

Intersections of Violence: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Conference

April 12–14, 2017

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

April 12, 2017 – Day One

PLENARY SESSION: Trauma and Recovery

Presenter: Tonier Cain

PLENARY DESCRIPTION: Tonier Cain takes an audience on a journey to places and subjects that most find too difficult or uncomfortable to fathom. But it is Tonier “Neen” Cain’s joyous spirit and astonishing inner-strength that leaps directly into audience hearts, inspiring renewed hope and compassion for those still living on the fringes.

For two decades, Neen hustled on the streets of Annapolis, Maryland, desperately feeding an insatiable crack addiction and racking up 83 arrests along the way. Rapes and beatings were a routine part of life; home was underneath a bridge or inside the locked cage of a prison. In 2004, pregnant and incarcerated for violation of parole, she was provided the opportunity to go to a community trauma, mental health and addictions program.

Feeling safe for the first time in her life, Neen confronted the haunting childhood memories that she tried to numb with drugs: filth and chronic hunger, sexual assaults by neighborhood men, routine physical and mental abuse dished out by her mother. Realizing for the first time that she had been a victim, she began to heal and reclaim power over her life, embarking on a remarkable “upward spiral,” that has no limit. Today, she’s the founder and CEO of Healing Neen Inc., she works for the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care, dedicating her life to being a voice for those still lost and still silent. Traveling the world to give speeches and work one on one with women in prisons and hospitals, Neen continues to transform her own life while helping others to embrace her motto “where there’s breath, there’s hope.”

PLENARY SESSION: Strengthening Prosecution: Improving Our Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence Cases

Presenter: John Wilkinson

PLENARY DESCRIPTION: Domestic and sexual violence cases are among the most difficult cases in the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute. The defense may attempt to shift focus from what the offender is alleged to have done to what the victim did or did not do, in an effort to create reasonable doubt. Victim credibility and our ability to prove the case hinge on informed, thorough investigations and prosecutions that keep the focus on the defendant’s actions and educate the fact-finder about the realities of domestic and sexual violence.

The presentation will focus on evidence-based strategies such as collaboration among allied professionals, conducting thorough investigations that will lead to corroborating evidence, providing support for victims, and educating fact-finders about the realities of domestic and sexual violence.

Objectives:

- Collaborate with allied professionals
- Ensure the victim is supported throughout the criminal justice process
- Educate judges and juries about victim responses to trauma
- Prepare and try an offender-focused case

BREAKOUT SESSION: The Many Layers of Domestic Violence: Connecting with Non-Offending Parents to Increase Safety and Success
Presenters: Kristen Pine and Nicole Nordan

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Objectives:

- DV 101/ Trauma and the brain
- How to build strong rapport within crisis intervention
- Working with the non-offending partner to get the children on board
- Utilizing the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) and/or Danger Assessment to assess for safety
- YWCA services and MDT response
- Questions/ Comments

BREAKOUT SESSION: The Tipping Point—A Community's Call to Action in Minor Sex Trafficking Cases
Presenters: Heather Dzielwski and Deepa Patel

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Loudoun County, situated near the nation's capital and Dulles International Airport in Northern Virginia, enjoys the distinction of having the highest median income in the nation. It has also been described as one of the country's best places to live. Loudoun County is also experiencing a growing number of minor sex trafficking victims related to transnational, national, and local gang enterprises. The community reached a crisis point when a gang trafficker threatened two teens with extreme violence and a Loudoun County Child Protective Services Worker that harm would come to her own children, in Juvenile Court. Desperate to find safety for the teens and having virtually no viable solution to the issue, the Department of Family Services reached out to community partners and Deepa Patel, LCSW, CSTOP, a nationally recognized expert in gang trafficking to find solutions, FAST! What resulted was the development of a cohesive, community based response involving local law enforcement, federal law enforcement, court services, public schools, the Child Advocacy Center, domestic violence and mental health providers, gang task force members and others. The focus was on best practice responses to not only combat the sex trafficking of minors in the community, but also the development of a child welfare response to the horrific victimization of sex trafficking victims and the elimination of a criminal justice response, which often criminalized victims. This workshop will detail the steps taken to transform this community's response to minor sex trafficking from having zero resources or a plan, to the development of the ICOPE Project (Improving Children's Outcomes for Positive Endings), a best practice community based model response. The development of the ICOPE Project was created in a nine month period with no additional funding or support. The integration of this project has increased awareness throughout the county on sex trafficking, focused more attention towards the needs of victims, created a collaborative response, and assisted in the disruption of criminal street gangs exploiting our youth.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Child Protective Services: What Every Prosecutor Needs to Know
Presenter: Gretchen Icard Brown

