



SPUR  
WINK

going the distance



The 21<sup>ST</sup> Annual  
**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE  
ON CHILD MALTREATMENT**

**October 13 & 14, 2016**

Hilton Garden Inn Freeport Downtown  
5 Park Street | Freeport, ME | 04032

The 21<sup>ST</sup> Annual  
**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE  
ON CHILD MALTREATMENT**

Continuing the tradition of state-of-the-art, practical,  
and evidence-based education for all professionals  
working with abused and neglected children.



## ABOUT SPURWINK

In the 1960's, Spurwink developed what was a unique concept for that time - the treatment of troubled children within the community, rather than in institutional settings. The agency's first residential program served eight boys. This same residence is now one of over 60 treatment homes Spurwink operates for children, adolescents, and adults.

While residential treatment is a significant part of Spurwink's services, it is just one segment of the agency's comprehensive programming. Over the years, our services have expanded to include a wide array of community-based programs designed to meet the unique, identified needs of each client.

With over 900 caring and dedicated professionals in our employment, Spurwink has gained a reputation for excellence in evidence-guided treatment and service delivery throughout New England and Canada. While we have experienced tremendous growth over the years, Spurwink's foundation has remained strong: provide a stable, emotional, and supportive environment that strives to be the most effective in helping clients find their strengths



# ABOUT SPURWINK'S CHILD ABUSE PROGRAM

The Child Abuse Program (CAP) was developed in response to the need for expert diagnostic and treatment services for Maine children who may have been abused. This diagnostic program provides, forensic interviewing and medical evaluation of children suspected of abuse, in addition to psychological evaluation of children and adults. The program's combination of individual and team services allows our clinical staff to choose the best mode of evaluation and treatment for every child and family.

The Cumberland County Children's Advocacy Center is co-located at the Spurwink Child Abuse Program. This coordinated approach to the investigation of child abuse provides a child friendly forensic interview of a child that is observed by a team of investigating professionals. This team approach helps the family and child access appropriate medical, mental health and/or advocacy services.

The main office is located at 17 Bishop Street in Portland, Maine and can be reached via phone 1.800.260.6160; 207.879.6160. CAP also provides medical examinations at Satellite clinics which are located in Waterville, Bangor, and Lewiston, Maine.

## AUDIENCE

The Northern New England Conference on Child Maltreatment is intended for a multi-disciplinary audience, including professionals from the fields of nursing, mental health, law, child welfare, law enforcement, child advocacy, emergency services, medicine and education.

## CONFERENCE GOALS

The goal of the conference is to provide multi-disciplinary training to increase professional skills and knowledge to professionals who are involved in child abuse prevention, recognition, evaluation, reporting, investigation, prosecution, treatment and all forms of child maltreatment.



# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

**William M. Barter, Ph.D.** is a licensed psychologist specializing in forensic cases. Ordained in 1982, Dr. Barter is also a Senior Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He is Child Safety Education Director for the New England Synod of the ELCA.

**Ross Cheit, Ph.D., J.D.** is a professor of political science and public policy at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, where he has been teaching since 1986. He received a BA from Williams College and a law degree and a doctorate in Public Policy from the University of California. He clerked for one year at the Oregon Supreme Court and practiced law in Berkeley, California before joining the faculty at Brown, where he teaches courses ranging from Children and Public Policy to The Politics of Food. His most recent book, *The Witch-Hunt Narrative: Politics, Psychology, and the Sexual Abuse of Children*, was published by Oxford University Press in April 2014.

**Bobbi Johnson** is the Associate Director of Child Welfare Services for the Office of Child and Family Services within the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. She obtained her Master's degree in Social Work at the University of Maine at Orono and is a Licensed Master Social Worker. Bobbi has worked for OCFS for 21 years. In her role, she is responsible for the overall leadership and strategic direction of child welfare services in Maine. Bobbi has experience with community building at the local and statewide level and has been instrumental in moving the work of child welfare from an agency responsibility to the shared responsibility of families, OCFS and community partners. Bobbi has been active on several committees, including the Child Welfare Substance Abuse Committee and the Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel. These efforts bring together partners statewide and are focused on improving the system of care, maximizing resources and promoting the voices of the individuals we serve. Bobbi understands the link between trauma, child abuse and neglect and resiliency. She believes in the power of relationships and that one individual can make a difference.

