



MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

## **7th Annual Statewide Conference**

### **Healing, Hope and Justice: An Advanced Conversation**

#### **Session Descriptions**

#### **Plenary Session: 9:15am-10:15am (Ballroom)**

##### **Randy & Me: A Prosecutor's Story of His Childhood Sexual Abuse**

*Kevin Mulcahy, JD, Assistant US Attorney, child sexual abuse survivor speaker*

This presentation will recount Kevin's own story of sexual exploitation at the hands of his soccer coach, Randy. But, it will not be merely a retelling of the past. Instead, the presentation will address lessons learned from his case by combining Kevin's experience both as a victim and a long-time prosecutor of child exploitation cases. Knowing what he knows now, Kevin believe there are lessons to be learned from his story for the investigator (Kevin's was great), the prosecutor (Kevin's was terrible), and the forensic interviewer (Kevin did not have one). Beyond these (hopefully) useful lessons, the presentation will provide plenty of time for questions from attendees. Given the nature of our work, we don't often get to ask questions (beyond factual questions) of our child victims. This presentation will provide that opportunity.

#### **Breakout Workshop Session I: 10:30am-12:00pm**

##### **More than Playing Doctor or House: An Overview of Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior**

*Jimmy Widdifield, M.A. LPC, OUHSC, Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN)*

*Sharon Millington, M.A. LPC, OUHSC, Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN)*

Children with problematic sexual behavior are a heterogeneous group. Unfortunately, these children and their families are typically divided among treatment agencies, systems, and ultimately, from one another, all of which hinders the success of treatment and healing for the family as a whole. Designed for professionals from a variety of disciplines (social work, law enforcement, juvenile justice, mental health), this presentation will provide research-based information on children with problematic sexual behavior and strategies to promote provision of comprehensive services to these children, child victims, and their families in a way that preserves the family and promotes effective healing.

##### **Child Victims with Disabilities**

*Scott Modell, Ph.D.*

While child abuse, neglect, exploitation and sexual assault can affect any child, children with disabilities are at greater risk of abuse and neglect than children without disabilities. Children with disabilities experience victimization of violent crimes at greater rates than those without disabilities. In 2014, the average annual rate of violent victimization for children with disabilities was more than triple the rate among children without disabilities. Serious violent victimization for children with disabilities was more than three times than that for children without disabilities (Harrell, 2016). The risk of being a victim of crime, especially a victim of sexual assault, is 4 to 10 times higher for a child with a disability. Across all disability groups, children with intellectual disabilities have the highest rate of victimization. Understanding and communicating effectively with children with disabilities including intellectual disabilities, physical and communication disabilities who

are victims of abuse are necessary skills for child protective services, law enforcement, forensic interviewers, social service personnel and other child welfare staff. The ability to understand the unique characteristics and communicate effectively is paramount in creating safe environments and conducting appropriate investigations. The participants in this training will develop a broader understanding of children with disabilities as well as new strategies for effective interviewing and communicating. Video clips of real individuals with disabilities are integrated into the presentation to maximize the effectiveness of the training.

### **Interviewing Victims of Child Sexual Exploitation**

*Crystal Gregory, MSCJ, Homeland Security Investigations*

This presentation will focus on collaboration between local, state, and federal agencies while investigating CSEC cases. It is common for CSEC victims to not be in active disclosure and possibly deny abuse. Discussion will include how to recognize the differences in CSEC forensic interviews and the traditional contact offense forensic interviews, along with techniques to prevent denials while discussing the use of the HSI Prepare and Predict Forensic Interview Method. This method is a non-leading, legally defensible method that is used to assist forensic interviewers in obtaining accurate and detailed statements from victims. This presentation will include a combination of lecture, case examples and forensic interviewer experience.

### **Promising Directions in Child Victimization Research:**

#### **How Can Child Advocacy Centers Improve their Services in Evidence-Based Ways?**

*Lisa Jones, Ph.D., UNH Crimes against Children Research Center*

Child Advocacy Center (CAC) professionals are busy working to keep children safe from harm, and it can be difficult to stay up to date on the latest findings in child victimization research. This workshop will catch attendees up with new findings and emerging areas of research that are important to the work that CACs are doing. Specifically, the workshop will provide information on exciting research in understanding victimization impact, and new findings in abuse prevention, service-delivery and implementation science. The workshop will also review areas of current practice and attention in the field that may be moving beyond what we know from research. Finally, we will identify important areas of practice where research is lacking. Workshop attendees will discuss ways to ensure that CACs are moving in evidence-based and sustainable directions.

### **Innovation and Transformation: Responding to the Medical Needs of our Children**

*Peter Sell, D.O., FAAP, UMass Medical School*

*Linda Sagor, MD, MPH, Massachusetts Department of Children and Families*

This workshop will use a case-based format to share new programs and practice in care of children who have been abused or neglected in Massachusetts, and discuss the multistep, interdisciplinary approach to opioid use/exposure in pregnancy and newborn period, as well as evidence-based recommendations to reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep related infant deaths.

