



International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and the Cycle of Justice

Monday, April 1, 2024

- 7:00 – 8:00** **Registration**
- 7:00 – 8:00** **Light Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00 – 8:45** **Welcome & Opening Ceremony**
Dave Cohen, Master of Ceremonies
Ann Burdges, CEO, EVAWI
Rosie Hidalgo, Director, Office on Violence Against Women
Pete Lewis, Board President, EVAWI
Laurie Gift, Executive Director, MrBallen Foundation

- 8:45 – 9:15** **Award Presentations**
Patti Powers, Joanne Archambault Visionary Award
Paul Freeman, Professional Impact Award
Kimberly Corban, Teal Heart Award

9:15 – 10:15 - Solving a 51 Year Rape & Murder Case: Examining the “Cycle of Justice”

Thomas Tremblay, Chief, Burlington Police Department (Ret.), Advisor and Trainer, Tremblay Consulting & Training
Philip Tremblay, Detective Sergeant, Burlington Police Department

In 1971, a beloved schoolteacher was raped, beaten and strangled inside her own apartment. This case haunted the Burlington, Vermont community for over 50 years, altering the sense of safety and security in a city whose residents never locked their doors. The victim’s family encouraged and inspired law enforcement to keep working on the case, refusing to let this case go cold.

Over several decades, detectives continued to work through a large suspect pool (including the infamous serial killer Ted Bundy). The advancements of science, DNA technology, and genetic genealogy led to the realization that the offender lived in an apartment above the victim at the time of the crime. This case study will examine lessons learned and how working unsolved cases can enhance investigator experience, improve outcomes for future cases, and advance the professionalism of the department ensuring compassionate service to victims and their families – and an untiring pledge to pursue justice.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Examine the value of a team approach to cold case investigations that recreates the crime as if it just occurred, while applying current day advancements for response, investigation, and analysis of evidence.

- Identify promising practices in the preservation of cold case evidence and how the application of advancements in science, analysis of evidence, DNA, and genetic genealogy can be applied to generate new leads, eliminate possible suspects, and identify the perpetrator(s).
- Recognize that investigating cold cases and examining lessons learned can advance the skills of investigators, improve outcomes for future cases, and enhance the professionalism and community confidence in the department.

10:15 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12:00 - Justice for Victims: Decoding the Offender’s Plan in Rape & Intimate Partner Homicide Cases

Patti Powers, JD, Senior Attorney Advisor, AEquitas

Rapists and intimate partner offenders are adept at using premeditated tactics to commit offenses and escape undetected, often repeatedly. These offenders create or aggravate vulnerabilities in victims, compelling them into silence about the crimes committed against them. When victims are able to report these crimes or perpetrators are otherwise identified, offenders rely on societal misconceptions about victim behaviors and responses to trauma in order to bolster their defenses. This often enables perpetrators to assault, rape, and even murder their victims with impunity. Offender-focused investigations and prosecutions in both cold and current cases are key to ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable, and victims’ voices are amplified.

This presentation will examine offenders’ conduct and its impact on victims of rape and intimate partner homicide. It will also explore strategies to dispel myths about victims and overcome common defenses, including consent in the case of rape and denial or self-defense in the case of homicide. By exposing offender tactics to isolate, shame, and silence victims, criminal justice professionals bring to light the true nature of these crimes, centering the experiences of victims and achieving justice in the process.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify offender tactics in selecting targets, perpetrating violence, and impugning victims.
- Explain victim responses to trauma in the context of the crime.
- Implement a trauma-informed approach to interviewing and presenting the testimony of sexual assault victims and surviving family members of intimate partner victims.
- Analyze and convey the victim’s experience of the crime through the lens of forensic evidence.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 9 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

1. Building a Foundation of Emotional First Aid

Paul Freeman, MS, LPC, Crisis Response and Training Consultant

Victim assistance has grown greatly over the past decades. When serving survivors, be it victim/survivor advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, we have continued to add knowledge to those skills we have acquired throughout our careers. This workshop will begin with an overview of the neurobiology of trauma and how that knowledge can be integrated into a crisis intervention/emotional first aid model. During this session, the presenter will encourage attendees to go back to basics by exploring the power of communication skills that support and enhance emotional first aid using a trauma informed approach. These skills have the potential to reduce the trauma experienced by the victim/survivor and reduce as well as facilitate the tasks of the first responders.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe the Neurobiology of trauma and its impact on the victim/survivor.
- Evaluate strategies to incorporate effective listening skills.
- Recognize the power of questions in effective communication.
- Create a crisis intervention/emotional first aid model.

2. Reaching a Fair and Just Verdict: Guiding the Jury's Response to the Evidence

Patti Powers, JD, Senior Attorney Advisor, AEquitas

When victims step forward and disclose sexual assault, they entrust their search for justice to the care of allied professionals. Advancing justice through a well-considered approach to recreating the reality of sexual assault, beginning with jury selection is a necessity.

After being thrust into an unfamiliar role in a complex system that is equally unfamiliar, jurors in sexual assault cases face the daunting task of reaching a just verdict for crimes that are shrouded in misconceptions. In this terrain, prosecutors serve as trusted guides—pointing out familiar landmarks of personal experience and presenting witnesses and other evidence in a manner that makes them both understandable and relatable. By assisting jurors in forging personal connections to the evidence, the prosecutor can remove obstacles that might otherwise block the path to a just finding of guilt.

This presentation will offer ways to focus the jury's attention on the evidence in a manner that conveys the reality of sexual assault and assists jurors in rendering a fair and just verdict—beginning with jury selection and continuing through opening statement, presentation of evidence and summation.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explore strategies to guide the jury's response to evidence, centering the victim's experience of the crime throughout trial.
- Employ themes that place evidence in the context of jurors' life experience.
- Conduct trauma-informed direct examinations of victims.
- Examine offender behavior in the context of developing research on serial and cross-over offenders.
- Identify issues that require expert testimony.

3. Understanding the Motives of Those Who Batter: A Multi-Case Analysis

Dorothy Stucky Halley, LMSW, Co-founder and Co-director, Family Peace Initiative

Megan Ahsens, JD, Assistant District Attorney, Division Chief, Johnson County District Attorney's Office

This presentation "cracks the code" on battering behavior, bringing an understanding of the differences among those who batter based on motive to judges, attorneys, advocates, and other professionals working with domestic violence concerns. These different behaviors present different dangers to their victim and children. Through the use of videos and specific case examples, this information provides a more nuanced understanding of domestic violence, with practical information that can improve safety planning with victims and children, and criminal justice efforts with those who batter.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify the different motive types of those who batter.
- Identify the different risks and lethality factors linked with the different motive types.
- Explain the link between different motives and effective response and programming.
- Identify the different impacts on children related to the different motives.
- Apply the "Motivation Questionnaire Check list" to specific cases.

4. Use of Technology to Stalk

Jennifer Landhuis, MS, Director, Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center

Stalkers are creative criminals who use – and misuse – a variety of technologies to locate, surveil and monitor their victims. This session will address common technologies utilized by stalkers, including spoofing, stalkerware, and location-sharing devices like AirTags. The presenter will review evidence preservation concerns as well as identify effective safety-planning strategies.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify common technologies misused by perpetrators.
- Examine strategies to document stalking and preserve technological evidence.
- Explore strategies for increasing victim safety in digital stalking cases.

5. Are You for Real? Empathy, Bonding, and the Future of Artificial Intelligence in Survivor Care

Wendy Patrick, JD, PhD, Deputy District Attorney, San Diego County District Attorney's Office

Mike Schentrup, Captain, Gainesville Police Department (Ret.)

This program will explore the provocative question of how artificial intelligence (AI) can assist victims of interpersonal violence. From sharing reporting options to providing legal information, AI is increasingly being used within the criminal justice system to assist victims. But to what extent can it replace advocates or law enforcement professionals? This program will explore the advantages and disadvantages of delegating areas of victim care and case preparation to digital assistants, both in theory and practice, sharing real case examples both empirically and anecdotally.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify areas in which the use of AI could be used for informational purposes in outreach to potential victims.
- Evaluate ways to use AI in providing victim care.
- Recognize areas where the use of AI would be inappropriate and possibly counterproductive in assisting victims.

6. It's Not in Your Head: Health Consequences of Gender-Based Violence

Alison Jones-Lockwood, Consultant, Survivor Engagement and Start by Believing Coordinator EVAWI

Kimberly Corban, Survivor & Advocate

Anna Nasset, Speaker / Survivor, Stand Up Resources, Director, EVAWI

According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence survey, there is a profound association between gender-based violence and physical and mental health. Victims experience higher rates of lifetime health conditions such as asthma, headaches, chronic pain, irritable bowel syndrome, and difficulty sleeping. These health consequences can have a serious, and long-lasting impact on a survivor's physical well-being, as well as their ability to participate in the criminal justice process. All too often, survivors are told their symptoms are "all in their head," and referred to mental health services, rather than treating the symptoms the survivor is experiencing.

In this session, the presenters will share survivor experiences to help attendees better understand the link between trauma and physical health. The presenters will offer suggestions for accommodations to support survivors who are participating in the criminal justice process or seeking support services. The presenters will also share their personal insight on navigating health care systems with a trauma-informed lens. The presenters will close with stories of justice and triumph.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Summarize the impact of gender-based violence on physical health.
- Evaluate trauma-informed health care practices to support survivors.
- Implement accommodations for survivors experiencing physical health issues.

