

# **The 28<sup>th</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**

**November 7, 2024 & November 8, 2024**

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

Presented by:



**SPURWINK**

### **Conference Goals**

The goal of the conference is to provide multi-disciplinary training that will enhance skills and knowledge to professionals who are involved in prevention, recognition, evaluation, reporting, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of all forms of child maltreatment. The content is appropriate for professionals from the fields of nursing, mental health, law, child welfare, law enforcement, child advocacy, emergency services, medicine, and education.

### **About Spurwink**

Spurwink is a nationally accredited nonprofit organization of over 1,000 Maine people, providing a broad range of behavioral health care, substance use disorder services and support services for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, and their families to nearly 10,000 people each year. Spurwink offers specialized programs throughout Maine with a commitment to caring relationships and treatment expertise, grounded in evidence-based, best, and promising practices.

### **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 medical evaluation of children suspected of abuse.

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.

## Thursday, November 7, 2024

- 8:45 Introduction: Joyce Wientzen & Eric Meyer, LCSW, MBA
- 9:00 **Understanding Running Behavior and Preventing Revictimization**  
**Brittany Butler**  
In 2023, 1 out of 6 missing children reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) who had run away were likely victims of child sex trafficking. Many of these cases involved children missing from the care of child welfare. This presentation will provide a deep dive into the reasons why youth may run away from care, including “push” and “pull” factors, and the increased vulnerability to child sex trafficking that missing youth experience. An overview of child sex trafficking and the complex trauma that is associated with this type of victimization will be provided. The session will then cover practical lessons learned in developing proactive recovery plans focused on increasing rapport, youth engagement, and strategies to understand and reduce running behavior for missing children who are being sex trafficked. These considerations in planning and early engagement can create an environment during recovery that shows survivors that professionals are concerned about their well-being. Attendees will also learn about resources available through the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children that can assist with this effort.
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 **Adolescent Victims**  
**Laura Rowe**  
Adolescents can be a challenging population to interview due to their social, emotional, sexual, and cognitive development. This module will focus on educating the investigator about adolescent development and the impact development has on the investigative interview. Complicity issues and how to overcome this barrier while conducting interviews will be addressed.
- 11:45 Lunch break
- 1:00 **Identifying and Responding to Problematic Sexual Behaviors: Disruption Isn't Always the Answer**  
**Heather Tryon, MSW**  
Problematic sexual behaviors can be one of the trickier things to navigate in this work. We will discuss what qualifies as problematic sexual behaviors and the best way to respond if they occur, including treatment options. We will also spend time exploring prevention techniques to decrease the likelihood of them occurring and how to create a safety plan that will protect both the victim/survivor and the child who caused harm. Finally, we will discuss the support services available for victims/survivors.
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 **Identifying and Responding to Problematic Sexual Behaviors: Disruption Isn't Always the Answer (cont'd)**  
**Heather Tryon, MSW**
- 3:45 Adjourn

## Friday, November 8, 2024

8:45 Introduction: Amanda Brownell, MD

9:00 **Striking a Balance: A Culturally Compassionate Look at Corporal Punishment and How We End**  
**Lauren Burge, MD**

This presentation will highlight the specific effects of corporal punishment (CP) in the African American community, as well as barriers to decreasing CP, and resources specific for families of color.

10:15 Break

10:30 **The History of the Child Welfare System in the United States: Past, Present, and Future**  
**Lawrence Ricci, MD**

A full third of all children born in this country by the time they reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday will have experienced a child welfare investigation. How did we get here? How is the system working currently in the US and particularly in Maine? What does the future hold?

This presentation will outline the origins of the current child welfare system from its earliest episodic law enforcement beginnings, through its developments in the private sector after the Mary Ellen Wilson case in the mid-1800s until its current government-run agencies. We will discuss its strengths and weaknesses and what the future of child welfare might look like considering the child welfare dictates of safety, permanency, and well-being.

11:45 Lunch break

1:00 **The Many Faces of Trauma: What MDT Partners Need to Know**  
**Sarah Liquorman, PSYD**

Child maltreatment is an inherently complex experience that impacts the individual, family system, and community. Youth and their families can present in countless ways when they enter your local CAC making the various steps of investigation, engagement, and intervention challenging. This presentation will help MDT partners recognize the complexity of trauma in context to the greater systems youth are part of to enhance engagement strategies, manage competing expectations across the MDT team, and better serve the needs of youth and their caregivers.

2:15 Break

2:30 **Life-saving Injuries: Early Recognition of Child Physical Abuse**  
**Amanda Brownell, MD**

This presentation will review the most fatal form of child physical abuse, abusive head trauma (AHT). A review of the recent numbers of AHT in Maine will be discussed and compared to prior data. Attendees will be provided with tools to identify early signs of abuse such as sentinel injuries in very young children most at risk of AHT as well as next steps to assess these injuries.

