26th Annual Downstate Conference on Child Abuse

www.downstateconference.com

April 25 - 26, 2018

The Pavilion
1602 Sioux Drive
Marion, Illinois 62959
# The 26th Annual Downstate Conference on Child Abuse

## PROGRAM

### Conference At A Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day 1 - April 25</th>
<th>Day 2 - April 26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 10:00</td>
<td>Keynote Session</td>
<td>Keynote Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 - 11:45</td>
<td>Session A Workshops</td>
<td>Session D Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 - 12:45</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 - 2:15</td>
<td>Session B Workshops</td>
<td>Session E Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 - 2:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 - 4:00</td>
<td>Session C Workshops</td>
<td>Session F Workshops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conference Planning Committee

*Madison County CAC  
The Amy Center  
Franklin-Williamson CAC  
Perry-Jackson CAC  
The Guardian Center, Inc.  
St. Clair Co. CAC  
Two Rivers CAC

### Sponsors Include:

- IL Department of Children & Family Services Children’s Justice Fund  
- Poshard Foundation  
- Southern Illinois Child Death Investigation Task Force

### Conference Address:

**The Pavilion**  
1602 Sioux Drive  
Marion, IL 62959  
Ph: (618) 993-2657
It’s a paperless conference and handouts will be available online at www.downstateconference.com if provided by the presenter.

**KEYNOTE SESSION: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018**

**KEYNOTE SESSION DESCRIPTION**

Speaker: Amy Escott

FROM CHAOS TO HEALING: Using the Core Concepts of Understanding Childhood Traumatic Stress to create a Stronger Trauma-Informed System of Care within your Community

Often we think of childhood trauma as a single moment in time, failing to recognize the various ways that trauma impacts all aspects of development for children and adolescents. The 12 Core Concepts of Understanding Childhood Traumatic Stress were developed by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network as a holistic and comprehensive framework for child serving processonals to consider as they respond to and support families impacted by trauma. This presentation will provide an overview of the 12 Core Concepts and apply those concepts to case examples. Participants will learn how to incorporate these ideas into their professional work in order to strengthen the trauma-informed system of care within their own communities.

**DAY 1 SESSIONS: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018**

**A1** But I Love Him

Kimberly Skidmore

Interviewing children and teenagers who have been sexually victimized can in itself be challenging, but it can be especially challenging when the child/teen does not see themselves as a victim, but rather feels that they are in a loving relationship with the offender. The feelings they have can often create blocks to disclosure that can be difficult to overcome. Kim Skidmore will offer suggestions on how to ask questions in a way that can gather helpful investigative information without further complicating the emotional challenges the victim already faces and will include lecture, case study and video clips to assist in the learning process.
A2 Trauma-Informed Screening with Children and Youth
Amy Escott
This presentation will provide an overview of evidence-based screening for children and youth who have been impacted by trauma. We will cover common reactions children and youth may have following a potentially traumatic event, concrete strategies for screening children and youth, and there will be opportunities to practice using trauma screening tools. Participants will also be given a screening tool developed by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network that they can use in their daily work.

A3 Child Abuse and Its Affect upon Individuals, Families, and Communities - Kevin McNeil
You have to investigate an intra-familial sexual abuse case. Now what? Do you interview all the children or just the one involved? How do you get the guardian to allow you to conduct your investigation without interference? Let’s face it. No investigation gets solved without the help of the community. In this workshop the audience will learn the proper way to interview family members and those in the community (people the child has disclosed to). Detective McNeil shows how important the family is in the investigative process. He explains the importance of written statements, audio recordings, and collecting and preserving evidence that may not be available once the trial begins (i.e. phone records, photos of incident location). Detective McNeil explains why explaining the investigative process to the family in detail aids in their cooperation with the investigation.

B1 Abusive Minds Think Alike
Kimberly Skidmore
As investigators we know that usually where there is one form of abuse, there may likely be other. Because of this, it is imperative that we know the characteristics of the many different crimes and offenders we are investigating, as they often reside in the same home and often are the same person. The presentation will discuss some very basic dynamics of child sexual abuse and will correlate the similarities in characteristics of the crime, characteristics of the offender, disclosure process and patterns, victim grooming, recantation, and compliant victim characteristics to those that also exist in domestic violence. Attendees will be able to identify multiple similarities between these two types of offenders.