7. Sexual Harassment in the Military Services: The Unpleasant Truth and the Time for Change

Maureen Evans, NCIS Division Chief, Supervisory Criminal Investigator, Naval Criminal Investigative Service

On February 26, 2021, at the direction of President of the United States, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin established the 90-Day Independent Review Commission (IRC) on Sexual Assault in the Military. The Commission was charged with conducting “an independent, impartial assessment” of the military’s current treatment of sexual assault and sexual harassment. One of the common themes identified was that sexual assault did not stand alone, but rather exists on a “continuum of harm” which may begin with sexual harassment and escalate into sexual assault. This is particularly true in the military, where survivors of sexual harassment are at a significantly higher risk of later experiencing a sexual assault. To think of them as two separate problem sets is essentially misunderstanding the challenge of our military services. Research concluded that Service members who experience sexual harassment and gender discrimination suffer higher rates of being sexually assaulted. Roughly, one in three service members who were victims of sexual assault reported that the offender initially targeted them with sexual harassment. This program will highlight various IRC directed changes.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe the history of sexual harassment in the military services.
- Explain new legislation passed in the National Defense Authorization Act making sexual harassment a crime in the military services.
- Summarize the implementation of the Sexual Harassment Investigations Capability to provide timely investigations for all reports of sexual harassment.

8. Violence Against Women and Exploitation by Illegal Street Gangs

Amy Hutsell, Program Director, Sexual Assault, Child Abuse and Human Trafficking Unit, Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Associate, EVAWI

Hannah Palmquist, Chief, Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, Office of the Attorney General, State of Georgia

Human Trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar industry worldwide, depriving millions of their human rights and enriching criminals who exploit the most vulnerable among us. In this session, presenters will discuss domestic violence and the trend of organized street gangs profiting from the sex trafficking of minors, and adults. As gang investigators focus

on drugs, guns, and homicides, illegal street gangs are often able to keep their sex trafficking activity under the radar.

This session will include research into the prevalence of gang sex trafficking, pathways to victimization, recruitment techniques, and a look at society's demand for commercial sex. In Georgia, there is a focused effort to address this intersection. Presenters will highlight the anti-gang/anti-human trafficking priorities of the State, the strategic focus to combat the illegal activity, and present a complete case study illustrating the topic. Relying on a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach, presenters will discuss the work of the Georgia Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking, the data-driven and proactive approach to human trafficking investigations and the emphasis on strong victim resources.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize the prevalence of exploitation of women and girls in gangs.
- Examine the intersection between domestic violence and sex trafficking.
- Describe the pathways to victimization and exploitation by organized criminal networks.
- Implement policies to address sex trafficking in gangs with a jurisdiction-wide, trauma-informed and proactive approach.

9. Silly Rabbit, Tech Isn't Just for Kids: Supporting Older Adult Victims of Tech-Facilitated Abuse

Kim Camacho, LMSW, Program Manager, National Center for Victims of Crime

Older adults are using dating sites, investing, and participating online like never before. The COVID-19 pandemic forced many older adults to seek companionship, restock supplies, and stay in touch via online systems. With this shift to more digital community building, we see older adults being victimized by technology-facilitated crimes, such as romance scams, timeshares, online purchases, and more. Perpetrators of this type of crime can range from the most intimate of people, like partners and family members, to strangers far away. With the increase in the use of technology, it is essential for service providers, practitioners, and those who do client-facing work to understand the dynamics of tech-facilitated crimes and the emotional and often traumatic toll it can have on older adults and their ability to safety planning and seek recourse. Attendees will recognize how tech misuse manifests, especially in high-target victims with unique needs, such as older adults. Participants will learn how to support older adults and receive strategies and resources to help them navigate the process.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize how tech misuse manifests in working with older adults.
- Describe trauma's role in how older adults experience tech misuse and ways service providers can use trauma-informed strategies to provide support.

- Develop techniques to empower older adults to feel confident after victimization and mitigate risks.

2:30 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 4:30 9 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

1. I Can't Call the Police, He IS the Police! Officer Involved Domestic Violence

Tracy Rector, Executive Producer, *No Ordinary Love*

Mark Wynn, Founder and CEO, *Wynn Consulting*

When victims of domestic violence call for help, they depend on the police to show up. Victims of Officer Involved Domestic Violence (OIDV) fear calling 911. Their abuser's friend may respond. Their fear is founded in real-life stories of danger, tragedy, and death. Studies show up to 40 percent of police officers are reported to be domestic violence offenders, and the 'blue wall of silence' further exacerbates victims' safety. In the cycle of justice for OIDV victims, advocates face unique challenges to providing client safety as they delicately balance their relationship to local law enforcement.

In this session, Mark Wynn, the leading national LE expert in OIDV, will discuss missteps with typical law enforcement responses, the latest research, and how the pervasiveness of OIDV affects us all. Attendees will watch film clips from *No Ordinary Love*, which illustrates an OIDV victim's dangerous plight. The film's producer will present OIDV from the victim's perspective and how victims can lead us to improve their journey to justice. Finally, the presenters will discuss the latest research to reduce OIDV and how to implement local law enforcement changes leading to a safer community and a more effective cycle of justice for victims.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify the hidden dangers of Officer Involved Domestic Violence (OIDV).
- Restructure standard advocacy methods to keep OIDV victims safe.
- Implement changes to local law enforcement agencies OIDV protocol to create safety while reducing liability.

2. A SANE Approach to Human Trafficking

Jane Anderson, JD, Senior Attorney Advisor, *Aequitas*

Anne Boatright, MSN, RN, SANE-A, State Forensic Nursing Coordinator, *Nebraska Office of the Attorney General*

Human trafficking victims are at risk of serious injury, as well as short- and long-term physical and psychological health consequences. Any response to sex or labor trafficking should ensure victims have meaningful access to health care. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are invaluable collaborative partners in your response to

human trafficking. SANEs provide much-needed medical care to their patients, and they are also trained to document injury and collect evidence.

Incorporating SANEs in your human trafficking response team benefits both the victim and the investigation. The co-presenters—a SANE and a prosecutor—will demonstrate the value of collaboration in trafficking cases. The SANE will explain the health risks associated with sex and labor trafficking, the content of a medical forensic examination, and documentation of victim statements and demeanor. The prosecutor will provide strategies to improve the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases by using SANEs as fact and/or expert witnesses and litigating the admissibility of victim statements under the medical hearsay exception.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Implement policies to provide survivors with meaningful access to health care.
- Explain the role of the SANE in providing medical-forensic exams in human trafficking cases.
- Describe medical evidence and provide expert testimony at trial.

3. Confronting Law Enforcement Sexual Misconduct: Prevention and Accountability

Thomas Tremblay, Chief, Burlington Police Department (Ret.), Advisor and Trainer, Tremblay Consulting & Training

Fara Gold, Attorney Advisor, Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice

Through an examination of case studies, after-action reviews, and the emerging national demand for increased accountability for all forms of sexual assault misconduct, this presentation will encourage courageous conversations in your community and inspire proactive leadership and community strategies to prevent law enforcement sexual misconduct and hold officers who choose to offend accountable.

The overwhelming majority of those who serve in the noble profession of law enforcement are professionals that uphold their oath of office. However, the numerous headlines, arrests, convictions, and lawsuits describing horrific acts of sexual misconduct perpetrated by law enforcement officers must be addressed more proactively. The prevalence of this problem and its impact on public trust can no longer be ignored. A predatory sexual offender with the power and authority of the police is an extremely serious breach of the ethics of law enforcement, a potential violation of the Constitution and federal criminal law, and a traumatizing victimization for citizens that officers are sworn to protect.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Use the EVAWI Model Policy Resource to help develop community-based conversations and call for action for prevention and accountability for law enforcement sexual misconduct.

- Recognize the range of behaviors that constitute law enforcement sexual misconduct and when such misconduct is a violation of the Constitution and federal criminal civil rights law.
- Examine law enforcement sexual misconduct case studies to identify both early warning signs for prevention as well as investigative strategies that lead to accountability.

4. The Doctrine of Forfeiture by Wrongdoing: Case Studies

Kelly Grekstas, JD, Assistant State's Attorney, Cook County State's Attorney Office

Sara Ondera, JD, Assistant State's Attorney, Cook County State's Attorney Office

Oftentimes in domestic violence cases, an offender convinces a victim not to go forward or kills the victim in order to silence her. In this session, we will explore the doctrine of forfeiture by wrongdoing in domestic violence cases and how to use it to prosecute cases, either where the victim is no longer cooperating, or the victim is killed at the hands of the offender. We will present several case studies where the doctrine was used to admit testimony in light of Crawford and the defendant's rights to confront witnesses.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explain forfeiture by wrongdoing.
- Apply forfeiture by wrongdoing to their cases.
- Examine cases where forfeiture by wrongdoing was successfully argued and admitted at trial.

5. Supporting Justice Through Expert Witness Testimony

Jaclyn Rodriguez, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Chief Executive Officer, ForMed Insight LLC.

Jamie Lewis Saye, DNP, CNM, SANE, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Wellstar School of Nursing, Kennesaw State University

Sarah Pederson, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Statewide SANE Coordinator, Sexual Assault, Child Abuse and Human Trafficking Unit, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Forensic nurses have extensive knowledge on a broad range of topics including injury identification, ano-genital anatomy, and strangulation just to name a few. Yet most of this knowledge just stays in their heads until they have the opportunity to treat a patient or provide education to their colleagues or communities. But as stewards of justice, why is this information not being shared more widely? Forensic nurses are in a unique position to share this knowledge and expertise with prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges and juries to ensure that the criminal justice system is fair, accurate, and unbiased. During this session, the presenters will share their experience providing expert witness testimony for criminal cases when another provider cared for the victim.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Discuss the role of the forensic nurse in providing expert witness testimony.

- Examine expert witness testimony topics and preparation.
- Analyze lessons learned from expert SANEs on how to provide unbiased expert witness testimony.

