Body Center](#)

Julie Marie Muskat is a freelance dancer, choreographer, teacher and stage manager currently based in the Twin Cities and originally from Texas. She has worked across the US, Israel and Italy, dancing with companies such as Threads Dance Project, Vox Medusa, Revolution Dance Theatre, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company and Compagnia AiEP. She is the founder of Deeper Water Arts and Mind/Body Center, which provides dance, cross training and health and wellness opportunities for young people and adults. She has also worked as the office administrator and operations and technology manager for two I/O psychology consulting firms.



Arvind Naik, MBA

[Science of Spirituality Minneapolis Center](#)

Arvind Naik is an Electronics Engineer and works as a technology and business professional in the Minneapolis area. Working with his wife, he leads the Science of Spirituality Meditation Center Program as a Speaker and Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator.



Ashwini Naik, MS

[Science of Spirituality Minneapolis Center](#)

Ashwini is a teacher by profession and has a Master of Science in Physics and a Bachelor of Education with several certifications. She leads the children's program at the Science of

Spirituality Meditation Center in the Minneapolis and St. Paul areas. She loves educating children and parents about the meditation practice.



Rebeka Ndosi L.Ac, M.S.

majiyachai.org

Rebeka Ndosi is the founder and visionary behind Maji ya Chai Land Sanctuary, a Black led, nature-based healing retreat for rest and reconnection for Black, Indigenous and Communities of Color on the North Shore. She has deep experience as a healer and teacher, developing culturally meaningful mind/body/spirit practices and tools to heal from trauma in community. Most recently, Rebeka joined Ed Heisler and Suzanne Koeplinger as core faculty for Leadership (R)evolution, a 6 month long leadership cohort of Black, Indigenous, Latina and Queer leaders working to end violence in Minnesota.



Ana Negrete ■ Keynote Speaker

[Department of Public Safety Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office](#)

Ana Negrete is the Community Planner for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office (MMIR), a role she started after transitioning out of her former capacity for the Department of Human Services as the American Indian Human Trafficking Program Consultant. Ana has more than 25 years of experience working within the juvenile justice system in various settings, including her work as a probation officer and addressing systemic racial disparities under her role as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Coordinator. She continues system reform work by addressing racial disparities impacting the MMIR injustice in Minnesota, as well as building relationships with community and tribal partners throughout the state to address the root causes of MMIR injustice. Engaging with those impacted by MMIR and elevating their voices, while raising awareness and pushing for systemic change, are all significant to supporting existing community led efforts and collaborating with agencies that are working to address root causes and vulnerabilities that increase the risk of becoming MMIR.




Kelly Nicholson

Dakota County Attorney's Office

Kelly Nicholson has worked as an advocate in the criminal justice system since 1995. She spent 11 years in the Anoka County Attorney's Office before going to the Dakota County Attorney's Office, where she has served as the supervisor of the Victim Witness Program since 2006. In addition to providing direct services to victims, she has directed community education and outreach efforts, supervised a sexual assault volunteer program, and provided training on victim issues to law enforcement, criminal justice professionals, advocates and community members. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and Sociology and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration.



October 

M.A.C. House Productions, LLC

October is a Minnesota native and North Minneapolis Advocate. He started writing in the middle of 5th grade while attending Bethune Elementary where the old projects used to be. "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes would be the first poem he would hear and from there he would write well over 100+ poems, two plays and various other original works. Graduating from Minneapolis North High School, he would become an alumni of Teens Rock the Mic MN, Brave New Voices Slam poet 04-06 finalist, published poet and a community artist. Today, King October is the Co-Founder and CEO of M.A.C. House, a collective of artists that produce projects, events and community activities for arts, entertainment and education.



Marissa Raguet, MPH

[Minnesota Department of Health](#)

Marissa Raguet is the Sexual Violence Prevention Program Evaluator at the Minnesota Department of Health. She has a Master of Public Health in Community Health Promotion from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Chantel Randle



[TellaWorks](#)

Chantel Randle was born in Saint Paul, MN. She is a mother, writer, poet, event curator, speaker and author of *Adjusting My Crown* and *The Light at the end of tunnel* quote book. With her Masters in Social Work, Chantel has worked in the mental health field for over six years, with a focus on trauma, healing, spirituality, self-awareness and generational empowerment. She started her business TellaWorks in 2022, which focuses on mental health workshops, retreats and life coaching. TellaWorks combines therapy and art modalities together to reduce emotional fatigue/instability, mental health struggles and increase self-sufficiency in the healing process. In March 2024, she started a podcast called "Let's Heal Together" with a focus on mental health awareness, healing, laughter and restoration.



