



SPURWINK

going the distance



THE 27th 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**

November 2, 2023 & November 3, 2023

Hilton Garden Inn Freeport Downtown

5 Park Street

Freeport, ME 04032

Presented by:



SPURWINK

About Spurwink

Spurwink is a mission driven non-profit organization of almost 1,000 Maine people, providing behavioral health and education services to over 8,500 people each year. Founded in Portland in 1960 as a single group home for 8 boys, today Spurwink provides a wide array of critically needed services statewide.

Through an evidence-based therapeutic model and an entrepreneurial approach, Spurwink provides access to care in areas of great need in Maine: mental health, trauma, autism, and intellectual and development disabilities.

About the Spurwink Center for Safe and Healthy Families

The Spurwink Center for Safe and Healthy Families 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. 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 (CCCAC) is co-located at the Spurwink Center for Safe and Healthy Families. The CCCAC provides a coordinated response to the investigation of sexual abuse including a child friendly forensic interview of a child that is observed by a team of investigating professionals and advocacy support to access appropriate medical, mental health and/or advocacy services.

The main office is located at 778 Main St., South Portland, Maine and can be reached via phone 1-800-260-6160 or 207-879-6160. Spurwink's Center for Safe and Healthy Families also provides medical examinations at Satellite clinics which are in Augusta, 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, and treatment of all forms of child maltreatment.

Thursday, November 2, 2023

- 8:45 Introduction: Amanda Brownell, MD & Eric Meyer, LCSW, MBA
- 9:00 **BRIGHT: A therapeutic parenting intervention designed to address traumatic stress in young children and their parents in recovery from substance use disorders (SUDs) and co-occurring disorders (CODs)**
Susan O'Donnell, LMHC & Karen Gould, LICSW
Mothers with substance abuse disorders often have trauma histories, high psychological distress and decreased capacities to optimally parent their young children. This presentation is an introduction to Project BRIGHT (Building Resilience through Intervention-Growing Healthier Together) and how to improve the parent-child relationship, maternal mental health, and decrease child maltreatment by increasing maternal sensitivity and parenting capacities, thereby promoting healthy child development.
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 **BRIGHT: A therapeutic parenting intervention designed to address traumatic stress in young children and their parents in recovery from substance use disorders (SUDs) and co-occurring disorders (CODs)**
Susan O'Donnell, LMHC & Karen Gould, LICSW
Continued from 9:00 AM session
- 11:45 Lunch break
- 1:00 **Sibling Risk Assessment in Cases of Suspected Child Maltreatment**
Nicholas Miles, MD
This workshop will explore whether siblings of victims of maltreatment are at increased risk for and what assessments/tools should be used to assess that risk.
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 **Managing Sexual Violence Risk of Adolescent and Adult Offenders**
Nadir Behrem, PsyD
Understanding the risks for an adult or adolescent to reoffend sexually has important implications for safety planning and intervention. This workshop will describe offending behaviors, what is entailed in a risk assessment evaluation and how to utilize to inform safety planning.
- 3:45 Adjourn

Friday, October 21

- 8:45 Introduction: Joyce Wientzen, LCSW
- 9:00 **Bias and Its Impact on Child Abuse Investigations**
Ilana Lezama-Beausejour & Tony DeVincenzo
This workshop will review the concepts of diversity, equity and inclusion as it relates to working with a multi-disciplinary team. Cognitive bias, its impact on decision making in child abuse investigations and strategies to manage it will also be reviewed.
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 **Bias and Its Impact on Child Abuse Investigations continued**
Ilana Lezama-Beausejour & Tony DeVincenzo
- 11:45 Lunch break
- 1:00 **Supporting Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence**
Gunjan Tiyyagura MD, MHS & Andrea Asnes
This workshop will explore when child exposure to intimate partner violence merits a report to child protective services as well as ways to support caregivers. Specific attention will be given to the utility of screening for injuries after an incident of IPV.
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 **Caregivers with substance use disorder: Making the decision to report to child welfare**
Alane O'Connor, DNP
Children living in homes impacted by caregiver substance use are potentially at risk of harm. The decision to report caregivers to child welfare is often complex and requires careful consideration. In this session, we will review the potential risk of harm to children from caregiver substance use, a framework for evaluating level of risk to children, and strategies for making the decision to report. We will also discuss techniques to enhance parent engagement in substance use treatment when child welfare is involved.
- 3:45 Adjourn