6. It Ain't Easy Being Green: Addressing the Challenges of Adolescent Sexual Assault Victims & Suspects

Michael Wilmore-Crumrine, Sergeant, Austin Police Department

Rachael Frost, Master Investigator (Ret.), Chief Executive Officer, Frost ICED

Sexual assault investigations involving one adolescent assaulting another adolescent are some of the most challenging an investigator will work in their career. They deal with issues of consent that are not typically seen in child sexual abuse cases where an adult has preyed on a child. These cases require the investigator to obtain evidence of the lack of consent, where the suspect used force, fear, or coercion.

Determining these elements may be challenging for some investigators and prosecutors who are not experienced in working child sexual assault cases involving the lack of consent. This inexperience can lead to cases being discounted as “not a real rape.” Failing to address negative sexual behavior at an early age prevents us from trying to correct the behavior while simultaneously increasing the likelihood the behavior will only magnify itself in adulthood.

This interactive session will provide participants with clear actionable investigative tools to hold adolescent perpetrators accountable. By doing so, we can stop the cycle of doubt so many adolescent survivors face in not being believed when they report being a victim of gender-based violence.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explore the complexities involved in investigating adolescent sexual assault cases.
- Discuss the importance of addressing negative sexual behavior committed by adolescents to try to correct the behavior so it does not magnify and multiply in adulthood.
- Identify actionable investigative and prosecution tools that can be used to help hold adolescent sexual predators accountable.

7. Understanding How Trauma Impacts Behavior and Memories: Implications for Victim Interviewing

Kim Lonsway, PhD, Director of Research, EVAWI

This session will begin by reviewing research on the accuracy and resilience of memory for naturalistic life events. It will then turn to exploring the many impacts of trauma on the human brain and body, including responses to threat such as sexual assault or other traumatic event, and best practices for interviewing victims (and suspects!). Taken

together, these findings can help transform the way interviews are conducted, allowing us to become truly “trauma informed” in our interviewing and investigative practices.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explore research on the accuracy and resilience of memory for life events.
- Explain how behavior and memory processes can be impacted by trauma.
- Describe how to facilitate memory retrieval and disclosure during victim interviews.
- Examine research identifying best practices for interviewing victims and suspects.

8. The VINELink.com Experience: Delivering Resources to ALL Victims

Karen Adams, Manager, Marketing and Training Programs, Equifax Workforce Solutions

Approximately one-third of women and one-fifth of men will become victims of crime. Crime knows no boundaries. There is no age, race, gender, creed, or socioeconomic status that has escaped victimization. Nationwide, fewer than 1 in 10 victims of crime receive resources needed for recovery. As crime survivors seek justice, they deserve access to support, planning, community resources, and technologies that are inclusive of whom they are, and what they need. VINE (Victim Information and Notification Every day) is a broad platform of web-based products that empowers all victims of crime with access to life-saving resources.

VINE uses innovative, human-centered technology to provide access to centrally located resources, making offender custody, court case, and protective order status information accessible to victims in this digital age. This gives crime victims complete control and a choice, along with their families, to identify and work collaboratively with allied professionals. By incorporating self-service functionality and providing the ability to select preferred pathways of communication, VINE is facilitating a greater degree of information sharing between victims, advocates and service providers, law enforcement, and criminal justice personnel.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explain the history of the VINE service,
- Describe how VINE, VINE Courts, and VINE Protective Order leverage mobile app technology provides innovative solutions that allow victims to knowledgeably plan for their safety.
- List the benefits VINE, VINE Courts, and VINE Protective Order features provide victims, advocates, service providers, law enforcement, and criminal justice professionals.

9. Rights of the Undocumented: Collaborating with Law Enforcement and Navigating through Family Court

Susan Pearlstein, JD, Senior Attorney, Violence Prevention and Policy Strategist, Philadelphia Legal Assistance

Stephanie Costa-Kelser, JD, Managing Attorney of Domestic Violence Initiative, HIAS PA

During this session, the presenters will describe the obstacles undocumented communities face when collaborating with law enforcement and navigating the family court system, including understanding the fears and barriers undocumented immigrants face, how to advise survivors through this process, and strategies for litigation in protection from abuse and custody matters. The presenters will highlight the rights of undocumented people when contacting the police, the real fears immigrant survivors have regarding accessing law enforcement, and how to balance concerns with survivors' safety. They will review the rights that victims of crime have, regardless of their status, and why they should contact the police when in danger. The presenters will highlight the immigration benefits undocumented people have when they collaborate and cooperate with the police (i.e. U visa). The presenters will also discuss how and when immigration status might be raised by opposing parties in family court matters, how to respond to inquiries about immigration status during litigation, and best practices when representing undocumented litigants in family court.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe the barriers undocumented individuals face when accessing and participating in the criminal justice and family courts systems.
- Explain the rights of undocumented people when contacting the police.
- Describe best practices when representing undocumented litigants in family court, and how parents can protect their children from international child abduction and relocation issues.

4:45 – 5:30

Qigong (“Chee Kung”) and Breathwork for Health and Energy

Karen Van Ness, DMQ, DCEM, MS, Founder, Resilient Edge Wellness

Qigong (pronounced “chee kung”) is a non-impact form of exercise which combines breathing, specific movement patterns, and focused intention in a powerful practice that helps you transform stress, center and ground, and improve your health and energy. The exercises gently stretch and strengthen the physical structure, including muscles, tendons, ligaments, and fascia. The movements and breathing also work energetically to help regulate and unblock the energy meridians, which is often a "missing piece" for people who have been trying to resolve issues such as chronic pain or stiffness, better manage stress, and support healing of trauma or vicarious trauma. You will discover an easy yet powerful way to focus attention inwardly, leading to a greater sense of personal control.

In this class, you will directly experience a proven health and energy cultivation method impacting body, mind, and spirit. You will learn several foundational breathing practices and Qigong exercises which are accessible to anyone. Most of the practice is done standing; however, every exercise can also be performed from a seated position. Additional resources supporting continued practice will be provided to each attendee.

Tuesday April 2, 2024

7:00 – 8:00 **Light Continental Breakfast**

8:00 – 8:30 **Opening Remarks**
Dave Cohen, Master of Ceremonies

8:30 – 10:00 - Guardian or Warrior – Which One to Choose?

Matthew Stegner, MA, Senior Investigator (Ret.), New York State Police

This presentation will offer an honest assessment of a law enforcement career spanning 26 years. The presenter will provide an analysis of each style of policing - Warrior and Guardian - with examples of each. The presenter will offer insight about the underlying assumption that being trauma-informed, compassionate, and empathetic somehow make a law enforcement officer weak or unable to respond with physicality when required. The presenter will offer an alternative, one that melds both styles. This presentation will encourage new, or veteran professionals, to continue towards a mastery level of being BOTH a Guardian and a Warrior.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize that being compassionate does not mean you are soft or weak.
- Describe how providing high-quality, skilled, and empathetic services can not only help your survivor, but yourself as well.
- Recognize that warrior and guardian styles are not "either-or" concepts, yet equal halves of the mastery level we should all seek.

10:00 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 12:00 - Seek Then Speak – A Survivor-Centered Alternative Pathway to Justice and Services

Kim Lonsway, PhD, Director of Research, EVAWI
Victoria Pickering, Seek Then Speak Coordinator, EVAWI

Only 1 in 5 rape victims report the crime, precluding law enforcement from holding offenders accountable and decreasing survivors' access to vital services like victim advocacy and a medical forensic exam. In an effort to reduce these barriers, EVAWI partnered with EBinRA to create a self-guided, online interviewing tool for sexual assault victims called SEEK THEN SPEAK.

In SEEK, survivors and support people are offered information about sexual assault victimization and options for reporting to police and accessing services. Then, if they choose, survivors can begin the process of reporting to law enforcement by providing information in response to a self-guided, trauma-informed interview (SPEAK). The tool generates a PDF the survivor can: (1) Save on their own device, (2) Print, (3) Email to the

police department, or (4) Provide to a sexual assault advocacy center to submit on the survivor's behalf. Survivors can access SEEK THEN SPEAK from any digital device, in multiple languages, further reducing barriers of language and accessibility.

This innovative new tool can benefit survivors across the country, particularly in traditionally underserved communities. Yet it also benefits law enforcement, by helping to ensure that the information gathered during a sexual assault investigation is properly collected and documented. This supports investigators and prosecutors in building strong cases and holding offenders accountable, increasing community safety for us all.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe SEEK THEN SPEAK, an interactive online tool helping sexual assault survivors and their support people gather information and explore options.
- Explain how sexual assault survivors can use the new tool to begin the process of reporting to law enforcement by completing a self-guided interview.
- Consider how this new tool could increase access to reporting and supportive services for survivors in your community.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 9 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

1. “Nose Rings and Ankle Holsters” – A Discussion on Advocates and Cops

Matthew Stegner, MA, Senior Investigator (Ret.), New York State Police
Victoria Pickering, Seek Then Speak Coordinator, EVAWI

This presentation will focus on the unique relationship between advocates and law enforcement. These two professions have often struggled to partner on this winding journey known as the criminal justice system. Though the goal is shared - finding justice for sexual assault survivors - assumptions and biases have made the journey difficult. Utilizing the overarching theme of “it’s not about us, it’s about the survivor,” the presenters will speak to working together to get the best result possible - justice for the survivor. This presentation will glean from a professional encounter where an advocate from Kansas City, Missouri, and a police officer from Buffalo, New York met with a survivor over an online platform to accomplish a trauma-informed interview where the survivor felt empowered and supported.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify strategies to foster a positive working relationship between advocates and law enforcement.
- Strategize avenues to address implicit biases relative to preconceived notions about each profession.
- Recognize the shared goal – finding justice for sexual assault survivors.