SESSION DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this session is to gain a better understanding of what Child Protective Services (CPS) can and cannot do legally and how to work collaboratively with CPS in the investigation and successful prosecution of child abuse and neglect.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Tonier Cain—Questions and Answers and "Healing Neen" DVD

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Tonier Cain will show the award winning film about her life, "Healing Neen", and will answer questions and facilitate additional discussion.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Victim Compensation in Virginia
Presenters: Brienna Stammer and Jack Richie

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This workshop will describe the nature of victims' compensation in Virginia, discuss eligibility and protections related to compensation under the law, and give instructions for making expenses payable by the Fund.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Going Forward Without the Victim: Evidence-Based Prosecution of Domestic Violence
Presenter: John Wilkinson

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Many domestic violence victims are subject to intense pressures—including intimidation and manipulation—that discourage them from participating in a criminal prosecution. And even when such victims do testify, they may recant prior statements, minimize the level of violence or the defendant's culpability, or even testify on behalf of the defendant. These cases can still be prosecuted successfully. A thorough and well-documented investigation enables the prosecution to build an evidence-based case that does not depend upon victim testimony. This presentation will examine

evidence-based prosecution techniques that will enable prosecutors to try domestic violence cases where the victim is an absent or reluctant witness. The presentation will focus on effective investigative techniques for documenting and securing evidence that will prove the elements of the offense, as well as trial strategies that will enable the jury to return a guilty verdict regardless of whether or how the victim testifies.

Objectives:

- Secure and document important evidence that will strengthen and enhance the case regardless of victim participation.
- Build a case that does not depend upon the victim's testimony at trial.
- Conduct direct or cross-examination of victims who recant, minimize, or testify for the defense, using a "soft cross" technique.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Determining Predominant Aggressor

Presenter: Mark Wynn

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session will enable the participants to see the offender manipulation through the eyes of the victim, law enforcement, advocate and its impact. This session will enhance the participants' understanding of the power, control and manipulation tactics used against the victim and the service provider as well as probable cause, interpretation of injuries, justifiable self-defense, and determining dominant/primary aggressor.

PLENARY SESSION: Growing Up with Domestic Violence

Presenter: Lt. Mark Wynn

PLENARY DESCRIPTION: Lt. Wynn motivates his audience to look at violence in the family through the eyes of a twenty-year public servant and a ten-year survivor of domestic violence. He discusses the importance of leadership and the challenges of dealing with the most committed and often the least reported crimes in the United States. How we communicate to victims and the public defines our priority today, our standard of professionalism and of our vision for the future. He challenges law enforcement and community leaders to change the climate of our organization by holding ourselves and our agencies accountable for professional and informed response and to examine the impact of our culture on effectively responding to and investigating violence against women crimes.

April 13, 2017 – Day Two

PLENARY SESSION: Working with Victims in a Trauma Informed Manner

Presenter: Dr. Allison Jackson

PLENARY DESCRIPTION: Seventy percent or 223.4 million adults in the U.S. have experienced some type of traumatic event at least once in their lives. Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Studies show that many of these traumas occur before age 18 and result in disrupted brain development and adoption of at risk health behaviors. This increases the risk for disease, disability and social problems in children and adults, including developing physical and mental illness. The Centers for Disease Control recognizes this epidemic requires a public health response at a national level, state and local level. Evidence has shown that by implementing trauma informed practices within all human service systems impacting youth, adults and their families, individuals are empowered to build their resilience and enhance their overall health and well-being. Trauma informed care asks all human service professionals to realize the widespread impact of trauma, recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma, and respond by integrating trauma informed knowledge into all policies, procedures and practices while actively resisting re-traumatizing the youth, families, and adults we serve.