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### **Keynote Session: 1:00pm-2:00pm (Ballroom)**

*Kayla Harrison, Olympic Judo Champion, child sexual abuse survivor and advocate*

In 2012, Ms. Harrison made history as the first American to capture an Olympic Gold Medal in Judo, going on to win gold again in 2016. Ms. Harrison's judo career has been undeniably impressive. However, it is her perseverance through incredible personal struggles that is truly inspiring.

At the age of 16, Ms. Harrison revealed that for years she had been sexually abused by her judo coach. The revelation turned her world upside down. She pressed charges and a federal prosecution followed. As a teenager, Ms. Harrison moved from her home and family in Ohio to Massachusetts to live and train, and was made to rebuild her life in a new place surrounded by new people. Her Olympic Gold medals represent the height of her athletic accomplishments, but don't begin to tell Ms. Harrison's story of personal triumph. Her message of belief in oneself, perseverance amidst obstacles, setting and reaching goals, and peak performance have captivated audiences from community groups to government agencies, and from high schools and colleges to Fortune 500 companies. Ms. Harrison is an especially sought after speaker on the topic of child sexual abuse, its warning signs and proof that with the right help, anything is possible. Her message of strength and courage, on and off the mat, are an inspiration to all.

### **Presentation of the 2016 One With Courage Award to Kayla Harrison and Kevin Mulcahy**

### **Breakout Workshop Session II: 2:15pm-3:45pm**

#### **Evidence-Based Treatment for Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior**

*Jimmy Widdifield, M.A. LPC, OUHSC, Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN)*

*Sharon Millington, M.A. LPC, OUHSC, Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN)*

Children with problematic sexual behavior are highly responsive to evidence-based treatment (EBT) and have very low recidivism rates. While EBT exist to address problematic sexual behavior in children, most communities either do not have access to or are faced with many challenges to implement EBP to best provide comprehensive services to these children and their families. This presentation will provide an overview of the research on treatment for children with problematic sexual behavior and their families, and focus on clinical practice elements known to reduce or eliminate problematic sexual behavior in children.

#### **Interviewing Child Victims with Disabilities**

*Scott Modell, Ph.D.*

Studies have long established that children with disabilities are disproportionately criminally victimized. Specifically, the rate of violence experienced by children with disabilities is almost triple the rate compared to children without disabilities. Children and youth with disabilities are more likely than children and youth without disabilities to experience physical abuse resulting in bodily injury and to experience serious sexual offenses including those involving repeated abuse, use of force and threats. Research studies (Powers, 2004; Nosek, 2001; Sobsey, 1994; Petersilia, 1998; Waxman, 1991) consistently report that there is a very high rate of sexual violence against children with physical and intellectual disabilities, as well as, those with significant speech and or communication disabilities. Furthermore, the risk of sexual violence appears to increase with

the degree of disability. There are a number of factors related to children with disabilities susceptibility to interactions with the criminal justice system. In addition to these factors, many significant barriers exist, both real and perceived, that limit investigation and prosecution of these cases. Understanding and communicating effectively with children with disabilities who come into contact with the criminal justice system are necessary skills for child protective services, law enforcement, children's advocacy center staff, and other social service personnel. The participants in this training will develop a broader understanding of children with disabilities as well as new strategies for effective interviewing and communicating. Video clips of real individuals with disabilities are integrated into the presentation to maximize the effectiveness of the training.

### **Keeping Up: Combatting the ever-changing world of social media facilitated child abuse**

*Kate MacDougall, J.D., Family Crimes Unit, Essex DA's Office*

This workshop will discuss how various social media platforms are being used to facilitate and further exploitation and abuse of children, as well as strategies for investigation and prevention. The workshop will provide an overview of various social media platforms, how they are utilized by perpetrators, monitoring and obtaining evidence from various platforms, and will address strategies for protecting children online.

### **Developing an MDT Response to CSEC: One County's Experience**

*Hampden County MDT Panel*

Professionals representing the District Attorney's office, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Family Advocacy Center (FAC) from Hampden County will present their successes and lessons learned with developing a multidisciplinary team (MDT) response for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC). This county, which includes the cities of Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee and Westfield, as well as some of the more rural areas of the state, will present their experience with the Massachusetts Child Welfare Trafficking Grant training including their work to effectively expand their multidisciplinary team (MDT) to include new partners and develop a CSEC protocol. The impact of this team's work is evidenced by its response to nearly 200 CSEC cases within the first year of program implementation.

### **Civil Legal Needs of Minor Sexual Assault Victims**

*Kelsey Worline, JD and Eleni Kalmoukos, JD*

*Victim Rights Law Center*

When a minor experiences sexual violence their lives can often unravel. The criminal justice system is not structured to address the often immediate and basic needs of young victims. This interactive workshop will provide an overview of the civil legal needs of young sexual assault victims with a focus on safety, privacy, and immigration.