**Michael C. Kearney** is an Assistant Attorney General in the Child Protective Division of the Maine Office of the Attorney General. He received his undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and his law degree from the University of Maine School of Law.



He served as office manager of the Portland office from 1999 to 2007 and was awarded the Governor's Employee of the Year Award in 2006. He is on the CASA Advisory Board and served on the Attorney General's Anti-Stalking Task Force. He also serves as Secretary of the Great Atlantic Speedskating Club and is an amateur herpetologist.

**Karen Mosher, Ph.D** is a psychologist, now retired following a 36 year career in public mental health. Dr. Mosher was the Clinical Director at Kennebec Behavioral Health. She has served as a consultant to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services, as well as to the Child Maltreatment effort of Maine's State Forensic Service. She has served on Maine's Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel for more than 25 years. During her career, Dr. Mosher developed expertise in working with parents experiencing disabling mental illness, personality disorder, domestic violence, and developmental disability. Her practice included a specific focus on assessing parental strengths and deficits and developing practical recommendations designed to make a measurable difference in parents' ability to nurture and protect their children. Finally, her practice included the development of methodologies to reliably measure parents' abilities to carry out and sustain their new protective skills without ongoing coaching and cuing.

**Jodi Quas** is Professor of Psychology and Social Behavior, and Nursing Sciences at the University of California, Irvine, where she conducts research, teaches and engages in policy oriented activities. Her areas of expertise include children's eye witness capabilities, memory, suggestibility, the effects of trauma on children's development; children's involvement in the legal system as victims of and witnesses to crime, and the short and long term influence of chronic stress exposure on children's functioning. Her research has been funded by federal and private grants and she has received numerous awards for the scientific and practical significance of her work for improving the lives of at risk children.

**Lawrence Ricci, MD** is a board certified child abuse pediatrician. He is the medical director of the Spurwink Child Abuse Program.



**David Rubin, MD, MSCE** is the director of PolicyLab at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a professor of pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rubin is responsible for a center of emphasis that includes 20 faculty and more than 60 staff conducting population health and community-partnered research. He is a senior fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics and a former associate program director of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Pennsylvania. With a content focus on developing health system and public program innovation to meet the needs of high-risk populations of children, he serves as the medical director of clinical integration in the Office of Continuous Quality Improvement at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where his work is across the health system to build capabilities for population health management. To date, Dr. Rubin has authored more than 70 manuscripts spanning peer-reviewed research, policy analyses, and edited chapters in prominent pediatric texts, including seminal manuscripts in JAMA and Pediatrics on the diagnosis of abuse-related injuries, trends in psychotropic medication use for Medicaid enrolled children, program design and outcomes for children in foster care, the effectiveness following replication of infant-home visitation services to high risk families, and emerging issues of access and coverage for lowincome families. Dr. Rubin is particularly drawn to the challenges of meeting the needs of some of our nation's highest risk children in the national Medicaid and CHIP programs. Externally, he is a past member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Task Force on Foster Care and their Committee for Early Education, Adoption & Dependent Care. Based on the large body of his work, in 2013, Dr. Rubin was appointed by the President to the White House Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities, which was tasked for recommending a national strategy to prevent child abuse fatalities. In 2016, based on his work with the US Army, he was named to Military Family Readiness Council for the US Department of Defense.