B2 Understanding and Responding to Problematic Sexual Behaviors - Amy Escott
During this session we will discuss normative and problematic sexual behaviors in children, address myths and facts related to these behaviors, and provide recommendations related to best approaches for how to respond to these behaviors. Participants will have opportunities to ask specific questions related to cases they have worked involving problematic sexual behaviors.
Most abuse cases start with an allegation. However, an allegation alone is not enough to prosecute a case. Many investigators go to trial with just an allegation and little supporting evidence. In this workshop Detective McNeil provides vital information that shows how to collect evidence from unlikely sources; sources many investigators do not consider. Detective McNeil also emphasizes the importance of building a team around each allegation. He demonstrates how detectives can strengthen their cases for trial and produce stronger cases. He also shows why the family is the investigator’s most important witness.

Recognizing Secondary Traumatic Stress/Vicarious Trauma and Self Care Preventative Strategies - Ginger Meyer
This session is intended for any multidisciplinary team member who works with children and families who experience adversity and trauma. Participants will discuss elements of the work they do which may come with the heavy price often creating demands on physical, mental and emotional health and well-being. Recognizing when the work is taking its toll on you is the first step to decreasing those effects by implementing a well-constructed self-care plan that is both rewarding and sustainable. Participants will increase their knowledge about what secondary trauma/traumatic stress looks like, be able to recognize STS/Vicarious Trauma within their own work and be able to create a sustainable self-care plan that is rewarding and easy to incorporate in their daily routine.

This workshop is for multi-disciplinary teams. It is designed to show why child abuse investigations are different and why they must be treated differently. The attendee will learn why abuse investigations cannot be treated like any other investigations, how to interview suspect in abuse allegations and why listening to evidence and not looking for it will help the investigator discover evidence that is often missed.
**Keynote Session Description**

**Speaker:** Chris Newlin

**Why Parents Don’t Believe**

Parents and caregivers, when faced with emerging allegations involving the abuse of their child, are suddenly confronted with a situation for which they are poorly prepared. This is not significantly different from other situations involving parents’ reactions regarding the well-being of their children. However, the ambiguity of child abuse allegations creates heightened challenges, and this same ambiguity is also a challenge for MDT members involved in the investigation and intervention. This session will identify the difference between belief and ambivalence and how all professionals involved in child abuse cases can assist parents to be supportive and engaged with their children.

**Day 2 Sessions: Thursday, April 26, 2018**

**D1** Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Working with Non-Offending Caregivers who have been Victims - Beth Olson

Sexual abuse can be generational. Moms and Dads, who have experienced abuse, now walk through our doors after a report from their child. Their child’s report may trigger a new crisis stage for parents in their own healing journey. Understanding common experiences and needs of adult survivors can help advocates support them in their efforts to help their children.

**D2** Recent Research Affecting Child Abuse Investigations - Chris Newlin

This workshop is intended for all levels of professionals who are involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse. We are working in a continually changing field, and it is critical that direct service providers stay abreast of the current research affecting our work. This workshop will provide a general review of recent research affecting child abuse investigations and prosecutions, and challenge the attendees to relate this information to their current practices in the field.
The 5 Bs of Child Physical Abuse: Bruises, Burns, Bones, Bellies, and Brains - Dr. Kristen Reeder
This talk will review the variety of injuries seen in cases of child physical abuse. The discussion will be case based and include examples of abusive and non-abusive injuries. The lecture will be geared for CPS workers, law enforcement investigators, and attorneys to learn the basic aspects of child physical abuse injuries.

Safety Beyond Our Doors - The Role of Advocacy in Assessing Risk - Beth Olson
One role of advocacy is to walk with the child and family through all of the systems and processes that come into play after a child discloses abuse and help identify how those systems can support and provide safety for the family. Advocates respond to the self-identified needs of the family and are integral in helping the family create long term safety. However, advocates run the risk of putting more pressure and “to-do” lists for the family with added assessments and plans. This workshop will clearly lay out how the advocate can provide true safety support for the family and work with the team to meet safety needs.

Best Practices in Forensic Interviewing: Agreement Amongst Multiple Models - Chris Newlin
This presentation will discuss the evolution of forensic interviewing of children regarding allegations of child abuse and neglect, emerging research and how experts in the field, representing many of the leading Forensic Interview training programs in the U.S., came together with the intent of identifying the common agreement and understanding of best practices in forensic interviewing. This collaborative effort led to the publication of a freely available article which will be shared with attendees, and also highlight the areas of continuing dialogue and perspectives demonstrating that among these leading training programs, there is significant consistency in practice perspective. In addition, the highly research-supported article will be discussed which is intended to be a resource for use in court, as a criterion against which forensic interviews may be compared and to determine whether appropriate techniques were utilized. All individuals involved in the investigation of child abuse, especially those who conduct forensic interviews or defend them in court, will benefit from this newly published resource.