The Speakers

Susan O'Donnell is the Director of Early Childhood Trauma Services at the Institute for Health and Recovery (IHR). Her work is focused on issues of traumatic stress in young children whose parents are in recovery from substance use and/or co-occurring disorders. From 2012-2021, Mrs. O'Donnell was the Program Director for Building Resilience through Intervention: Growing Healthier Together (BRIGHT) for the Institute for Health and Recovery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. BRIGHT was funded through the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) to address traumatic stress in children age birth to six and their parents in recovery from substance use and co-occurring disorders. Mrs. O'Donnell is a Local and National Trainer on dyadic treatment with parents and infants impacted by parental substance use. She is also the Assistant Director of the Intimate Partner Abuse Education Program at Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR). For the past 6 years, she has served as the Co-Chair of the NCTSN Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative Group. Prior to Mrs. O'Donnell position at IHR, she was employed by SSTAR and served as the Clinical Supervisor for the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program. Mrs. O'Donnell has a Master's in Counseling Psychology with a Concentration in Child and Family Therapy from Assumption College in Worcester, MA. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She has experience providing mental health services with children, adolescents, and families.

Karen Gould, LICSW was previously the Program Director of Early Childhood Trauma Services at the Institute of Health and Recovery (IHR). (2012-2020) Her work is focused on issues of traumatic stress in young children whose parents are in recovery from substance use and/or co-occurring disorders. She presently provides consultation to IHR's Director of Early Childhood Trauma Services and provides local and national trainings. She also directed Building Resilience through Intervention: Growing Healthier Together. (Project BRIGHT) for the Institute for Health and Recovery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. (2010-2020) Project BRIGHT was a series of Evaluation projects funded through the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration that addressed traumatic stress in children ages birth to six and their parents in recovery from substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders at Residential Treatment Centers, outpatient substance use treatment centers and Methadone programs throughout MA. Ms. Gould was the Director of the Families Living Together Project, a five-year CSAT Homeless Addictions Treatment grant. From 1998-2004, Ms. Gould was the Director of the Women Embracing Life and Living (WELL Child) Project, one of 4 sites of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's Women, Co-Occurring Disorders and Violence Study. Ms. Gould received her MSW (1976) in social work from Simmons College School of Social Work in Boston, MA, and is licensed as a clinical social worker. She has experience providing mental health services with children, adolescents, and families. In addition to experience with program development, she has a private practice and consults to the Boston Public Schools and Lynn Public Schools.

Nicholas Miles, MD received his undergraduate degree in integrative physiology from the University of Colorado and his medical degree from Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine in Miami, FL. He completed a pediatric residency at Norton Children's Hospital through the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY, where he also completed a fellowship in child abuse pediatrics and earned a master's in clinical investigation. He is board-certified in general pediatrics and board-eligible for the field of child abuse. He joined the Spurwink Center for Safe and Healthy Families in July 2022.

Nadir Behrem, Psy.D. is a licensed psychologist. His clinical education and training include assessment of physical and sexual violence in adult and adolescent populations as well as competency to stand trial, civil commitment, and criminal responsibility evaluations. He has previously worked and received training at the Mendota Mental Health Institute in Wisconsin and State Operated Forensic Services in Minnesota. His more recent experience includes conducting Court-ordered forensic assessments at Maine State Forensic Service. He currently conducts psychological evaluations and risk of sexual offense evaluations of juveniles at Spurwink. Dr. Behrem also maintains an independent private practice in which he conducts forensic psychological evaluations.

Ilana Lezama-Beausejour is the Project Initiatives Specialist for the Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center. Ilana has served in the field of Social Work for several years in different capacities, from working with children within the child welfare system on behavioral therapy modalities to training foster parents on social-emotional skills and diversity. She has worked within the Juvenile Justice System serving at-risk youth and building relationships with stakeholders to serve underserved communities. During her tenure of direct service practice, she's managed to devise a mental wellness program in NYC to serve vulnerable youth. Ilana has a passion for making an impact on individuals and enhancing systems that serve people. She has obtained her master's degree in social work from Fordham University with a dual concentration in Clinical Work and Organizational Leadership. Ilana firmly believes her purpose is to make a difference in the lives and organizations that she encounters by extending herself as a beacon of light.