Dr. Jackson will define child traumatic stress including: types of traumatic stress that can exist among children, the impact of trauma on the developing brain across developmental stages, and behavioral manifestations related to traumatic experiences. Specific trauma impact of children who are involved in the child welfare system will be the special focus. The impact of other forms of stress on a child who has experienced trauma also will be discussed. Given growing understanding of cross-generational trauma and the importance of utilizing a "next generation" health approach to this work, the impact of trauma on caregivers is also reviewed. Implications for building trauma informed organizations, trauma informed child welfare systems and community resilience approaches will be brought forward.

Objectives:

- Participants will be able to verbalize to a colleague and/or caregiver how adversity in childhood can affect the physical and mental health of a child later in life.
- Participants will be able to verbalize the importance of higher and lower brain functioning as they relate to a child or adults' ability to manage arousal and perceiving threats.
- Participants will be able to draw a behavior wheel to better understand the needs behind negative coping behaviors demonstrated by children and parents on their caseloads.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Surviving Verbal Conflict®: What Every Administrative Professional Needs To Know about Verbal De-Escalation, Part 1

Presenter: Daniel Nieters

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session provides public service professionals with time-tested communication skills proven to help de-escalate volatile situations, safeguard fellow team members' emotional and professional well-being, and significantly enhance the agency's professional image. And, in the event that de-escalation proves impossible, the utilization of these techniques support the actions taken by team members. Finally, utilizing strategies to ensure that their actions are more readily defensible in the courtroom and in the public eye.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Diverse LGBTQ+ Youth and Experiences of Violence: The Intersections

Presenters: Stacie Vecchiatti and Flor G. Lopez Trejo

SESSION DESCRIPTION: During this interactive workshop, participants will learn basic terminology and language related to LGBTQ+ youth, explore the unique barriers that exist for LGBTQ+ youth that experience violence, and engage in individual and group work to explore best practices to create organizations and services that are inclusive of and welcoming to LGBTQ+ youth.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Resilience After Trauma

Presenter: Dr. Allison Jackson

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This workshop will build from the morning keynote address which reviewed the potential impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and how this can lead to youth and adults engaging in at-risk health behaviors. While ACEs tell us what has happened and help us predict the impact these experiences may have on cognitive and emotional behavior, ACEs are not a death sentence. Everyone has capacity for resilience. Resilience simply defined is the ability to bounce back from adversity and move forward with a sense of hope.

In this workshop, we will utilize a case planning tool developed by Dr. Jackson and based on the work done in Walla Walla, Washington (resiliencetrumpsaces.org). Participants will actively practice interviewing clients for resilience behaviors, support clients in identifying adversity they have experienced in childhood, understand how this adversity may be shaping current behavior choices, and co-develop a strengths based plan with clients and families focused on building resilient behaviors that can over time replace and minimize impact of adversity.

Objectives:

- Participants will actively role play interviewing caregivers and children for examples of times when they were resilient in their past and how these experiences translate into concrete resilient skills.
- Participants will actively role play interviewing clients for potential adversity they have experienced in their life while teaching clients the impact this can have on future coping skills.
- Participants will create a case plan with clients in role play exercises that focuses on resilient skills parents and children can practice each day in their homes, communities and schools.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Links between Pet Abuse and Family Violence, Virginia Law regarding Animal Cruelty and Animal Fighting

Presenter: Michelle Welch

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Join us in learning about how pet abuse and other forms of family violence intersect. This training will focus on what pet abuse is and how its impact not only affects the victims and children, but pets as well. In addition, this training teaches what pet abuse looks like and how to detect both domestic violence/child abuse and pet abuse when responding to an animal cruelty call, a domestic violence call, a child protective services call, or an adult protective services call. Examining the links and patterns we see in all forms of family violence, the animal might play an important role in your case for the human victim.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Corroborating Your Victim's Statement and Your Case: Tipping the Scale Past "He-said/She-said" in Child Sexual Abuse Cases, Part 1