3:45 Adjourn



# The Speakers

**Dr. Amanda Brownell, MD** the medical director of the Spurwink Center for Safe and Healthy Families, is a board-certified child abuse pediatrician and general pediatrician. She received her undergraduate medical degree from New York Medical College. She completed her pediatric residency training at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center. She then pursued child abuse pediatrics fellowship training at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. In her role as medical director, she oversees the Center which also employs a second child abuse pediatrician Dr. Nicholas Miles and Sarah Labonte, APRN-CNP where children are assessed for possible physical and sexual abuse. The Center also provides comprehensive health assessments to children who have recently entered state custody. Dr. Brownell is also a clinical associate professor at Tufts University School of Medicine, educating the next generation of physicians across the state of Maine.

**Lauren Burge, MD** is a Child Abuse Pediatrician, Pediatrics Clerkship Director, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She is a member of the CARES (Child Advocacy and Resource Evaluation Service) team at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and completes medical evaluations of children with concerns of abuse or neglect. She graduated medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and completed her pediatric residency at the University of Oklahoma. She also completed a 3-year fellowship in Child Abuse Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX.

**Brittany Butler** is a Resource Specialist with the Child Sex Trafficking Recovery Services Team (RST) at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). RST is a team of regionally assigned Resource Specialists who support child welfare professionals when they report a child missing from care to NCMEC who is suspected or confirmed to be a victim of child sex trafficking. RST provides resources and troubleshooting around safety planning, youth engagement, trauma-informed recovery planning, and connection to specialized resources for child sex trafficking survivors.

Brittany has eight years of experience and an expertise in the topics of domestic violence, child abuse, and human trafficking. Brittany's focus has always been on uniquely vulnerable populations, and she passionately advocates for those that she serves. Her educational background includes an undergraduate psychology degree from the University of Virginia, and a master's degree in forensic psychology from Marymount University. Throughout her career, Brittany has served survivor populations in Northern Virginia, Atlanta, New York City, and Baltimore. Presently, in her role as Resource Specialist, Brittany has been able to broaden her impact by supporting child sex trafficking survivors and child welfare professionals across the Northeast (10 states and Washington, DC).

**Sarah Liquorman, PsyD** is a Clinical Psychologist at Baystate's Family Advocacy Center (FAC) in Springfield, MA. The FAC is a nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center. In her role, she provides trauma focused evidence-based treatments across the lifespan for victims of crimes with a focus on children and adolescents. Dr. Liquorman also acts as the consultation liaison for the FAC's One Mission Program which provides service coordination and case management for high risk or sexually exploited youth by providing consultation and liaison services between Baystate Medical Center and the FAC. Dr. Liquorman's passion for growing trauma informed care allows her to conduct trainings for local, regional, and national organizations on topics related to trauma informed practices, the impact of trauma on children and adolescents, vicarious trauma and secondary traumatic stress and best

practices, and school responses to sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Additionally, Dr. Liquorman is a nationally recognized trainer in the FORECAST model. Other roles she participates in include training of graduate students and working on ongoing research and various tasks for FAC grants. Dr. Liquorman's expertise in sexual health and its incorporation in trauma informed care has been highlighted by NCTSN working groups at the national level.

**Lawrence R. Ricci, MD** is a Child Abuse Pediatrician who has practiced Child Abuse Pediatrics in Maine from 1985 until his clinical retirement from Spurwink in 2021. He continues to participate in state and national committees including the Ray Helfer Society and the Maine Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel, a panel he started in 1991. In addition, Doctor Ricci continues to teach, participate in case discussions, testify in court, and write editorials and position statements for the news media and the legislature.

**Laura Rowe** is a Child/Adolescent Forensic Interviewer (CAFI) with Child Victim Services Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Laura is based out of the New York Division and covers the northeast including eastern New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. As part of her job duties, Laura provides forensic interviews, expert testimony, case assistance, and training to FBI personnel. Prior to joining the FBI, Laura was a forensic interviewer with child advocacy centers in New York City where she provided expert forensic and clinical consultation regarding trauma and victimization to various New York City agencies, including the New York Police Department. Laura also worked within the general victim services field by assisting with the development, launch, and program management of a victim services program at the Red Hook Community Justice Center. Laura holds a Master of Arts degree in both Forensic Psychology and Forensic Mental Health Counseling from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, NY.

**Heather Tryon, MSW** received her Master of Social Work in 2002 from the University of Pennsylvania and started working in the field of adoption, both international adoption and adoption from foster care in Pennsylvania. After 9 years in that work and a few years as an at-home parent, she started volunteering as a CASA (court appointed special advocate) in Wilson County, Tennessee, subsequently working for CASA as a Program Manager. She is currently a sexual assault advocate with Rape Response Services in Bangor.

### Registration and Cost

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

\$125.00/day or \$250/both days

### 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.

### Contact Us:

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going the distance

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