Connie Rhodes ■ Keynote Speaker

[Restoration, Inc., | Culturally Competent Consulting](#)

Connie Rhodes is the founder and executive director of Restoration Incorporated, a premier faith-based, violence prevention and trauma healing agency. She is also the leader of Culturally Competent Consulting, helping corporations with their diversity, equity and inclusion needs team building; healing circles; and other company-identified areas for growth. Connie, affectionately known as the Peace Promoter, is a graduate of the prestigious University of Chicago with a concentration in Behavioral Sciences and Psychology. While at the University of Chicago, she had the honor to complete advanced studies with experiential psychotherapy pioneer, Dr. Eugene Gendlin, developing her client-centered therapeutic approach and learning the art of focusing and imagery. In 2019, she began her training in Accelerated Experiential Dynamic Psychotherapy (AEDP) for the treatment of complex trauma. In 2020, she collaborated with Mary Androff, MD, to train her staff in the use of AEDP for Community Healing. In 2021, she received immersion training in AEDP and advanced training in 2023 from the renowned author and AEDP's acclaimed founder, Dr. Diana Fosha. She uses AEDP modalities to heal

communities as a certified Circle Keeper. Her specialties include trauma-informed care, youth violence prevention, and cultural competency. Connie's vast experience ranges from helping at-risk youth, 16 years at BUILD Inc., where she worked in some of Chicago's toughest marginalized communities to Minneapolis, where she has helped countless young victims of gun violence. Connie was a pioneer staff member of Next Step, an innovative and effective hospital-based violence prevention program that serves youth ages 10 to 28 who are gunshot wound victims. Connie has received numerous awards for her work impacting youth, and her work was featured on the CBS Morning Show with Gayle King. In December 2022, she was selected to speak at the White House about Restoration Inc.'s success with the White House Initiative, CVIC (Community Violence Intervention Cohort). In 2023, Connie received the National Human Justice Ambassador Award from CCD in New York City. She is an advocate for restoring peace and hope in our communities via her strong faith in God.



Liz Richards

[Minnesota Department of Corrections Victim Services and Restorative Justice Program](#)

Liz Richards is the Director of Victim Services & Restorative Justice for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Liz has 40+ years of experience doing anti-violence work in Minnesota. Prior to joining the Dept. of Corrections in 2021, Liz was the executive director of Violence Free Minnesota. Liz's experience working on domestic violence issues also includes nine years providing support to advocates, attorneys and victims on legal issues as part of a nonprofit legal services organization, five years as a practicing family law attorney, and 10 years providing legal advocacy through a community based domestic violence organization.



Juliet Rudie ■ Keynote Speaker

[Department of Public Safety Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office](#)

Juliet Rudie is a tribal member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community and lifelong Minnesota resident. Her career in public safety spans almost 28 years. She began as a patrol officer with the Saint Paul Police Department in 1990, later serving as a sergeant assigned to various divisions including Juvenile Investigations, Missing Persons, and the Director of Training. Ms. Rudie joined the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office in 2011, serving as an Inspector, Undersheriff of the Administration Division and Chief Deputy. Ms. Rudie began leading the first-in-the-nation MMIR Office in 2022. The MMIR Office is housed in the Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs. The MMIR's mission is the development and implementation of systemic legislative and transformative social justice policies paired with the application of sufficient resources, programs and services that will foster safety, equity, healing, civil and human rights of Indigenous peoples and communities in Minnesota.



Amber Schindeldecker ■ Keynote Speaker

[Department of Public Safety Office of Communications](#)

Amber Schindeldecker is a seasoned strategic and crisis communications expert with vast experience in earned, owned and paid media. Amber knows the value of getting the right information to people at the right time so they can make the right decisions. Amber has served as a public information officer for the Department of Public Safety since March 2016. She took the lead on communications efforts for the COVID-19 pandemic, assisted with strategic communications during the civil unrest following the death of George Floyd, and deployed the 2023 media campaign to recruit new 911 dispatchers across the state. She has led communications efforts for the Minnesota State Fire Marshal, the Office of Justice Programs and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office. Amber's passion is advocating for change and ensuring Minnesotans have the knowledge they need to thrive. Prior, Amber worked in TV news for 12-years as a reporter, anchor and producer. She is

a Drake University graduate and a single-mother-by-choice to her young son.