Presenters: Alycia Eldridge and Det. Greg Miller

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Law enforcement professionals and prosecutors know that child sexual abuse cases present unique challenges and are some of the most difficult cases to investigate and prosecute. In these cases, there is rarely physical evidence and almost never witnesses to the actual crime. For many jurors, it is easier to believe that a child is lying than to believe that these horrific acts happen in the homes of our communities. This session will focus on the importance of corroborating a victim's statements and will provide investigative and prosecutorial strategies for gathering and presenting essential corroborative evidence. Topics will include the importance of the suspect interview and other witness interviews, the use of digital evidence, and ways to present all of this evidence in court. Real world case examples will be used throughout. This session utilizes a team teaching and teach-learning approach and is designed for law enforcement officers/investigators and prosecutors.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Higher Educational Law and its Impact on Criminal Investigations

Presenter: Tim Meacham

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Navigating the Clery Act, Title IX and FERPA is daunting at best. What are these laws and how do they impact your criminal investigation? Why don't schools share more information if they say they are concerned about the welfare of their students? Learn how to navigate your investigation through the Federal Laws, and maintain a positive relationship with the school, prosecution, and police department.

PLENARY SESSION: Implementing Best Practice Methods in Child Abuse Investigations: How Can We Reach a "Gold Standard" with Our Multi-Disciplinary Teams?

Presenter: Nancy Oglesby

PLENARY DESCRIPTION: This session will look at the mandatory requirements for MDTs in Virginia as a starting point. Participants will learn how they can make their teams so much more than one that just meets the minimum standards. Discussion will focus on teamwork, developing protocols, and what is currently recognized as best practice for Child Advocacy Center accreditation.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Surviving Verbal Conflict®: What Every Administrative Professional Needs to Know about Verbal De-Escalation, Part 2

Presenter: Daniel Nieters

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session provides public service professionals with time-tested communication skills proven to help de-escalate volatile situations, safeguard fellow team members' emotional and professional well-being, and significantly enhance the agency's professional image. And, in the event that de-escalation proves impossible, the utilization of these techniques support the actions taken by team members. Finally, utilizing strategies to ensure that their actions are more readily defensible in the courtroom and in the public eye.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Dynamics of Victimization in Child Sexual Abuse Cases

Presenter: Roger Canaff

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This presentation will address the dynamics many, if not most, children typically experience when they begin to experience child sexual abuse. Discussed will be methods of grooming that most child sex predators employ when targeting child victims and seeking to involve them in sexual behavior. Dynamics of victimization will be discussed, including an examination of common reactions to child sexual abuse and experiences that many victims share. A focus will be on the process of disclosure and how children may tell about abuse in certain circumstances. Finally, attendees will learn how to explain these dynamics in ways that make the child's account of abuse believable in court and supportive of the theme and theory of the case.

BREAKOUT SESSION: The Neurobiology of Trauma

Presenter: Dr. Allison Jackson

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Over the last 10–20 years, the affirmation of neuroplasticity has affirmed and perhaps re-affirmed the relevance of social experience and mental health to physical health and brain functioning. The relationship between social experience and the brain is of interest to mental health and well-being and extremely relevant in understanding the impact of trauma on brain development, structure, and functioning. In this course an overview of basic brain functioning and anatomy will be provided. Ways to explain brain functioning to clients and caregivers will be demonstrated and actively practiced in class. This session will then turn specifically to the impact chronic trauma has on implicit memory, affect regulation and overall self-regulation as well as ability to engage in co-regulation through relationships and bonding experiences. Experiential exercises will further participants understanding of client's world view. In closing, some biologically based interventions will be discussed that can be incorporated into treatment planning and interventions.