2. I Was Born in a Small Town: Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Rural Communities

Denise Jones, Sergeant, Clark County Sheriff's Office

John Guard, Chief Deputy, Pitt County Sheriff's Office

Many Americans think of law enforcement agencies as large organizations with detectives, SWAT teams, and specialized units. In reality, about half of the more than 17,000 departments across the U.S. have fewer than ten full-time sworn officers. Small towns have less funding for staff, training, and equipment, yet these agencies grapple with the same public safety priorities as large jurisdictions, including gender-based violence. Rural agencies also contend with unique challenges, including a lack of technology and difficulty in leveraging grant funding. Research tells us that women in rural communities experience gender-based violence at a higher rate than those in urban areas. Considering these factors, building partnerships to address gender-based violence is critical. This presentation highlights rural strategies and partnerships to address gender-based violence; recruitment and retention; limited resources for victim advocacy and survivor services; and the value of a coordinated community response to maximize trauma-informed responses.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Outline policies and practices that support rural communities in addressing their most pressing gender-based violence related needs.
- Explore gender-based violence-related resources related to funding, training, victim services and support, co-responder models and CCRs, and mental health.
- Strategize rural responses to gender-based violence that are trauma-informed, victim-centered, and responsive to community needs.

3. Introduction to the Cognitive Interview – Adapted to Trauma

Jim Hopper, PhD, Independent Consultant and Teaching Associate, Harvard Medical School

Lynne Bibeau, PhD, Forensic Psychologist, Sûreté du Québec - Quebec Provincial Police

Investigative interviewing has evolved largely independently in academia and the field. The most researched approach is the Cognitive Interview, which, compared to standard investigative interviews, has been found to elicit more information from eyewitnesses that is equally or more accurate and more useful for investigations. Yet there is no research on the Cognitive Interview with sexual assault victims. Psychological trauma experts and sexual assault investigation experts have identified the need for complementary methods to Cognitive Interview for enhancing recall and increasing victim's safety and cooperation. This session will share the progress to date of a team developing the "Cognitive Interview – Adapted to Trauma" (CI-AT), a protocol and training program integrating the best of Cognitive Interview and trauma-informed interviewing, including: components of the CI-AT and its administration; video demonstrations; findings from preliminary research on investigators' and prosecutors' ratings of the quality and utility of information it yields; feedback from victims; and how the CI-AT training

is being delivered to all police cadets and experienced sexual assault investigators of the Quebec Provincial Police.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explain why and how the Enhanced Cognitive Interview and trauma-informed interviewing are compatible approaches that can optimize investigative interviews of sexual assault and other major crime victims.
- Describe the key elements of the CI-AT.
- Explore preliminary research on victims', investigators and prosecutors' acceptance and embrace of the CI-AT.

4. Using Forensic Genetic Genealogy to Solve Serial Sexual Assaults and Sexually Motivated Homicides

Amy Hutsell, Program Director, Sexual Assault, Child Abuse and Human Trafficking Unit, Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Associate, EVAWI

Since Golden State Killer, Joseph James DeAngelo was identified using this technique, forensic genetic genealogy has gained popularity as an investigative tool in solving violent crimes and identifying unidentified descendants. More and more suspects are identified using the analysis of biological samples collected at a crime scene or developed from the remains of Jane or John Doe combined with traditional genealogical research on potential relatives identified in public DNA databases. Nowhere is this investigative technique more relevant than with a cold case sexual assault homicide, deemed otherwise stagnant. This session will provide a detailed overview of how forensic genetic genealogy works, discuss challenges to the process and provide examples of successful forensic genetic genealogy cases.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Define Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG).
- Describe how DNA databases and traditional genealogical methods are used to solve sexually motivated crimes.
- Discuss which DNA databases are and are not available to law enforcement and ethical considerations surrounding FGG investigations.
- Examine Department of Justice guidance on FGG investigations.

5. Interpersonal Violence and Substance Use Disorder in Pregnancy: Recognition and Intervention

Stacey Mitchell, DNP, MBA, MEd, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Clinical Professor, Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing, Treasurer, EVAWI

Jodie Gary, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, Texas A & M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing

Jennifer Mudge, LMSW, Public Policy Coordinator, Texas Council on Family Violence

Links among substance use disorder and intimate partner violence are well-documented, especially among women of reproductive age. Combined intimate partner violence and substance use disorder in pregnancy results in serious health consequences. Both intimate partner violence and substance use disorder occur globally with impacts across all socioeconomic statuses. There is concern for the influence of substance use disorder on families with women who are at high risk during their reproductive years. A multi-year funded project to train providers to recognize intimate partner violence and to reduce maternal deaths due to substance use disorder during pregnancy and post-partum is underway. Information from a Delphi study is being used to create education that allows providers to assess their knowledge and choose education based on identified gaps. The goal is for best practices in the care of mothers who experience intimate partner violence and/or substance use disorder to be integrated into practice. This presentation will discuss the intersection of intimate partner violence and substance use disorder for health care teams providing maternal services, so that health care providers are able to identify both and provide appropriate referrals.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explain the intersection of intimate partner violence and substance use disorder in pregnancy.
- Describe three signs of substance use disorder in pregnancy.
- Appraise best practices for creating an appropriate response to intimate partner violence and substance use disorder.

6. Justice in the Courtroom: Assisting Self Represented Survivors Prepare for Court

Javier Enriquez, JD, Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Carroll Kelly, JD, Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

In the United States, most survivors of domestic violence are unrepresented by legal counsel when they go to court seeking Injunctions/Orders of Protection. While some self-represented litigants are well-prepared, the overwhelming majority are not. The presenters are two judges working in domestic court who have witnessed many litigants come to court ill-prepared.

The legal process, from the filing of the initial petition to the court hearing to finally obtain a final Orders of Protection, can be daunting for those that are unfamiliar with the court system. From text messages to surveillance videos, photos and testimonial evidence, self-represented survivors have the burden, as the moving party, to collect, present and prove their case in court. This course is designed to provide a simple and practical guide for those working with survivors to help them gather and present evidence in court. This course is targeted for anyone working with survivors who may be interested in obtaining an Order for Protection.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Discuss the basic process and procedures involved in Orders of Protection court hearings.
- Explain and share resources with survivors so they can identify and gather evidence that is relevant in their Orders of Protection proceeding.
- Examine ways to assist self-represented survivors prepare for their court hearing.

7. Breaking Cycles of Racial Injustice for Survivors

Aparna Bhattacharyya, Executive Director, Raksha, Inc.

Stephanie Cho, Executive Director, Asians Advancing Justice

This session will address the unique and innovative responses by Asian Community leaders and barriers faced in responding to the unique needs of families and communities after the spa shootings in Atlanta. The presenters will bring insight on how to respond to meeting the needs of Asian community members, and what to keep in mind in doing outreach.

This session will explore if the location of the incident and the identity of the victims played a role in community response and what kind of unique collaborations were needed. This session will also examine assumptions made about who is often considered community leaders, the importance of culture, language access, and the distrust some communities may have in engaging with the criminal justice system.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Implement strategies to improve responses to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, elder abuse, and other gender-based crimes within the Asian/Pacific Islander community and within vulnerable professions.
- Recognize the importance of community collaboration that supports victims and their unique needs.
- Identify systemic bias and barriers that need to be removed to ensure all survivors regardless of their identity or professions can access justice.

8. Utilizing Offender – Focused Behavioral Evidence to Explore Sexual Offenses

Annie M. Harrison, Detective, Ingham/Jackson Regional Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Task Force, Ingham County Sheriff's Office

Karen Holt, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University

The Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) allows a unique opportunity to examine offender behavior longitudinally, or over time, through DNA evidence. The presenters will share how a collaboration between sexual assault investigators and researchers can facilitate and produce behavioral evidence regarding offenders who engage in sexual offenses. They will emphasize the need to utilize multiple forms of data to examine offender

behavior to allow for an understanding of individuals who commit sexual offenses. Lastly, they will discuss how this research can be used to inform investigations of sexual assault.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explore the history of offender-focused collaborative relationships between sexual assault investigators and researchers.
- Discuss the extant research on detection.
- Identify possible “detection points” or potential interventions across sexual offense histories.
- Explore how utilizing practical and empirical knowledge from SAKI can inform our understanding of those who have offended.

9. Charm and Disarm: Winning Over Difficult People and Challenging Personalities

Wendy Patrick, JD, PhD, Deputy District Attorney, San Diego County District Attorney’s Office

Working in the field of sexual assault involves interacting with traumatized victims, witnesses, and their families, as well as a vibrant spectrum of people behind the scenes investigating a case. Personality conflicts occur in connection with working with a wide range of players in the criminal justice system from law enforcement personnel to attorneys to forensic experts. In this session, you will learn how to effectively communicate within an often emotionally charged environment, with the most difficult and challenging people.

When you understand your audience, you are better able to understand their basic needs and interactive style, which will maximize the productivity of your communication, business or social. You will learn how to utilize specific communication techniques specifically designed for specific individual traits you may encounter within law enforcement, the court system, or working with victims.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize specific methods of communication based on your analysis of personalities and needs through effective perception techniques.
- Identify specific techniques to perceive subtle clues about all aspects of a person’s personality in order to recognize behavioral patterns and respond accordingly.
- Explore and adopt communication styles used by difficult people to build rapport and facilitate positive interaction.
- Develop and establish common ground with challenging people, to build a foundation of trust within which to work together to achieve justice for victims.

2:30 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 4:30 9 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

1. Seek Then Speak – Lessons Learned from Three Diverse Jurisdictions

Brett Boyd, Sergeant, Washington State University Police

Alison Forsyth, Senior Planner for the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Kim Lonsway, PhD, Director of Research, EVAWI

Victoria Pickering, Seek Then Speak Coordinator, EVAWI

SEEK THEN SPEAK offers sexual assault survivors a new way to privately gather information, explore options, and take action. In SEEK, survivors can learn about vital services like victim advocacy, medical forensic exams, and reporting to police. Then, if they choose, survivors can begin the process of reporting to law enforcement by completing a detailed, self-guided trauma-informed interview (SPEAK). The interview also serves an educational function, explaining why questions are asked, how the information might be used, and what the survivor's rights are throughout the process.

