



MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

8th Annual Statewide Conference

Healing, Hope and Justice: An Advanced Conversation

Global Approach to Pediatric Sexual Assault Evidence Collection: Bridging Care and Analysis

Presenters: Michelle Levasseur, MS & Rachel Niemiec, RN, MSN, FNP-BC Pedi SANE

This workshop will examine the Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (Pedi SANE) program in Massachusetts. Attendees will be educated about the history of the program as well as the Massachusetts Pediatric Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit. During the workshop there will be a practical discussion on the parameters of evidence collection and options available for maximizing forensic evidence recovery and the role of both the Children's Advocacy Center and the State Police Crime Lab in the collection and examination of forensic evidence. Various case studies, including both pediatric and adult/adolescent cases will be presented, highlighting the process of a case from evidence collection, to the forensic lab, to the CAC and beyond.

Presenter Bios: Michelle Levasseur, MS



Michelle Levasseur is technical leader of the Criminalistics Unit of the Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory, where she supervises laboratory staff responsible for the identification, testing and collection of biological fluids, trace materials and gunshot residues in the laboratory. Currently, there are four laboratories within the crime laboratory system that perform these functions. She is a graduate of National University and UMASS Boston.

Presenter Bio: Rachel Niemiec, RN, MSN, FNP-BC

Rachel Niemiec is currently the Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner providing care within the Plymouth and Norfolk County Children's Advocacy Centers as well as an Adult/Adolescent SANE for Central Massachusetts. She has been with the Massachusetts SANE program for the last 4 years. She received her Masters' Degree in Nursing with dual certification as a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator and has a Bachelors' Degree in Criminal Justice. With over 13 years of experience working within the field of trauma, she began her career as a community-based advocate for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.