# THURSDAY OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

- 8:00**      **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45**      **Introduction: Joyce Wientzen, LCSW & Eric Meyer, LCSW, MBA**
- 9:00**      **Talking with Children about Negative Experiences: Part 1. Considerations and Controversies** by Jodi Quas, Ph.D.  
This presentation will provide a review of the research on children's memory and suggestibility including areas of consensus and controversy.
- 10:15**      **Break with refreshments**
- 10:30**      **Talking with Children about Negative Experiences: Part 2. Strategies to Improve Children's Reporting Completeness and Accuracy** by Jodi Quas, Ph.D.  
This session will focus on assisting children and families where child maltreatment has been identified and discuss what is known about preventing its recurrence and associated impairment.
- 11:45**      **Lunch will be served**
- 1:00**      **The Witch-Hunt Narrative: Politics, Psychology, and the Sexual Abuse of Children** by Ross Cheit, Ph.D, J.D.  
This presentation will review widely publicized day-care sexual abuse cases from the 1980's and early 1990's. Those cases help explain the rise of Child Advocacy Centers and science based forensic interviewing techniques. Those cases, which have been cast as "witch hunts," also explain the rise of the backlash against professionals who help children. This presentation will debunk some popular myths about those cases. It will also demonstrate how the backlash against child abuse professionals continues to exist in the media and in academia.
- 2:15**      **Break with refreshments**
- 2:30**      **When Good Inquiry Matters: Making the Best Use of Psychological Evaluations** by William Barter, Ph.D.  
This presentation will provide a guide for utilizing psychological assessments to enhance access to services and assist with court decision making. Appropriate referral questions, interpretation of results and use of psychological evaluations will be reviewed.
- 3:45**      **Adjourn**



# FRIDAY OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>

8:00

**Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:45

**Introduction: Lawrence Ricci, MD & Eric Meyer, LCSW, MBA**

9:00

**Developing a Public Health Approach to Reduce Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities** by David Rubin, MD, MSCE

Dr. Rubin will review his experiences as a White House appointee on the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse Neglect Fatalities. In doing so he will discuss how the Commission arrived at its final recommendations, even as they considered the lack of clear evidence of a direction forward. Drawing from research and from testimony, he will review the strategy that emerged; one that prioritized state's developing a public health approach to this issue, as well as the federal government providing more flexibility in how states could deploy resources from federal entitlement programs.

10:15

**Break with refreshments**

10:30

**Two Generation Services to Families** by David Rubin, MD, MSCE

Preventing child abuse requires a two-generation approach that supports parents, addresses children's developmental needs, and reaches families long before they come in contact with the child welfare system or other formal social service systems.

11:45

**Lunch will be served**

1:00

**What Death Can Teach Us: Individual Case Narratives as a Path Toward Improved Prevention of Fatal Abusive Head Trauma** by Lawrence Ricci, MD

Utilizing de-identified child welfare and medical records the presenters will describe several specific cases of preventable head trauma death where cognitive errors and biases have interfered with appropriate intervention after a case has been identified as high risk. One specific example involves a 3 month old who died from AHT with a past history of unreported arm fracture and bruises. This case will be used as the foundation for a discussion about sentinel injuries.

2:15

**Break with refreshments**

2:30

**Severe Physical Abuse Cases: Is Reunification Possible?** by Lawrence Ricci, Michael Kearney, Bobbi Johnson, and Karen Mosher

A multidisciplinary panel of professionals from maine will discuss strategies for how and when reunification can occur when a child has been seriously physically abused.

3:45

**Adjourn**



# HILTON GARDEN INN FREEPORT DOWNTOWN

5 Park Street, Freeport, ME 04032. (207) 865-1433

Center is conveniently located in Freeport with easy access for travelers from all directions and an on-site parking lot. There will be free Wi-Fi internet connectivity and the menus are created fresh daily in their on-site kitchen.

## REGISTRATION AND COST

The registration fee includes daily continental breakfast, lunch and refreshment breaks.

**Both Days \$150.00**

**Thursday only \$75.00**

**Friday only \$75.00**

All conference materials, including CEU information, will be available online, at [www.spurwink.org](http://www.spurwink.org). The access code to these materials will be emailed to you nine business days prior to the conference. Certificates of attendance will be emailed to you within 30 days after the conference.

Conference registration can be submitted electronically.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

We will provide you with information about the process of applying the conference contact hours to your professional license at the conference.

## REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Participants who cancel their registration will incur an administrative fee of \$25.00. NO REFUNDS will be given if cancellation is less than ten business days prior to the conference.



## CONTACT US

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## MORE INFORMATION

Website: <http://www.spurwink.org/professionals/training-and-education/conferences-events-other-programs/>

Registration: <https://spurwink-pdc.formstack.com/forms/20thanneccm>