In this session, attendees will hear from professionals in three diverse jurisdictions that have adopted SEEK THEN SPEAK: Kansas City, MO, Seattle, WA, and Washington State University in Pullman, WA. Presenters will describe both professional and survivor experiences using this innovative new tool, as well as challenges encountered, lessons learned, and future directions to further increase survivor access to justice and healing.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe SEEK THEN SPEAK, an interactive online tool helping sexual assault survivors gather information and complete a self-guided investigative interview.
- Explore the motivations for law enforcement, victim advocacy, and other governmental agencies to adopt this new tool for use in the community.
- Examine success stories and practice considerations from jurisdictions that have implemented SEEK THEN SPEAK for use with sexual assault survivors.

2. From “Fight, Flight, Freeze” to “Survival Mode” and “Reflexes and Habits”

Jim Hopper, PhD, Independent Consultant and Teaching Associate, Harvard Medical School

The phrase “fight or flight” is still commonly used to describe how people react while being sexually assaulted, yet it fails and harms many sexual assault survivors on a daily basis. In reality, many victims of sexual assault don't fight or flee. Adding “freeze” as a third possible response, which has become common, doesn't fix the problem, for two reasons: First, any phrase that starts with “fight or flight” doesn't reflect the reality for many survivors and leaves them feeling like their response was abnormal or wrong. Second, many survivor behaviors during sexual assault don't fit under “fight,” “flight” or “freeze” because they're habit-based behaviors, in which they aren't “frozen” but rather behaving politely and submissively. Using the term “fawn” doesn't fix it either, because many polite and passive habit behaviors don't involve fawning, and because “fight” and “flight” still come first and leave people feeling judged by others and themselves.

In this session, Dr. Hopper will explain how we got into this mess and propose a way out: replacing “fight, flight, freeze...” with “survival mode” and “habits and reflexes” – language that reflects the realities of victim behavior and the neurobiology of trauma, and that much better supports survivors of sexual assault in their pursuits of healing and justice.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explain why “fight or flight,” “fight, flight, freeze,” and other variants of that language do not reflect reality.
- Recognize why “fight, flight, freeze” and its variants are harmful to many survivors of sexual assault.
- Describe the historical origins of “fight or flight” and how the usage of that phrase reflects misunderstanding of the scientist who is credited for coining the phrase and misapplication of his research.
- Identify why “survival mode” is a much better phrase for describing the neurobiological state and why “reflexes and habits” is a much better phrase for describing the behaviors associated with that state, including in the contexts of victim advocacy, investigation, and prosecution.

3. The Hidden and Unrecognized Side of Violence: Traumatic Brain Injuries

Christine Foote-Lucero, MSN, RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Forensic Nurse Program Manager, UHealth University of Colorado Hospital

Christina Yannetsos, MD, Forensic Nursing Program Medical Director; Emergency Medicine Attending Physician, University of Colorado School of Medicine

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is an alteration in brain function caused by an external force. Previous literature among populations affected by interpersonal violence demonstrates associations between TBI with physical health conditions and mood disorders. There are also associations with long term health complications such as post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, suicidality, and cognitive impairments. It is imperative that medical professionals screen for and identify TBI in patients affected by violence. In this presentation, we will discuss a modified Acute Concussion Evaluation tool utilized in the Emergency Department and Outpatient Clinic to support TBI diagnosis. This tool can also be utilized to demonstrate ongoing protracted impairment of brain function by nonmedical personnel such as law enforcement and prosecutors to enhance justification for charging perpetrators in an effort to improve legal justice for victims. Often, posttraumatic stress symptoms can overlap with TBI symptoms and are left undiagnosed. TBI identification at the earliest point of contact will assist in avoiding repetitive trauma to the brain and help improve long term outcomes of survivors.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Define TBI and recognize the prevalence among victims of violence.
- Identify TBI symptoms and overlapping symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder as a result of interpersonal violence.

- Discuss a tool used to screen for TBI.
- Apply TBI tool and diagnosis in legal proceedings to improve legal justice.

4. Trans and Nonbinary Survivors: Improving Culturally Specific Medical and Forensic Care

Michael Munson, Executive, Director, FORGE

Trans and nonbinary survivors of sexual assault face multiple layers of social, legal, and medical barriers when seeking post-assault services – if they even pursue care at all. This session will explore how forensic nurse examiners, advocates, and other healthcare providers can more effectively and respectfully serve trans/nonbinary survivors. A brief review of trans-specific prevalence rates and other relevant data will bookend this session, grounding practical content with research. A discussion of the common barriers trans and nonbinary survivors face – specifically in forensic exam settings – will set the stage for addressing how SANEs and advocates can navigate history taking, charting, the exam itself, and follow-up care with a more trans-specific culturally-sensitive lens. Practical resources and links to additional information will be provided.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe three ways to lower barriers to trans survivors seeking forensic exams.
- Identify at least one place in the pediatric and adult National Protocol(s) for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations that supports providers in sensitively providing care to trans survivors.
- Summarize two resources for additional support and guidance in working with transgender survivors of sexual assault.

5. Restorative Justice and Domestic Violence: Lessons Learned and Best Practices

Briana Barocas, PhD, Senior Director of Research and Scholarship, Center on Violence and Recovery, and Research Professor, Silver School of Social Work, New York University

Krystal McLeod, JD, Director of Development and Education, Center on Violence and Recovery, New York University

For the past two decades, New York University's Center on Violence and Recovery has partnered with local judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, community-based organizations, victim advocates, and community members in implementing and studying the use of restorative justice to address domestic violence in communities across the US. Building on our work in developing and implementing the Circles of Peace model, a now evidence-informed approach to domestic violence, this session will highlight how restorative justice can be used at different points in time and with various types of domestic violence cases based on our work in 10 communities

across the country. Restorative justice can support cases from various referral sources within and outside of the criminal legal system and honors victim agency.

The presentation will detail how restorative justice principles and practices can be applied to address domestic violence and reflect a cycle of justice. It will focus on meeting the needs of victims, holding those who have caused harm accountable, repairing harm, promoting healing, and addressing racial and cultural disparities. As interest in restorative justice and domestic violence is growing, this presentation will conclude with lessons learned and recommendations for best practices.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explain the various restorative justice approaches to domestic violence and how victims' needs are centered/met and how those who have caused harm are held accountable.
- Explain how victim safety is continuously assessed and addressed in restorative justice.
- Identify implementation strategies and considerations for restorative justice and domestic violence.

6. Health Equity for Latin@ Survivors – How to Provide Culturally Relevant Support

Patricia Emmanuelli, Community Health and Wellness Manager, Esperanza United

Have you ever felt that you could have a greater impact on Latin@ survivors' health and well-being, but needed guidance on how to include it within your practices and strategies? The Latin@ community experiences unique barriers to accessing healthcare such as transportation, language access, varying immigration statuses, awareness of gender-based violence, and more. For Latin@ survivors, these structural barriers can lead to stress, delayed care, and not trusting systems to be responsive to their needs, which puts them at risk of other issues.

Latin@ survivors of sexual assault should be advised they may choose to get a medical forensic examination to address their healthcare needs and preserve any evidence that can be collected, before deciding whether to report the crime to law enforcement. Additionally, service providers should discuss all reporting options with victims in a language they understand along with the potential pros and cons of each. Overall, appropriate medical care and advocacy positively impacts criminal justice outcomes.

This presentation will inform health providers, advocates, and criminal justice representatives on how to integrate culturally responsive trauma-informed approaches, such as prioritizing survivor healthcare needs, providing survivor-centered care, and sensitivity to survivors concerns regarding citizenship status, in their practices as they work with Latin@ survivors. Audience members will also take part in addressing and

eliminating gender-based violence impacting the Latin@ community through the lens of health equity.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe factors and experiences which influence disclosure and support help seeking among Latin@ survivors.
- Recognize Latin@ survivor realities in health settings and health outcomes.
- Integrate culturally relevant trauma informed practices in case systems to support Latin@ Survivors of gender-based violence.

7. The Very First Responder: Wielding the Power of the Dispatcher

Jennet Sullivan, Accreditation and Compliance Coordinator, Cedar Park Police Department

At first glance, it appears that police officers are the first to receive a domestic disturbance call. But many people forget that often times, a family member, neighbor, or even the victim themselves call 911 first, which then prompts law enforcement to respond. It is on this call that a dispatcher can obtain critical safety information and set the tone for what is to follow. Because dispatchers have so much potential impact that could be good or bad, there are tangible steps criminal justice practitioners and advocates can take to increase dispatch reliability. Furthermore, these steps can help prevent the disservice to investigators and prosecutors as a result of dispatchers not receiving proper training or failing to realize their importance along the law enforcement spectrum. This session will highlight the role of the dispatcher, the various challenges they face, and how law enforcement, community advocates, and prosecutors can better engage, educate, and support dispatch personnel.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe the complex role of a dispatcher, including challenges that dispatchers experience, as well as common trauma reactions that occur during 9-1-1 calls.
- Identify areas of risk, and areas of improvement, in their local response.
- Formulate a customized regional program to increase the quality of response to survivors.

8. Probation and Parole Strategies to Disarm Domestic Abusers

Jennifer L. Waindle, MS, Project Director, Battered Women's Justice Project

Individuals convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence and those subject to domestic violence protection orders, are prohibited under state, federal, and tribal law from possessing firearms and ammunition. However, many jurisdictions struggle to implement and enforce firearm relinquishment methods. The presenter will share strategies that probation, parole, and pre-trial services agents can utilize to hold offenders accountable, successfully disarm abusers, protect victims from gun violence, and prevent homicide.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Evaluate tangible examples of model surrender protocols being implemented in other communities nationwide.
- Identify solutions to obstacles preventing firearm removal in your jurisdiction.
- Discuss strategies to prevent future access to firearms.