Objectives:

- Verbalize the what the term "experienced based nature of the brain" means relevant to current literature
- Verbalize the four lobes of the brain and the primary functions of each lobe
- Verbalize the importance of higher and lower brain functioning as they relate to managing arousal and perceiving threats
- Define what self-regulation and co-regulation are and how they relate to brain development
- Name 2-3 brain based interventions that could be included in case planning to improve self-regulation

BREAKOUT SESSION: Domestic Violence and Economic Justice: Making the Case

Presenter: Kim Pentico

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Participants will have the opportunity to better understand how economics play a critical role in helping survivors move from short-term safety to long-term security.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Corroborating Your Victim's Statement and Your Case: Tipping the Scale

Past "He-said/She-said" in Child Sexual Abuse Cases, Part 2

Presenters: Alycia Eldridge and Det. Greg Miller

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Law enforcement professionals and prosecutors know that child sexual abuse cases present unique challenges and are some of the most difficult cases to investigate and prosecute. In these cases, there is rarely physical evidence and almost never witnesses to the actual crime. For many jurors, it is easier to believe that a child is lying than to believe that these horrific acts happen in the homes of our communities. This session will focus on the importance of corroborating a victim's statements and will provide investigative and prosecutorial strategies for gathering and presenting essential corroborative evidence. Topics will include the importance of the suspect interview and other witness interviews, the use of digital evidence, and ways to present all of this evidence in court. Real world case examples will be used throughout. This session utilizes a team teaching and teach-learning approach and is designed for law enforcement officers/investigators and prosecutors.

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PLENARY SESSION: Addressing Drug and Alcohol Facilitated Sexual Assault on College Campuses: Myths and Challenges

Presenter: Roger Canaff

PLENARY DESCRIPTION: This presentation will cover the latest research on how most non-stranger sexual assault is usually perpetrated, and on typical characteristics of offenders. In particular, participants will learn usable and concrete strategies on how to meet the challenges of these cases, especially where responders find evidence of alcohol use (by victims and perpetrators), and drug use (also by victims and perpetrators, and in particular so-called "date rape" drugs). The presentation will also discuss "hook-up" culture, and inadequate responses by others when victims report. The importance of a more compassionate and skillful response by all potential responders will be addressed as well, along with suggestions for realistic and non-victim blaming prevention strategies.

April 14, 2017 – Day Three

PLENARY SESSION: Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview – A Real Change in the Conversation

Presenter: Russell Strand

PLENARY DESCRIPTION: When human beings experience trauma, they undergo a process that many professionals – as well as the individuals themselves -- do not understand. Most of us inside and outside criminal justice have been trained to believe that when an individual experiences an event (including a traumatic event), the brain records the majority of details the criminal justice system wants to know about the event, including the "who, what where, why, when and how" – as well as other sensory and peripheral information. Therefore, when the criminal justice system responds to the report of a crime, most professionals are trained to obtain this type information. Unfortunately, trying to collect information about a traumatic event in this way may actually inhibit important psychophysiological evidence and the accuracy of the details provided.

Most of our interview techniques in the criminal justice system have been developed to question victims about peripheral information such as the color of the suspect's shirt, a description of the suspect, the time frame of the event, and other important information. Some victims are capable of providing this type of information in a limited fashion. However, most trauma victims are not only unable to accurately provide this type of information, but when they are asked to do so they may inadvertently provide inaccurate information and details. This frequently causes fact finders to become suspicious of the information provided.

The Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview (FETI) was designed to change all of this. The technique has already proven to be a game changer in the investigation and prosecution of many forms of violence, including child abuse and adult sexual abuse. Use

of the FETI process in domestic violence cases is also extremely promising for increasing successful interventions, investigations and prosecutions. This interview technique draws on the best practices of child forensic interviews, critical incident stress management, and neuroscience -- combining them all into a simple three-pronged approach that unlocks the trauma experience in a way that we as professionals can better understand.