Continued... The 5 Bs of Child Physical Abuse: Bruises, Burns, Bones, Bellies, and Brains - Dr. Kristen Reeder
**Day 2 Sessions: Thursday, April 26, 2018 (Cont...)**

**F1** From an Advocate’s Perspective: Domestic Violence and Child Abuse - Beth Olson

There is a high rate of co-occurrence between child abuse and domestic violence. Participants will learn how children are used after separation by the abusive parent to continue the battering, power and control. Using information from focus groups, individual interviews and years of direct practice with battered mothers and children, the presenter will talk about specific tactics used by batterers and how systems and institutions inadvertently support these tactics. Participants will learn about ways to improve safety for battered mothers and children and ideas for system change to create long term safety. The information will be presented through the framework of the advocacy perspective and role.

**F2** Grooming: Making You See What I Want You to See and Believe - Chris Newlin

The investigation of child abuse is challenging, and the pursuit of evidence associated with the grooming of children, caregivers, and the community environment provides opportunities for investigators to pursue additional evidence. This workshop will provide an overview of research related to grooming and propose a new framework for the concept of grooming which could dramatically modify current investigatory practices, in addition to enhancing current forensic interviewing efforts.

**F3** The Drug-Endangered Child from a Medical Perspective - Dr. Kristen Reeder

The drug endangered child is a common occurrence. This presentation will address the epidemiology of drug-endangered children, the impact of intrauterine drug exposure, the risks for children exposed to a clandestine laboratory, the medical workup for children exposed to a drug environment, and the prognosis for drug-endangered children. Real-world case examples will be used for illustration and emphasis.
Ginger Meyer, MSW, LCSW, CCTP is the Clinical Director for Children's Medical and Mental Health Resource Network a program of SIU School of Medicine. She has worked with children and child welfare issues for over twenty years. She has been a leader in the Southern Illinois community in developing a Children's Mental Health Network to increase the professional development opportunities for professionals who work with traumatized children and their families. Ginger Meyer has been the Lead Trainer and Co-Director of the Trauma Based Behavioral Health Fellowship Program at Southern Illinois University School of Social Work since 2014. The program was recently refunded and expanded and Ms. Meyer now serves as the Principle Investigator and Project Director of the Trauma Based Behavioral Health Fellowship; A Behavioral Health and Workforce Education and Training Grant (BHWET) HRSA 2017-2021. This program has trained nearly a hundred advanced social work graduate students in evidence-based trauma treatment, with each cohort receiving several weeks of training with professional community trainers over two semesters. Currently, she oversees the psychosocial assessments and crisis counseling in the Southern Illinois region for children facing child maltreatment, including physical and sexual abuse and exposure to domestic violence. She is also the Project Director of the Garett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant SAMHSA 2016-2019, a program that seeks to increase awareness of suicide prevention on the campus at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She has a small private practice where she provides trauma interventions to children, youth, young adults, and their families. She is a graduate of SIU with a Master of Social Work and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She is a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional and a member of the International Association of Trauma Professionals. Ms. Meyer is a trained forensic interviewer and is a Nationally Certified TF CBT clinician. She is a member of the Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) and the American Professional Society on The Abuse of Children. (APSAC) Ms. Meyer is most proud of her family consisting of a wonderful supportive husband and two young children, who constantly show her love and grace.

Amy Dribin Escott, MS, LPC, is the Project Director of the Missouri Academy of Child Trauma Studies (MoACTS) at Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis. She is a national trainer in the Child Welfare Trauma-Training Toolkit and Integrative Treatment of Complex Trauma. She oversees TF-CBT learning collaboratives and has worked with the MoACTS team to develop and implement the Trauma-Informed Programming in Schools curriculum in schools across the St. Louis region. Ms. Escott also provides evidence-based, trauma treatment to children and families within the St. Louis Region.

Kevin McNeil is a Special Victims Detective, author, educator, and motivational speaker. Throughout his 18-year career as a law enforcement officer and detective, Kevin has testified in court as an expert witness and is responsible for putting together numerous cases for prosecution against sex offenders. Kevin has investigated and solved several high profile media cases; including six serial rape cases and five child murder cases. His years of experience as a police officer and detective allow him to consult with local law enforcement agencies as well as Child Advocacy Centers, hospitals, school systems and state family protective service agencies. He helps agencies measure the effects of abuse and educates the general public on how to recognize and report abuse to the proper authorities. Kevin has been featured on Atlanta Live, Urbancusp Magazine, newspaper articles and talk radio. Kevin’s passion is to educate the world on the effects of abuse and how it can be eradicated from our culture.