9. Forensic Nurse Case Review

Diana Faugno, MSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Founding Director, EVAWI, Past President and Co-Founder, Academy of Forensic Nursing

Stacey Mitchell, DNP, MBA, MEd, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Clinical Professor, Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing, Treasurer, EVAWI

Tamara Jackson, MSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Clinical Program Coordinator, Ascension, Board Secretary, Academy of Forensic Nursing

Kathy Bell, MS, RN, Forensic Nursing Administrator (Ret.), Tulsa Police Department

Valerie Sievers, MSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Med Law Consultants, LLC

Heather Williams, MSN, RN, SANE-A, Coordinator, The Refuge Sexual Assault Center

Advancing the Footprint in Forensic Nursing includes case/peer review that has considerable potential and is a key component of modern quality care and patient satisfaction. Forensic nursing scope and standards state that participation in chart review, peer review, ongoing education, supervision, and mentoring is essential, and every Forensic Nurse, whether novice or expert, should regularly participate in these activities.

Review of a patient's forensic case ensures that the evidence collection and injury documentation are correct before going to court for a criminal or civil trial. The focus of this session will be on sexual assault and strangulation cases. Presenters will highlight several cases from a variety of programs and discuss best practices. The cases will be presented to demonstrate the process of peer review, suggestions for improvements, and effective case discussion with input from all. Content Warning: graphic photographs.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize the value of peer review and discussion.
- Identify normal and abnormal findings.
- Compare the techniques and resources utilized for each patient.
- Discuss implications for practice changes based on the case discussion.

4:45 – 5:30

Survivor of the Fittest: Yoga and Wellness Program

Rachael Frost, Master Investigator (Ret.), Chief Executive Officer, Survivor of the Fittest, the ACTION Academy, Frost ICED

Amanda Gavarny, CEO & Yoga Instructor, Heart Hight

Tuesday April 2, 2024

RECOVER YOUR STRENGTH! JOIN US for a calming, rejuvenating yoga class. Get back to center and work out your body at the same time. Come join Rachael Frost and Amanda Gavarny for Survivor of the Fittest yoga and wellness program. Survivor of the Fittest is a virtual and on-site physical & mental fitness and wellness community program for survivors of trauma and abuse and the responders who serve them. Real trauma, real survivors, real discussions. **Today, real YOGA! Come Namaste.**

Wednesday April 3, 2024

7:15 – 8:15 Light Continental Breakfast

8:15 – 9:45 9 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

1. Can You Start Over Before Justice is Served? Exclusive Film Screening of An Army of Women

Hanna Senko, Consultant, Speaker, Survivor, Hanna Senko LLC

Marina Garrett, Survivor

Mary Ruth Reyes, Survivor, Visual Artist, Software Engineer

When Amy, Marina and Hanna's rape cases are dismissed by the Austin police, all three women try to find a way to rebuild their lives. They join forces with twelve other women in a groundbreaking federal class-action lawsuit, the first to argue that sexual assault isn't prosecuted because it's a crime that predominantly affects women. The group is determined to hold police and prosecutors accountable for their inaction, but their resilience is tested as they face setbacks from the system they hope to change. Ultimately, "An Army of Women" offers a hopeful look into a movement that aims to change the future for women everywhere.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Develop a deeper understanding of survivors' experiences with the criminal justice system.
- Identify different avenues survivors can pursue to achieve systemic change.
- Examine the results of the class action lawsuit and explore the meaning of accountability, leadership & justice in the handling of sexual assault.

2. Beyond Sips of Water and Fidget Toys: Preparing a Survivor to Testify

Stephanie Fritts, Chief Deputy District Attorney, 17th Judicial District

Jaime Hansen, LPC, Very Good Counseling

The criminal justice system demands a lot of survivors, from continued court appearances to testifying at trial. Using a recent case study, the presenters will discuss a collaborative approach between a prosecutor and a mental health provider to assist survivors navigating the criminal justice system. Survivor needs are addressed from a trauma informed stance that includes the nuances of the difficulties of participating in the criminal justice system.

The session will focus on evidence based coping strategies including mindfulness and grounding to cope with dysregulation. The survivor is taught grounding techniques to prevent emotional dysregulation during the court process and testimony. This better

prepares a victim to handle the retraumatization of testifying and creates an opportunity for survivors to engage in the criminal justice system in a meaningful way. The approach recognizes and allows the complexities of the survivor's circumstances and trauma to be the driving force of the experience.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize the role of ambivalence in victim/survivor engagement and readiness for participating in the criminal justice system.
- Demonstrate ways for prosecutors to collaborate with mental health professionals to mitigate retraumatization in the criminal justice system and empower survivors.
- Identify therapeutic grounding techniques to navigate the system and prepare for testimony.

3. Interrupting the Cycle of Abuse through Changing the Cycle of Justice

Nicole Ticknor, LPC, Deputy Court Administrator, 17th Judicial Circuit Court
Jennifer Clifford, Associate Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit Court

Public trust and confidence in the courts is at an all-time low, which impacts survivor participation and offender engagement in the court system. Use of procedural justice and trauma-informed practices not only helps build public trust and confidence in the courts, but also helps increase survivor trust in the courts. Through the use of procedural justice, engaged neutrality and trauma-informed approaches, courts can help increase survivor safety and improve offender accountability. Some may argue implementing a trauma-informed approach impacts judicial neutrality, however, trauma-informed approaches are steeped in procedural justice and can be seen as an obligation of the courts.

This presentation highlights the work of a Domestic Violence Coordinated Court in Illinois, twice selected to serve as an Office of Violence Against Women Domestic Violence Mentor Court. This presentation will outline how all disciplines working within a court system, from advocates to the judge, can implement trauma-informed practices. This presentation will also review initial findings from current research measuring survivors' experiences within this Domestic Violence Court in Illinois.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe how the use of trauma-informed approaches in court support procedural fairness and increases survivor trust and offender engagement in the courts.
- Illustrate how all stakeholders and disciplines can work together to build a trauma-informed justice system.
- Identify outcomes from current research related to how domestic violence survivors experience a specialized Domestic Violence Court.

4. Is Your Community Ready to Start by Believing? Assessing Readiness and Preparing for Launch

Christine Hahn, PhD, Assistant Professor, Medical University of South Carolina

Emily Tilstra-Ferrell, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Medical University of South Carolina
Aurelia Sands-Belle, MEd, Vice President, EVAWI, Research Instructor, National Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center (NMVVRC)

Start by Believing is a public awareness and action campaign started by End Violence Against Women International. It is aimed at supporting victims who disclose sexual assault or abuse, so it is perhaps unsurprising that some communities see an increase in sexual assault reporting after launching their own initiative – highlighting the importance of ensuring community readiness. This session describes the development, implementation, and results of a needs assessment that can be used to prepare communities to launch their own Start by Believing campaign. The assessment identifies strengths and challenges associated with college, civilian, and military investigations of sexual assault and victim services. Presenters will review results of the assessment including victims' perceptions about how their identities (e.g., race, gender), activities (e.g., substance use), and contextual factors of sexual assault (e.g., relationship to perpetrator) impacted interactions and experiences with law enforcement and other professionals. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of how to use the results to ensure trauma-informed responses are provided to victims and make critical system change, leading to increased reporting and safer communities.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe the development of a community needs assessment and how it can be used to inform a Start by Believing campaign.
- Explain victims' responses to a community needs assessment including perceived strengths, weaknesses, and challenges to reporting and services.
- Identify strategies for using results of a community needs assessment to facilitate changes in law enforcement response and victim services.

5. Healing in High School: Advocating for Title IX in K-12 Institutions

Venissa White, Safer Together-Program Director, Eastern Mennonite University

Sexual assault can happen to anyone at any point in time, however data shows that students ages 12-18 are at higher risk than most—but we rarely hear about Title IX in our K-12 institutions. This session will focus on the lived reality of several K-12 students, their families and the advocates who serve them. Through storytelling, this presentation will detail one family's experience, highlighting Title IX violations by public K-12 schools and the impending impact felt by an entire community. Weaving our way through K-12 Title IX legal responsibilities, this presentation will provide insight into advocating for K-12 student rights, how to use school policy to support needed outcomes, and tips for engage administrators in Title IX conversation that positively impact school climate.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe Title IX violations within K-12 institutions.
- Explain Title IX mandates & best practices for K-12 students following a sexual assault or other sexual violence.

- Identify gaps in Title IX and how to use student handbook/school policy to support students & leverage school resources.
- Engage in challenging conversation with school administrators around sexual assault response obligations.

6. Getting It Right: Medical and Law Enforcement Responses to Trans Survivors

Grace Frances, MPA, Director of Community Partnerships, EVAWI

Jacque Bassett, MNLM, Chief Operations Officer, EVAWI

michael munson, Executive, Director, FORGE

Antonia Dias, Sergeant, Community Oriented Policing, Davis Police Department

Tamara Jackson, MSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Clinical Program Coordinator, Ascension, Board Secretary, Academy of Forensic Nursing

“I don’t want to mess this up, but I don’t know if I’m doing it right.” If this has ever run through your head when responding to transgender survivors of sexual assault, then this session is for you. If you’ve never responded to transgender survivors and you want to get it right—this session is for you.

With training tools, you can use back home, we’ll show you examples of how health care providers can take a person-centered medical history with a trans survivor. You’ll also see clips of a trauma-informed investigative interview with a trans victim, demonstrating respectful interactions that build trust.