Farji Shaheer
[Innovative Soulutions](#)

Farji Shaheer has more than 20 years in Healthcare and over 30 years lived experience surviving in some of the most underrepresented zip codes in the Twin Cities. Farji is an active agent of change, advocating for Unrecognized American Citizens so they receive a greater quality of care when they are present in various institutions. He is the CEO/Founder of Innovative Soulutions, a nonprofit developed to bridge gaps and barriers faced by individuals struggling with mental health and community violence. Innovative Soulutions is focused on Trauma Reduction, Holistic Healing, and Equity and Diversity Training. Farji is also a founding member and program developer for the Next Step Program - a hospital based violence intervention program based out of Hennepin Healthcare, North Memorial, and Abbott Northwestern.



Dawn Shewmaker, MSW
[Minnesota National Guard](#)

Dawn Shewmaker holds undergraduate degrees in psychology and criminal justice and has a master's degree in Social Work. She has been a victim advocate for 14 years in varied jurisdictions. Dawn has worked with survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, child exploitation and sex trafficking, as well as other violent and white-collar crimes. She currently works as the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the 84th Troop Command, Minnesota Army National Guard and provides frequent presentations to service members. In her personal time, Dawn is an advocate for the welfare of animals and has one fur baby, Demeter.



Tawny Smith-Savage ■ Keynote Speaker

[Department of Public Safety Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office](#)

Tawny Smith-Savage is the Community Violence Prevention Coordinator for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs.



Carrie Sperling, JD
[Minnesota Attorney General's Office](#)

Assistant Attorney General Carrie Sperling directs the Conviction Review Unit (CRU) at the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. The CRU's

unique role in the criminal justice system is to identify, remedy and correct wrongful convictions. The CRU works cooperatively with county attorney's offices throughout Minnesota to investigate cases long after the conviction becomes final. Over the past two decades, Carrie has led collaborative efforts to overturn wrongful convictions while also working with victim advocates to incorporate victim notification and victim services as part of the post-conviction process.



Jane Straub

[CornerHouse](#)



Jane Straub is the Training Director for CornerHouse. Working in the violence prevention and intervention field for more than 25 years, Jane has provided advocacy and support for youth and families. A national trainer on topics like the impact of trauma (ACE Study), trauma-responsive care, child sexual abuse, domestic and sexual violence, stalking, trafficking, cyber/bullying, reproductive coercion, healthy relationships, consent and supporting disclosure, Jane was instrumental in

creating the curriculum "From Trauma to Resilience: Fostering Hope through Trauma Informed Care." Her audience ranges from pre-school to college-age students, victim/survivors to offenders, and parents, teachers, community leaders and professionals working with youth and adults. One of Jane's goals is to collaborate with law enforcement, health, education, social services and businesses to collectively connect the dots of risk and prevention and provide coordinated services, all in efforts to create hope and health for our children and families.



Ashley Sturz-Griffith

mncasa.org



Ashley Sturz-Griffith has worked in the anti-sexual violence field in numerous contexts. Prior to joining MNCASA, she was a Legal Advocate at Alexandra House in Anoka County and a Shelter Advocate at SAFEHouse in Ann Arbor, Michigan and Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center in Gretna, Louisiana. Additionally, Ashley has taught master's level courses in Social Work. As the Senior Advocacy Coordinator, Ashley strives to create space for the amazing anti-sexual violence advocates

across MNCASA's membership to learn, connect and grow. By cultivating this space, anti-sexual violence advocates have even more tools to provide quality services to victims/survivors. She strives for a culture shift where sexual violence is no longer acceptable, systems respond appropriately, and the most oppressed voices are lifted up in this movement.



Ashley Taylor-Gougé



[Sexual Violence Center](#)



With over 15 years in the anti-violence field, Ashley Taylor-Gougé (she/they) oversees the Sexual Violence Center's programs, manages outreach and education initiatives, curates social media and coordinates programmatic evaluations. Dedicated to fostering a sustainable and supportive environment for survivors and advocates alike, Ashley pushes boundaries, reimagining the functioning of anti-violence organizations to better serve the community. They approach challenges with

revolutionary optimism, championing radical advocacy and the belief that a better world is possible.