Tony DeVincenzo is a Training Specialist with the Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center having previously served as the Director of Programs/MDT Coordinator for Deirdre's House, the Child Advocacy Center for Morris County, NJ. Tony also served 25 years in law enforcement, a majority of which involved investigating crimes against children. He retired from the Morris County Prosecutor's Office as the Lieutenant of the Sex Crimes/Child Endangerment Unit. Tony continues to teach as an adjunct faculty member at several colleges and has trained on a variety of topics including child abuse investigations, forensic interviewing of children, and the CAC/MDT model.

Gunjan Tiyyagura, MD is an associate professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. She finished her residency and chief residency at Columbia University and went on to complete her fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine and her Masters in Health science at Yale where she stayed on as a faculty member. To date, she has over 45 publications and her research has focused on improving recognition of high-risk injuries associated with child abuse through the development and dissemination of programs and evidence to acute care settings especially community emergency departments using qualitative research, implementation science and quality improvement methodologies. Over the past few years, she has focused on examining the prevalence of child abuse in young children living with IPV, understanding barriers and facilitators to evaluation of child abuse in children living with IPV, and developing an integrated care clinic model of care for children and caregivers living with IPV. She is currently funded by NICHD to develop and evaluate a trauma-and violence-informed care model for children and caregivers living with intimate partner violence. Most importantly, she has had the privilege of developing and leading the amazing New Haven family violence Community Advisory Board, that advises and collaborates on all research and advocacy work she does related to IPV. She is the director of pediatric quality and safety education at Yale. She loves mentoring and teaching trainees and has been recognized with the Pediatric Educator award and the Mae Gaelani Clinical Research Award at Yale School of Medicine.

Alane O'Connor, DNP is the director of perinatal addiction medicine at Maine Medical Center and is the medical advisor of the Maine Maternal Opioid Misuse (MaineMOM) Initiative, a 5-year, \$5 million federal grant to expand access to substance use disorder treatment for pregnant and postpartum individuals in Maine. Dr. O'Connor also co-chairs Maine's Opioid Response Clinical Advisory Committee, which advises the Governor's opioid response director on clinical and public policy issues. She has more than 15 years of experience in addiction medicine in a variety of settings including the design and implementation of an extended-release buprenorphine pilot at Somerset County Jail, rapid access to substance use disorder treatment in emergency departments through Maine Medical Association's Project RISE, as well extensive experience caring for pregnant patients with substance use disorder in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. Dr. O'Connor lectures regionally and nationally and has trained more than 100 family medicine and obstetric resident physicians. She is a core faculty member of Maine's only addiction medicine fellowship program. Finally, Dr. O'Connor has published numerous peer reviewed articles on maternal and infant outcomes following substance affected pregnancies including child welfare implications as well as the care of pregnant patients with substance use disorders who are incarcerated.

Andrea G. Asnes, MD, MSW is Professor of Pediatrics at the Yale School of Medicine, Director of the Yale Programs for Safety, Advocacy, and Healing, and a board-certified Child Abuse Pediatrician. After receiving a master's degree in social work from New York University, Dr. Asnes completed medical school and residency at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She spent two years as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of Michigan before joining John Leventhal, MD in 2005 on the faculty at Yale where she has learned from and worked alongside him since. Dr. Asnes assumed leadership of the Yale Programs for Safety, Advocacy, and Healing in 2019. She is a current member of the American Board of Pediatrics Child Abuse Sub board, the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, and Secretary of the Ray E. Helfer Society (an honorary society of physicians seeking to provide medical leadership regarding the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and research concerning child abuse and neglect). Her scholarly interests include the support of frontline clinicians in the identification of abusive injury and the prevention of unneeded reports to child protective services. Dr. Asnes has an abiding interest in medical education and physician wellbeing and currently serves as Graduate Medical Education Director of Resident and Fellow Wellbeing at the Yale-New Haven Hospital. She has previously served as pediatric clerkship director, associate director of the MD/PhD program, and as pediatric residency program director at the Yale School of Medicine.

Registration and Cost

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

\$125.00

Conference Materials

All conference materials, handouts, PowerPoints, will be available at the online registration site about 10 days before the conference.

Professional CEU's/CME'S

At the conference, we will provide you with instructions for what you need to do to receive your professional CEU's.

Refund and Cancellation Policy

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.

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