Join us to learn how you can get it right—even if you make mistakes—and respond to trans survivors in a compassionate, effective way, at every step.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify approaches for gathering information without prying, allowing the survivor/patient to decide what they disclose and what they don’t.
- Identify how to approach potentially difficult topics with trans survivors (STIs, pregnancy) while maintaining trust.
- Summarize resources in the SAMFE Virtual Practicum to use as training tools for providing better care for and improving interviews with trans survivors.

7. Creating Safe Communities Together: Unique Collaborations Within a Coordinated Community Response

Kim Camacho, LMSW, Program Manager, National Center for Victims of Crime

The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model is an effective and collaborative approach to addressing gender-based violence. At its core, CCR engages the whole community in taking responsibility for responding to and preventing harm. In practice, this approach has the capacity to not only better serve survivors and hold people who cause harm accountable but can also lay the foundation to shift cultural norms and

create safer communities where everyone can thrive. In this interactive session, we will explore the benefits of the CCR model, highlight case studies of CCR in action, explore potential partnerships and discuss strategies to utilize this approach in a variety of communities.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize the benefits of working across systems to enhance our response to and prevention of stalking, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence.
- Identify unique opportunities to work collaboratively with a variety of community members that victim's interface with.
- Explore strategies to implement a Coordinated Community Response model.

8. Can You See Me? Baltimore City's Blue Dot Human Trafficking Initiative Community Response Model

Debra Holbrook, MSN, RN, SANE A, Director of Forensic Nursing, Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore

Baltimore City launched a multidisciplinary collaborative of 48 federal, state and local agencies who came together to combat human trafficking in both sex and labor along the Baltimore Washington corridor. This innovative and committed group recognized the challenges of having no central point of intake for these vulnerable victims and created the Blue Dot Human Trafficking Initiative © of Baltimore City. Understanding that the majority of these victims are strangled and the inequity of justice in demonstrating wounds in darkly pigmented victims, alternate light source technology has equalized the field of justice for victims of trafficking and is now accepted in Baltimore City court systems. Cities across the country are seeking guidance in replicating this collaborative model, which has identified and offered warm hand off resources and safety to over 475 victims of trafficking in less than 5 years. Blue Dot received the White House Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts in Combatting Trafficking of Persons in 2023.

This session will offer guidance in establishing effective community collaboration, share opportunities for modeling Blue Dot Human Trafficking Initiative © care to victims of trafficking in both urban, rural and tribal settings, and share outcomes of research measuring the efficacy of collaborative care. Case studies including sex, labor and international victim recovery will be shared.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Paraphrase the definition and scope of Human Trafficking as it applies nationally.
- List indicators of Human Trafficking and screening recommendations.
- Evaluate best practices for formation of Human Trafficking Collaboratives within their communities.

9. Telehealth Toolkit: A Step-by-Step Guide to the Development of a Trauma-Informed Telehealth Program

*Diane Daiber, Forensic Nurse, International Association of Forensic Nursing
Jennifer Canton, MSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, SANE Supervisor, Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center*

Only 25% of US hospitals have sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) to provide comprehensive, trauma-informed, medical forensic care to sexual assault patients. More commonly, clinicians with little or no experience provide the medical forensic exam or transfer the patient to another facility. The use of telehealth is able to close this gap, improving access to high quality care, increasing the confidence of the untrained or inexperienced clinician, and enhancing collaboration among criminal justice and community partners. Developed through the Office for Victims of Crime, 2019 Using Telehealth to Improve Care, Access and Quality of Sexual Assault Forensic Exams grant, this presentation will highlight and explore the new online TeleSAFE Development Toolkit. The toolkit is a compilation of guiding documents and resources, providing step-by-step recommendations for the development of a trauma-informed response to sexual assault care through the use of telehealth technology. The presenters will share their insights and successful strategies learned while building teleSAFE programs from the ground up. There will be time for large group discussion and questions and answers.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe the steps to building a trauma-informed telehealth response to sexual assault care.
- Discuss strategies to overcome challenges in implementing and sustaining a teleSAFE program.
- Describe how telehealth for sexual assault care impacts access, quality and health equity. Identify how the use of a telehealth for sexual assault care impacts community partners.
- Highlight resources of the online TeleSAFE Toolkit

9:45 – 10:15 Break

10:15 – 11:45 9 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

1. The Criminal Investigative Interview: A New Evidence-Based Approach

*Bryan Barlow, MJ, Detective (Ret.), Chicago Police Department, Speaker/Consultant, Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates
David Thompson, CFI, Partner, President, Wicklander-Zulawski and Associates*

It is not hard to find examples of how the traditional "interrogation" method created problematic legal outcomes. Multiple recent reports and documentaries show how investigators, largely based on accepted methods and training of the times, have unknowingly secured false confessions, shut down suspects who would otherwise be

cooperative, or misread victim behavior. The results are disastrous in terms of diminished trust in our legal system and the high human cost. This presentation will draw on decades of law enforcement experience and cutting-edge research in the wake of interrogation controversies to analyze what wasn't working with investigative interviewing, and to suggest an alternative approach that not only protects victim and suspect rights but is effective in eliciting actionable information in an ethical and legally admissible manner. The presenters will share their work on high-profile cases with organizations such as the Innocence Project, and their legislative advocacy to ensure that criminal investigative interviews are conducted with the highest ethical standards with the ultimate goal of protecting the innocent and ensuring accountability for those who commit crimes.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify leading causes of false confessions and statements that are later excluded from evidence.
- Examine current best practices to ensure ethically obtained and legally admissible statements.
- Recognize the need for investigative interviewing and the role it has in ensuring accountability for those who victimize others.

2. A Case Study: A Survivor's Perspective and a Detective's Promise

Rick Salcedo, Detective, University of Central Florida Police Department

Rachel Sines, Survivor

After arriving home from a night out with friends, Rachel was attacked by an armed man who sexually assaulted her. Afterwards, he held the gun to her head and forced her to take a shower to destroy the evidence. He then made Rachel drive to an ATM where she withdrew all her money. Afraid of being shot, Rachel told the man he could keep her car and money, but she was leaving. She escaped and notified her friends who called 911.

Detective Salcedo processed the crime scene at Rachel's apartment, where some evidence appeared to contradict her statement. Yet the investigation of Rachel's case was a success because every member of the Sexual Assault Response Team worked together and did their job, from the initial responding officers, detectives, and paramedics to the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, victim advocate, and prosecutor.

This powerful case study includes the original 911 call, photographs, recorded interviews, and Rachel sharing her personal experiences. Participants will walk away with a new appreciation for doing the right thing – no matter what their role might be during sexual assault response, investigation, and prosecution – and to always Start by Believing.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify trauma-informed principles that can be used to guide law enforcement responses to sexual assault and other traumatic crimes.

- Describe how crime scenes include elements that are probative to an investigation, as well as aspects that are irrelevant, unclear, or even contradictory.
- Create strategies to improve information gathering for thorough, evidence-based case determinations.

3. We Admit There's a Problem – Now, How Do We Fix It? A Collective Response to Reform at Austin PD

Hanna Senko, Consultant, Survivor/Advocate, Hanna Senko LLC
Elizabeth Donegan, Senior Sgt. (Ret.) Austin PD, Consultant, Director, EVAWI
Kachina Clark, LCSW, Division Manager, Victim Services & Employee Wellness, Austin PD
Jennifer Durham, Sergeant, Sex Crimes Unit, Austin PD

In 2009, the Austin Police Department (APD) Sex Crimes Unit (SCU) was recognized as a national leader in best-practices, only to hit rock bottom in 2018 after a class action lawsuit was filed for their mishandling of sexual assault cases. APD SCU's image and community trust plummeted even further as story after story of failures hit the media including a national investigative report on the misuse of exceptional clearance that zeroed in on Austin.

Fast-forward to 2024, and APD SCU is determined to rise from the ashes, reclaim their image as the gold standard, and serve as the model of reform that is possible when the right experts, attitudes, and cultures come together.

What happened? How did they do it? The presenters will take you through the journey Austin went through so other institutions can avoid the same pitfalls and accelerate toward improvements and reform. The path hasn't been pretty or easy, but we have so much to learn from it – for the sake of all victims and survivors.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Describe the importance of frameworks and methodologies when seeking significant and long-lasting change.
- Identify necessary players inside and outside of law enforcement when reforming policing.
- Explore the changes, lessons learned, and impacts made by dissecting the reform project at APD.

4. Talking To Killers and Non-Lethal Abusers: What Can They Tell Us About Sexual Coercion and Jealousy

David Adams, Ed.D, Co-Director, Emerge

Belying their minimizing and braggadocio, perpetrators of intimate partner homicides unwittingly provide useful information about the interconnections between sex and violence within the context of an abusive relationship. Their expectations about sex,

rushed courtships, jealousy and infidelity, provide retrospective insight when and why sexual coercion unfolds over time, and how this contributes to homicide. Based on in-depth interviews of killers as well as victims of attempted homicide, the presenter will describe four phases of the relationship, beginning with first sex, onset of jealousy and infidelity, escalation of sexual coercion, and the weaponization of sex. While the first part of this session will focus on cases of homicide and near-homicide, the second part will focus on sex as a coercive element in non-lethal relationships of abusers engaged in an abuser intervention program.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify how sexual coercion and possessive jealousy serve as a risk factor for intimate partner homicide.
- Recognize how sex and sexual coercion evolves over the relationship histories of perpetrators of homicide and near-homicides.
- Recognize the importance of first and second date sex, and rescuing fantasies as predictors of abuse the relationship and lethality.