Dr. Kristen Reeder is a board certified child abuse pediatrician with the REACH (Referral and Evaluation of At-Risk Children) Team at Children's Health Children's Medical Center in Dallas, TX. Through her work, Dr. Reeder medically evaluates children with concerns of abuse or neglect, including physical and sexual abuse, medical neglect, and failure to thrive. She has given numerous presentations to community partners including law enforcement agencies, CPS, and hospital staff on the medical aspects of child abuse, has presented multiple times at grand rounds, and frequently leads didactic sessions for residents and medical students.
Chris Newlin, MS LPC, is the Executive Director of the National Children’s Advocacy Center where he is responsible for providing leadership and management of the NCAC and participating in national and international training and leadership activities regarding the protection of children. The NCAC was the first Child Advocacy Center in the world, and continues to provide prevention and intervention services for child abuse in Huntsville/Madison County, AL; and, also houses the NCAC Training Center; the Southern Regional Children’s Advocacy Center; the NCAC Virtual Training Center; and the Child Abuse Library Online (CALiO). The NCAC is a past multi-year winner of the Better Business Bureau’s Torch Award for Workplace Ethics, 2012 Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year; 2016 Federal Bureau of Investigation Director’s Community Leadership Award, Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Best Places to Work, and a Private Sector Member of the Virtual Global Taskforce. Chris has provided training in more than twenty countries throughout the world at numerous international conferences, and also provides technical assistance on a regular basis to professionals working to develop Children’s Advocacy Centers throughout the world. Chris graduated from Hendrix College, the University of Central Arkansas, and the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program.

Beth Olson, MSW, worked for eight years developing programs that serve youth and families in transition from treatment or incarceration back into the community. She has been an advocate and counselor for sexual and domestic violence victims for over 25 years, serving as the Associate Director of the Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault and the Director of The Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, Duluth Family Visitation Center. She co-authored Naming the Tactics, a manual conceptualizing a new paradigm for understanding and responding to post separation violence and the way children are used by men who batter. Beth has a wealth of experience developing meaningful programs that last in the community and has effectively led a wide variety of system’s change efforts including working with a team of 7 law enforcement agencies to create the first anonymous reporting policy of its kind for sexual assault victims in the nation. A dedicated and passionate community activist, Beth has led many human rights efforts to increase equality and safety for all members of the community. Beth taught two courses she designed at the College of St. Scholastica for 9 years: “Dynamics of Sexual Violence” and “Sexual Violence Advocacy and Community Intervention”. As the Executive Director at First Witness Child Advocacy Center from 2011-2017, Beth prioritized the creation of an advocacy program built on the principles of social change advocacy and implemented a comprehensive prevention and community education program. She created a training curriculum for advocates in CAC’s in 2013 and trains on advocacy nationwide. Beth holds a Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Minnesota – Duluth and was elected to serve as a County Commissioner for St. Louis County in 2016.

Kim Skidmore is currently the Assistant Director of Forensic Services at the Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center and has completed over 1800 interviews of children. As the Assistant Director of Forensic Services, Kim assists local, state, and federal law enforcement officials by conducting video recorded forensic interviews of children in cases where the child is alleged to have been the victim of or witness to child abuse and other violent crimes. Kim supervises a team of 6 interviewers that serve Dallas County, TX. Prior to that, Kim earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Austin College, located in Sherman, TX. Kim has also served at the Fannin County Children’s Advocacy Center in Bonham, TX as a Program Specialist/Forensic Interviewer. Kim also has CPS (Child Protective Services) experience in Dallas County and was assigned to a specialized unit that handled cases of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, and child deaths. Kim has also worked at the Ella Mae Brown Shelter for Domestic Violence in Sherman, TX.
New this year, conference attendees can register online through the link on our website. A registration form is also available on our website that can be filled out and mailed with payment to: Downstate Conference, c/o Madison County CAC, 101 E. Edwardsville Rd., Wood River, IL  62095 or faxed to 618-296-5380. Our website is www.downstateconference.com.

Name: ____________________________  Agency: ____________________________
Title: ______________________________  Phone: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________  Fax: ____________________________
Email: ______________________________  

Dietary needs (please specify): ____________________________________________

**Registration Fee**  *(Please make checks payable to Downstate Conference)*

$150 two-days if received by March 31st - $175 thereafter.
$100 one-day if received by March 31st - $125 thereafter.
Student Rate (college ID required): $50/1 day or $100/2 days

Please **CIRCLE** which sessions you will be attending for each time frame.

(1D #’s are found at the beginning of each session description).

A1  B1  C1  D1  E1  F1
A2  B2  C2  D2  E2  F2
A3  B3  C3  D3  E3  F3

Please mark which day(s) you are attending and which CEU’s you are purchasing:

_____ Wednesday, April 25th
_____ Thursday, April 26th
_____ MCLE’s ($10)
_____ CEU’s ($10)

Amount Enclosed: $___________

Are you a child death investigations task force member?  YES  or  NO