Objectives:

- Explain the difference between cognitive thinking and experiential memory for victims of trauma
- Review the history of victim interviews in our society
- Define a newly recognized class of evidence called psychophysiological evidence
- Identify the elements of the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview process

BREAKOUT SESSION: Tipping the Scales in their Favor: Your Role in Recognizing and Responding to Abuse and Neglect of Children with Disabilities
Presenters: Vicki Beatty, Lt. Faith Flippo, and Molly Dellinger-Wray

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This multi-disciplinary training will describe how to recognize and respond to abuse and neglect of children with disabilities.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Challenging Cases in Child Abuse and Neglect
Presenter: Dr. Michelle Clayton

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This workshop will explore complex issues in child abuse and neglect cases. Attendees will gain an appreciation for analysis of various types of challenging child abuse cases.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Domestic Violence and Economic Justice: Making the Case
Presenter: Kim Pentico

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Participants will have the opportunity to better understand how economics play a critical role in helping survivors move from short-term safety to long-term security.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Understanding and Working With Domestic Violence Victims
Presenter: Megan Clark

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session is designed to help individuals understand the mindset of a domestic violence victim and how to best confront issues in dealing with seemingly uncooperative victims.

BREAKOUT SESSION: "I Take it Back" – Investigating Recantations
Presenter: Russell Strand

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence – what do these all have in common? Often times the perpetrator is the same, these crimes are frequently traumatic to their victims, and the impact is generally harmful. Another common distinction between these reported crimes – the victim often recants their initial complaint either partially or completely. How does a recantation generally impact the outcome of an investigation or prosecution of that case? Unfortunately, the majority of the time, a recantation will result in a closure of an investigation, refusal to prosecute, and at worse – result in false complaint charges against the complainant when it may not be warranted. What are the consequences of improper case determinations based on a recantation alone on the victim, perpetrator, future potential victims and society at large? All too often, improper case determinations can be devastating and have a chilling impact on the criminal justice system. While it is true some recantations are a direct result of a false report, this is not always the case. Many recantations are actually false. Numerous victims recant their reports of crime for a variety of reasons. All recantations should be properly investigated to determine if the recantation itself is true or false. A case determination should not be made until a proper investigation as to the facts and circumstances of the recantation. This presentation will assist decision-makers, first responders, investigators, prosecutors, victim advocates, and other multidisciplinary professionals in understanding many of the dynamics surrounding recantations. Case studies and research about this vital topic will be presented along with practical tips and investigative steps to take to ensure a proper case determination. A proper investigation of a recantation will often provide additional information and evidence that may actually strengthen the criminal case and possibly move forward to a successful investigation and prosecution.

Objectives:

- Understand many of the issues surrounding true and false recantations
- Discuss the impact of improper case determinations
- Provide case studies to better understand the issues surrounding recantations
- Apply proper recantation investigative and prosecution steps

BREAKOUT SESSION: An Introduction and Overview of Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Using Bystander Intervention Approaches

Presenter: Bob Franklin

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This workshop will provide an overview of sexual and domestic violence prevention with a focus on using bystander intervention approaches. Participants will gain an understanding of the scope of the issue and its health impact on individuals. The concept of bystander intervention to prevent sexual violence will be introduced, examples of bystander intervention will be discussed, and online resources will be provided to assist in bringing bystander intervention to your community.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Social Media – Uses and Abuses

Presenter: Jessica Smith

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Once thought of as a fad, social media is now a pervasive facet of our society. From entertainment and connectivity to education and crime, our reliance on social networking is at an all-time high. This session will focus on the past, present, and future of social media and how social media may be used to commit, and prevent crime. Attendees will learn about contemporary social networking sites, tips and tools for teaching communities about social media, and will feature hands-on demonstrations of navigating different social media sites. Participants will learn that certain social media sites are used for certain activities, which may aid in investigations of specific crimes. This multi-media session will leave attendees with new knowledge and skills to use in their personal and professional lives, and provide lessons to pass along to the communities the attendees serve.



PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSION: The Implementation of Virginia Code § 18.2-308.1:4(B) the Protective Order and Firearms Legislation

Panel members: The Honorable Brian Moran, The Honorable Shannon Taylor, Kristine Hall, and Major Ron Montgomery

PLENARY DESCRIPTION: The panel will be a facilitated discussion on how Virginia Code § 18.2-308.1:4(B) is being implemented in Virginia. The discussion will focus on its impact and address how the required surrender of firearms by domestic violence offenders increases safety for victims of domestic violence.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Testifying Tips for Professionals

Presenter: Nancy Oglesby

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session will discuss how to be a better witness in court. It will cover preparation, expectations and hopefully get rid of a few fears. It will discuss both lay witness testimony and expert witness testimony. The appropriate audience is anyone that might testify in court – but the main emphasis will be towards those that testify in criminal cases.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Turning the Case Upside Down – Rethinking the Art and Science of Suspect Interviews

Presenter: Russell Strand

SESSION DESCRIPTION: It's time to take a fresh look at an age-old problem – suspect interviews. Reducing false confessions, deception, and false information have long been at the center of criminal justice interest and research. The desire to determine the truth – deterred neither by fear nor prejudice -- have been the focal points of research and development of proper interview/interrogation techniques. For centuries suspect interviews have been the topic of great controversy in the criminal justice field. Throughout history numerous techniques have been used to elude information from those suspected of committing crimes. Torture, manipulation, and mind games have all been used to attempt to determine the truthfulness of those who have been accused of many types of crimes, including murder, rape, child abuse, and domestic violence. It is absolutely imperative for criminal justice professionals to have the ability to investigate crime, uncover the facts, wade through deception and make determinations.

This presentation will review the history of interrogation techniques and discuss the impact of numerous suspect interview/interrogation techniques and the efficacy of these techniques including substantial research that will assist fact-finders in determining some shortfalls in current interview techniques. This presentation will challenge long-held beliefs in what works and what doesn't. Recommendations, including the newly developed suspect forensic interview technique, will be presented.

Objectives:

- Review current research and conduct a critical examination of the history and methodology of suspect interviews
- Determine the efficacy of modern day interview/interrogation techniques
- Identify challenges with traditional interview/interrogation techniques
- Understand new and exciting interview techniques such as the European investigative interview and the presenter-developed suspect forensic experiential techniques

BREAKOUT SESSION: Culturally Responsive Services to Immigrant Victim-Survivors

Presenter: Kursten Phelps

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session will address the dynamics and barriers to services that immigrant victims face, best practices for linguistically and culturally responsive services, and a brief overview of immigration remedies available to non-citizen victim-survivors.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Staying Safe Online: How to Keep Yourself Out of Harm's Way

Presenter: Jessica Smith

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Online activity is a must for most people in today's society. While the internet and social media provide many positive services, they also present opportunities for crime and victimization. This session will cover dangerous internet and social media trends and provide solutions and resources for end-users. Attendees will leave with tidbits to stay safe online and how to recognize dangerous behaviors. Attendees will also be given tips and tools to pass along to their constituencies.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Substance Exposed Infants: A Collaborative Approach

Presenters: Gail Davidson and Mary Walter

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This workshop will provide information on the current laws, regulations and policies involving substance exposed infants from a CPS perspective. Participants will learn of new Virginia laws relating to the mandated reporting of these infants and the roles of various systems, including child welfare. Participants will understand what is meant by a plan of safe care for the infant, mother and family.

BREAKOUT SESSION: Forfeiture by Wrongdoing: Or How to Bury a Defendant Who Keeps Digging Deeper

Presenters: Joshua Steward and Donald Goodman

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Defendants frequently put pressure on witnesses or victims to not testify, lie under oath, or otherwise be uncooperative with the prosecution. This is especially true in domestic violence cases. Such witness tampering can make cases seemingly unwinnable. The doctrine of Forfeiture by Wrongdoing can be used to turn the defendant's bad conduct against him. Often the evidence of wrongdoing is readily available if we know where to look. This program will instruct on the history of the doctrine, how it works today, and what a prosecutor needs to do to prove it applies to his case. If successful, a prosecutor can then use any and all hearsay statements made by a victim against the defendant regardless of confrontation issues.

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