5. When Crimes Converge: At the Intersection of Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence

David Ryan, Chief (Ret.), Town of Pound Ridge Police Department

Courtney Albert, M.Ed, MA, LMHC, Founder and President, Give Way to Freedom

Intimate partner violence and human trafficking are crimes and human rights violations that deserve collaborative responses from law enforcement and advocacy. Analyzing the intersection of Intimate partner violence and human trafficking, we observe how complex patterns of abusive behavior and coercive control can create an environment that enables and perpetuates violence. Offenders of intimate partner violence and human trafficking crimes often use the same tactics to groom and control victims, including psychological manipulation, physical abuse, financial control, substance abuse coercion, and sexual violence. Presenters will share their vast expertise, long-standing dedication, and firsthand knowledge to outline the fundamentals of these overlapping crimes. The presenters will underscore why it is important for law enforcement and advocates to partner at the earliest stages, demonstrate how to uncover these overlapping crimes, and spotlight how to serve victims and survivors effectively, compassionately, and holistically.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Define human trafficking and intimate partner violence and recognize how these crimes can intersect.
- Identify the concepts of trauma, psychological coercion, and other elements that impact victims and contribute to the complexity of victim identification, interviewing, and recovery.
- Describe the importance of law enforcement working with service providers to achieve success in the investigation of these overlapping crimes.

6. When an Interview Becomes an Interrogation: Advocating in Challenging Situations

Alison Jones-Lockwood, Consultant, Survivor Engagement and Start by Believing Coordinator, EVAWI

Carlton Hershman, Detective (Ret.), San Diego Police Department

What happens when the intent of the interview changes - when a victim is no longer a victim, but a suspect? What is the role of the advocate when the interview turns into an interrogation – in situations where law enforcement does not believe the victim?

Advocates play a critical role in the criminal justice response to sexual assault. They are often the one person ensuring the survivor feels connected to the process, making sure they are informed along the way. Though their roles have some differences, community-based and systems-based advocates share a common goal – to support the survivor during the aftermath of sexual assault. Using a real case scenario, the presenters will discuss how an advocate can, and should, respond when a victim becomes a suspect. Yet, in some communities, advocates aren't allowed in the room to begin with. What can advocacy organizations do in communities where advocates are not included in the initial response? During this session, the presenters will share tips and strategies for including advocates in the initial response.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explain the role of the advocate when interviews turn into interrogations.
- Describe the difference between the appropriate response for a community-based advocate and a system-based advocate.
- Examine strategies to lay the foundation of incorporating advocates in the initial response to sexual assault.

7. Intimate Partner Violence Doesn't End in the Bedroom

Molly Schmidt, JD, Assistant District Attorney, Waukesha County District Attorney's Office
Kari Blankenheim, Victim Witness Specialist, Waukesha County District Attorney's Office

An abusive partner is often sexually violent—such as an abuser demanding sex over a partner's objections, sexual touching as a means to “check” for cheating, or sex acts used as punishment. These assaults are under reported and we will explore the reasons why. Victims may not self-identify as sexual assault victims, or they may be embarrassed to disclose. This training focuses on recognizing signs of sexual violence, supporting victims, and building a successful case. We will examine real life cases that were presented as domestic battery but uncovered sexual assaults. Through these cases, we will discuss how to build trust with victims and develop a successful prosecution, and how to identify motive for each assault. Investigators and prosecutors must distinguish assaults from consensual sex acts occurring between the parties, often over the same time period. The presentation will conclude with video testimonies from some of these victims who can provide perspective on what sexual violence in a relationship looks like,

why it was difficult to report, and how a strong support system and ultimate prosecution of their cases has empowered them to live a better life free from abuse.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify barriers to reporting sexual assaults occurring in a domestic violence context.
- Recognize red flags which signify a need to look further into a potential sexual assault.
- Explore how to support a victim and encourage reporting with trauma informed questioning and education.
- Describe specific case scenarios, examining how to build successful prosecutions and hearing victim testimony.

8. Invisible Injury: How to Improve the Response and Prosecution of Strangulation

Christine Foote-Lucero, MSN, RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Forensic Nurse Program Manager, UCHHealth University of Colorado Hospital

Stephanie Fritts, Chief Deputy District Attorney of Special Victims Unit, 17th Judicial District, District Attorney's Office

Strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of interpersonal violence and accounts for 10 percent of violent deaths in the United States. Strangulation may result in many harmful health effects, and it often indicates either an ongoing pattern of abuse or it foreshadows escalating violence. A lack of oxygen during the strangulation can lead to serious internal injuries, and in some cases, may be fatal days to weeks after the event. Yet, strangulation is often minimized by healthcare providers and the criminal justice system, including law enforcement officials, emergency room medical personnel, and prosecutors. One reason for this is that many victims do not have visible injury. When perpetrators use strangulation to silence their victims, not only is this felonious assault, it is also attempted homicide. In order to obtain justice for victims of strangulation, it is imperative that all who respond understand the subtle signs and symptoms that support a victim's history of strangulation, as well as a thorough understanding of how to best prosecute these cases so that justice can be achieved. This session is geared towards both the medical and legal professionals.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Discuss the mechanism of strangulation, including subtle signs and symptoms that support a history of strangulation.
- Implement strategies to enhance the prosecution of strangulation cases including evidence collection, charging decisions and victim/survivor interviews.
- Develop winning trial strategies from voir dire to closing arguments in strangulation prosecutions.

9. Unexpected: An Orthodox Rabbi's Roller-Coaster Journey to Justice

Donna Kelly, JD, Senior Deputy District Attorney (Ret.)
Avremi Zippel, Rabbi

A prosecutor and unique victim present a roller-coaster journey to justice, where they effectively dealt with the challenges of an atypical victim and perpetrator. As Rabbi Avremi Zippel walked into the Salt Lake City Police Department, a whirlwind awaited him. He reported his decades-old child sexual abuse by his nanny and began a journey seeking justice. He found the criminal justice system to be both excruciatingly painful and joyful for victims. His case was assigned to a 30-year veteran Special Victims Unit prosecutor, Donna Kelly. Their relationship developed into an extraordinarily close and successful team. They handled the challenges of implicit biases widely held in our society: a male can't be a "victim" of sexual abuse; a significantly delayed report means a "false" report; an adult female can't be a perpetrator; males aren't harmed by sexual abuse. Attendees will learn how the prosecution made the decades-old case come alive and riveting for the jury. The case sparked national and global interest as Rabbi Zippel is among the first of orthodox rabbis who publicly reported sexual abuse as a child. The Rabbi turned his tragedy into triumph and is now a leader in the survivor community.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify biases held by jurors and society and turn "weaknesses" in the case into strengths.
- Examine strategies to level the playing field for atypical victims with the unique features of their case, sharing tragedies as well as triumphs.
- Analyze best practice recommendations in cases where the perpetrator does not fit the widely held public image of a perpetrator.

11:45 – 12:45 Lunch – Provided

12:45 – 1:00 Comments/Announcements

1:00 – 2:15 - This is Where I Learned Not to Sleep: A Quest for Justice and a Journey Towards Healing

Mark Wynn, Founder and CEO, Wynn Consulting

The research is clear that domestic violence has a profound and lifelong impact on adult victims as well as children who witness violence. This session will spotlight a 30-minute segment of the recently released and acclaimed documentary film titled; This is Where I Learned Not to Sleep.

The presentation will explore the complex intersection of childhood exposure to ongoing domestic violence, the inconsistent and ineffective police response, and sporadic overlapping efforts to break a cycle of in-home violence. The film follows the life

experience of Mark Wynn as he revisits his haunted childhood through his life's journey for healing and a respected career in law enforcement, before retiring as a Lt., from Nashville Metropolitan Police Department, where he created the first specialized division dedicated to the response and investigation of domestic violence.

The film was produced by the Emmy-winning producers and filmmakers from *The Homestretch*, *Audry & Daisy*, *Private Violence* and *Bully*. www.thisiswherefilm.com.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Understand the experiences of a survivor, and the influence and impact of responding police officers to family violence; while acknowledging the challenges of the most frequently occurring violent crime, and yet the most underreported.
- Recognize that domestic violence knows no boundaries, including its prevalence found in families of police officers, and across all socio-economic boundaries.
- Identify opportunities to develop policy and provide leadership that can effectively improve a climate of organizational awareness and substantively change its culture from passivity to effective interventions. Tools will be shared that can help identify and evaluate an agency's strengths and weaknesses in policy and practice, how to manage bias in attitudes and beliefs, and how to build community collaboration for transparency and accountability.

2:15 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 4:00 - Criminal Justice Professionals CAN Start by Believing

Alison Jones-Lockwood, Consultant, Survivor Engagement and Start by Believing Coordinator, EVAWI

Andrea Munford, Deputy Chief, Michigan State University Department of Police and Public Safety

Angela Povilaitis, JD, Staff Policy Attorney, Michigan Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention & Treatment Board

About 50% of sexual assault victims rate their experience with the criminal justice system as unhelpful or hurtful. When victims don't report, or when they're unable to engage with law enforcement, this creates more harm. Victims are then left with unresolved trauma, and perpetrators continue to abuse others because law enforcement was unable to thoroughly investigate the crime or refer the case for prosecution. On the other hand, victims who receive positive responses experience a wide range of benefits to their well-being. It isn't complicated. It can be as simple as acknowledging the victim's experience: "I'm sorry this happened to you." Research supports the critical need for Start by Believing - to ensure survivors receive supportive responses that can set them on a path toward holistic healing AND help provide the strength they need to participate in an investigation. Attendees will learn how this approach helps law enforcement conduct more thorough, evidence-based investigations and prosecutions. They will also share research, and their decades of experience, clearly demonstrating the positive impact of treating every victim with compassion and respect.

As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Explain the rationale behind the Start by Believing philosophy, and its impact on survivors.
- Describe what the Start by Believing Philosophy does – and does not – say about how to approach sexual assault cases, including interviews with victims, suspects, and witnesses.
- Examine case scenarios to assess the impact of Start by Believing on case outcomes.

4:00 – 4:30

Closing Remarks

Aurelia Sands Belle, Board Vice President, EVAWI