

MARATSA Conference



16th Annual Conference

On May 13, 2026, the 16th annual conference commenced, bringing together professionals dedicated to the treatment and prevention of sexual abuse. Over the course of three days, attendees participated in presentations and workshops focused on evidence-based treatment, assessment, ethics, community collaboration, and emerging issues within the field.

Attendees explored a wide range of topics, including cultural responsiveness in treatment, psychosexual evaluations, family-based interventions for adolescents, domestic sex trafficking, documentation and advocacy, and specialized treatment considerations for diverse populations.

The conference served as an important opportunity for continued professional development, reinforcing MARATSA's commitment to advancing knowledge, promoting effective treatment practices, and supporting the prevention of sexual abuse through education and collaboration.

Insights & Experiences: First-Time Attendees

"I attended the MARATSA conference for the first time this year and thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the collaborations between the different branches of social work and how we all come together for the common goal. I met some great people and would highly recommend this conference to anyone who wants to learn, network and just become overall better in their line of work. The speakers were highly experienced, topics interesting, and most importantly, the food and location were just fantastic. I am looking forward to the next conference and am grateful for the opportunities this past conference provided."

-Sheldene Brubacher
PATHS Program Coordinator

We had the pleasure of welcoming many new faces to our annual conference this year.

"Attending the MARATSA conference was a meaningful and enriching experience. I had the opportunity to connect with a range of professionals in the field and engage in conversations that deepened my knowledge and provided new insight into treatment approaches. The presentations were informative and highlighted current research and practical strategies for clinical work. I left feeling inspired, more informed, and motivated to integrate what I learned into my day-to-day work with my clients."

- Mary Kate Wynne, B.S., M.A.
PATHS Clinical Therapist





Presentation Spotlight

In her presentation, Katie Gotch, LPC, CCSOT, ATSA-F, explored the unique assessment, treatment, and management considerations associated with adult men involved in domestic sex trafficking. Drawing from her own research and clinical experience, she discussed the pathways that may contribute to trafficking behavior, including criminogenic factors, power and control dynamics, trauma histories, psychopathy, and broader patterns of exploitation.

Participants gained practical guidance for conducting assessments, identifying treatment targets, and developing management strategies that promote accountability while supporting meaningful behavioral change. The presentation also highlighted the importance of understanding trafficking within its broader social and cultural context and encouraged professionals to consider how these cases may differ from other offense-specific populations.

This presentation provided valuable insight for clinicians, evaluators, probation and parole officers, correctional professionals, and others seeking to expand their knowledge in an increasingly relevant area of practice. As the field continues to evolve, specialized training such as this helps ensure that interventions remain informed, effective, and responsive to emerging challenges. Future sessions would likely be worthwhile for professionals seeking to deepen their knowledge in this area.

A Forever Evolving Field

A growing area of focus within the field is the role of reintegration and long-term stability in reducing recidivism. While accountability, treatment, and community safety remain central to our work, research increasingly highlights the importance of stable housing, meaningful employment, supportive relationships, and community connection as protective factors that support lasting change. For professionals across the MARATSA region, this shift reflects an evolving understanding that successful outcomes are achieved not only through risk management, but also through strengthening the conditions that promote stability. Professionals are increasingly challenged to balance accountability with approaches that foster resilience, encourage positive behavior change, and support long-term success.

Legislative & Policy Update

The legislative landscape surrounding sexual offense management continues to evolve as policymakers seek to balance public safety, victim protection, accountability, and successful community reintegration. Across the United States, lawmakers are examining issues such as sex offender registries, residency restrictions, treatment oversight, and community supervision practices. One emerging trend is the increasing emphasis on evidence-based approaches to risk management. Policymakers and practitioners are increasingly examining whether existing laws, supervision practices, and treatment standards align with current research and evidence-based risk management principles.

As a result, some jurisdictions are reevaluating policies that may inadvertently create barriers to successful reintegration while maintaining accountability and community safety.

Another area receiving attention is the development of more individualized approaches to supervision and treatment. Policymakers and practitioners alike are recognizing that effective management requires consideration of dynamic risk factors, treatment needs, and responsivity issues rather than relying solely on one-size-fits-all restrictions. This shift reflects broader efforts within the field to align policy decisions with current research findings.

Recent legislative discussions have also focused on registry requirements, housing restrictions, treatment standards, and community notification practices. While approaches vary by state, these conversations underscore the importance of grounding policy decisions in empirical research and best practices rather than fear-based responses. Professionals in our field play a critical role in educating stakeholders about what the research tells us regarding risk reduction, rehabilitation, and long-term community safety.

As legislation continues to evolve, MARATSA members are encouraged to remain informed about policy developments within their jurisdictions and to advocate for approaches that support accountability, victim safety, evidence-based treatment, and effective risk management. By staying engaged in these discussions, we can help ensure that public policy reflects both current research and the shared goal of creating safer communities.



Meet the MARATSA Board!

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See you in May 2027!

The 17th annual conference will be taking place from May 5th to May 7th, 2027, at Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown. Next year's conference will feature a festive Cinco de Mayo theme, bringing together engaging learning opportunities, networking, and celebration. We are excited for another year of connection and collaboration among different roles united by the same mission. Whether you're a familiar face or joining us for the first time, we look forward to seeing you there!

We are open to abstract submissions, sponsorship opportunities and we encourage attendees, partners, and exhibitors to begin brainstorming ideas for:

- Training sessions
- Interactive workshops
- Exhibits and vendor showcases

Additional conference details, proposal information, and updates will be posted on our website www.MARATSA.net as plans continue to develop.

In addition to our annual conference, we are excited to offer smaller workshops and professional development opportunities throughout the year. These sessions will provide focused learning experiences inspired by the topics, trends and discussions highlighted at our larger conferences. Attendees can expect practical training, collaborative discussions, and hands-on workshops designed to support continued growth, networking, and innovation within our field. We are seeking individuals interested in speaking for these workshops and are able to offer a gift card in exchange for your expertise!

If interested, for questions or additional information, please contact Board President: Kate Jakubovic Katelyn@favoredwellness.com.