Tracy Thao, LSW  
[Transforming Generations](#)

Tracy Thao is the community advocate at Transforming Generations. As a community advocate, she provides advocacy services to domestic violence victims and survivors and co-facilitates the Hmong Women's Healing Circle. She is passionate about working to end gender-based violence due to her own life experiences. Tracy graduated from Augsburg University with a social work degree and is a licensed social worker. Tracy has previously presented at the MN Hmong Gender Justice Collective Retreat on gender-based violence in the Hmong community.


Ted Thompson

[Emerge](#)

Ted Thompson is a retired psychologist, a certified Life Coach and an incarceration recovery specialist. He has been involved in providing Reentry Trauma Recovery support groups at EMERGE since 2022 and has worked


with people overcoming trauma related to crime and incarceration throughout his career.



Laura Thro, MPS 
Thro Kindness


Laura focuses on healing after trauma using restorative and transformational approaches through program development, implementation and training. She holds various degrees in psychology, domestic violence, criminology and violence prevention and serves as the Community Outreach Coordinator for a volunteer Fire Department, where she creates and implements transformational programs for youth. Laura also co-runs a restorative practice program she created for individuals in correctional facilities aimed at transformation through accountability. Additionally, Laura developed and taught an *Introduction to Domestic Violence* course at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and co-hosted a podcast about life after trauma that has been downloaded in over 130 countries.



Cedar Weyker, Esq. 
[The Advocates for Human Rights](#)

Cedar Weyker is an Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow in the Unaccompanied Children Program. She works with the Refugee and Immigrant Program to represent children and adolescents in a variety of immigration matters, including asylum, removal proceedings and special immigrant juvenile status.



Dr. Shawn Williams, Ed.D. 
[Alexandria Technical and Community College](#)



Dr. Shawn Williams, a distinguished leader in police training and education, serves as the Dean of Police Training and Education at Alexandria Technical and Community College. Leading Minnesota's largest peace officer training program, Dr. Williams emphasizes excellence in education. As a MN POST Board Member, he champions cultural intelligence, offering the state's sole MN POST certified Cultural Intelligence course. With a doctorate in educational leadership and extensive public safety experience, Dr. Williams has presented nationally for the Justice Clearinghouse. His commitment to advancing the field, evident through leadership roles and expertise in curriculum development, ensures valuable insights for those seeking to enhance police training and education.



Karen Wussow
[KarenWussow.com](#)

Karen Wussow is an author, survivor and presenter. She has been a Licensed Social Worker for 30 years. She is the proud mother of three children and four grandchildren. She enjoys her scooter, nurturing her flowers, feeding her birds in the backyard, especially her cardinals, and spending time with her children and grandchildren in her spare time. Karen has presented at the St. Louis County, MN Health and Human Services Conference as well as the MN Administrative Professionals Association Conference in May 2023.



Shoua Na Yang  
[Transforming Generations](#)

Schoua Na is the Hmong Youth Organizing Coordinator at Transforming Generations. They created two culturally specific prevention programs for Hmong and Southeast Asian youth of all gender identities with the focus lessons of teen dating violence, sexual violence, cyber-bullying and stalking. Schoua Na provides school-based advocacy services for students at risk and those who have been impacted by domestic violence. Schoua Na has conducted presentations for youth at Minnesota School Outreach Coalition (MNSOC), Planned Parenthood's SEAshells (Southeast Asian Sexual Health Empowerment through Learning and Leadership) program and the MN Hmong Gender Justice Collective Retreat.

Continuing Education Units/Credits

OJP supports continuing education. Professional continuing education credits have been approved from the agencies listed below. OJP maintains attendance records and can provide verification upon request.

Law enforcement officers seeking POST Board credits should notify the [conference director](#) to ensure that the attendance verification is submitted to the POST Board within the stated timeframe. For a specific list of which courses were approved by [POST click here](#), and for the [MN CLE list, click here](#).

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Units Approved</u>	<u>Event Code</u>
Minnesota Board of Continuing Legal Education	7.5	505822
Minnesota Board of Social Work	45	CEP 137
POST Board	13 (other)	09424-00085

