

29th Annual Downstate Conference on Child Abuse

Sheraton Four Points 319 Fountains Pky Fairview Heights, IL 62208 September 20-21, 2023

www.downstateconference.com

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Time	Day 1 - Sept. 20	Day 2 - Sept. 21
8:30 - 10:00	Keynote Session	Breakout Session D
10:00 - 10:15	Break	Break
10:15 - 11:45	Session A Workshops	Breakout Session E
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch	Lunch
12:45 - 2:15	Session B Workshops	Breakout Session F
2:15 - 2:30	Break	Break
2:30 - 4:00	Session C Workshops	Breakout Session G

ACCOMMODATIONS



Sheraton Four Points

319 Fountains Pkwy Fairview Heights, IL 62208 (618) 622-9500

There is a block of rooms reserved for a rate of \$89 per night plus taxes and fees.

Reference Downstate Conference or group code D01773 to make your reservation.

Reservations have to be made by September 1, 2023 to get this rate.

Click here to reserve rooms now.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Perry-Jackson CAC
The Guardian Center, Inc.

Madison County CAC
The Amy Center
Franklin-Williamson CAC

St. Clair Co. CAC Two Rivers CAC



Every child deserves to grow up feeling safe and loved.

SPONSORS INCLUDE

IL Dept. of Children and Family Services Children's Justice Fund
Madison County Mental Health Board
St. Clair County Mental Health Board
Southern Illinois Child Death Investigation Task Force

KEYNOTE SESSION: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

CONNECTING TO VALUES AS SELF CARE

Speaker: Chaz Franke

The work of helpers, listeners, first responders, law enforcement and healthcare has its roots in responding to a calling to be of service. Yet as we get deeper and deeper into our work we often experience fatigue, burnout and overwhelm. This naturally removes us from the values that brought us into the work in the first place. Despite these concerns we still go forward with our work hoping to be helpful, useful, and of service. In this training we will do a deep dive into the emotional risks of our work, and some of the warning signs that can be early evidence that we must improve our connection to our sense of self. Then we will look further into the direct ways our values play a role in deepening our connection to self and our work. We will take the time to discuss self care that is value driven, the role of safe mentorship in our work, and other strategies for utilizing our core values as integral aspects of our care of the self.

Day 1 Sessions: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023



Developing Your Inner Listener: The Ethical Imperative of Being a Self Aware Team Member - Chaz Franke

Every helping professional, listening professional, first responder, law enforcement professional, or healthcare professional employ a very distinct set of skills to maintain full presence in their work. These strategies are the skills we all utilize to communicate with people that we are listening. We use very subtle and nuanced skills to truly tune in to the situation and convey our total attention. Yet we do not often apply these same skills to our own inner process. In this training we will focus on the ways we can utilize our world class listening skills to turn inward and completely attend to our own experience. In doing so, we can be fully present with the needs of the team around us. This training will help individuals develop an inner listener which inherently creates space for being a more present teammate and professional.



Utilizing Physical and Digital Evidence to Corroborate Difficult Cases - Kathleen Nolan

Corroborative evidence can often be the deciding factor on whether or not a case moves forward for charging. Many cases of abuse and assault often appear to only have the victim and suspect as the "witnesses". This presentation will explore ways that police and prosecutors can look beyond those two witnesses and identify ways to present compelling, corroborating evidence. Using traditional methods of physical evidence and advancing ideas in technology, attendees will be encouraged to think outside the box.



Grief Parachute: A Practical Guide to Children's Grief and Supporting Grieving Youth Through Talk, Activity, and Play.- Co Presenters: Jodi Flesner, Ph.D., LPC and Diana Cuddeback, LCSW

This session focuses on grief occurrence data for children and youth, a practical grief theory to guide practice, grief basics to teach clients with handouts and learning activities, and applied grief therapy interventions for children and youth. Come ready to listen, learn, and play.





Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth and Families - Ky Miller

This presentation will support multi-disciplinary partners' ability to effectively support LGBTQ+ youth and their families. With a concentrated focus on mental health optimization and suicide prevention, participants will receive an overview of current lexicon to ensure appropriate, respectful, and emotionally safer interactions with individuals belonging to a traditionally marginalized group. With raised awareness about the challenges individuals face in our society due to minority stress, oppression, and lack of inclusion, community partners will enhance cultural competency to engage developmentally-informed approaches that contribute to the wellness of this vibrant population.

Day 1 Sessions: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 (CONT.)



Effective Presentation of Child Abuse Cases to a Jury: An Updated Multi-Media Approach - Kathleen Nolan

This presentation will deliver a comprehensive multi-media roadmap on effective prosecution of a child abuse case. Court exhibits, testimonial examples and jury-tested techniques will be used to facilitate a discussion on utilizing the members of the multi-disciplinary team to prepare a prosecutable case.



Sexual Abuse Evaluation - Dr. Tim Kutz

This session will describe the medical evaluation of suspected victims of child sexual abuse. The reasons a medical evaluation is important will be addressed. We will discuss the logic behind the recommended time frames for medical evaluations. The types and frequencies of medical findings will be covered.





Transforming Cultural Competencies: What Really Matters? - Ky Miller

This course will enhance community partners' understanding of how cultural humility can promote lasting social change, creating opportunity for personal and professional expansion simultaneously. We will discuss why most diversity, equity, and inclusion programs fail – and how we can contribute to more meaningful change, with a special focus on multi-disciplinary collaboration.



The Death of Emily Hampshire: An MDT's Search for Justice - Kathleen Nolan and Michael O'Neill

Emily Hampshire celebrated her 14th birthday on October 22, 2018. On November 3, 2018 Emily was dead. The investigation into her death revealed a complicated medical history of Type 1 Diabetes that was deliberately concealed from family, friends, and teachers by Emily's mother, Amber Hampshire. The actions of Amber Hampshire that directly led to the death of Emily caused disbelief and shock amongst the small community the family was actively involved in. The investigation, prosecution and prison sentence imposed was the result of a multi disciplinary team dedicated to getting justice for Emily.



Physical Abuse Evaluation- Dr. Tim Kutz

This session will describe the medical evaluation of suspected victims of child sexual abuse. The reasons a medical evaluation is important will be addressed. We will discuss the logic behind the recommended time frames for medical evaluations. The types and frequencies of medical findings will be covered.

Day 2 Sessions: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023



Do or Do Not: Best Practices for Child Abuse Prosecution - Robert Peters

This workshop addresses the nuances of child sexual abuse prosecutions through a complex case study. Topics include pretrial motions, preparing a child for courtroom testimony, voir dire, direct and cross-examinations, opening and closing statements, and jury considerations.



Investigation, Trial, Conviction and Appeal: Overcoming with a Coordinated Sexual Abuse Investigation - Mike O'Neill and Crystal Uhe

FASA Crystal Uhe and Det. Sgt. Michael O'Neill will be presenting a case study of the investigation and prosecution of a 2011 Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault case that arose out of Alton, Illinois. They will begin by presenting the investigation and prosecution that occurred in the years of 2011 and 2012, followed by a subsequent appeal ending in 2017, and finally a retrial that occurred in 2018. In doing so, the speakers will address best practices for police interrogation, utilizing the CAC for successful investigation and prosecution, successful and unsuccessful pre-trial motions, trial issues, appeal, special issues involved in subsequent re-trials, expert testimony (specifically in the areas of false confessions and child testimony) and finally sentencing.



The Best Kept Secret: Mother Daughter Sexual Abuse - Julie Brand

This unique workshop describes the complex mother-daughter incestuous relationship—the subtle, yet intentional violations of normal mother-child boundaries, covert and overt abuse and the psychological manipulations used to silence victims. Recent cases in which mothers were successfully prosecuted for sexually abusing their daughters will be briefly shared. Attendees will learn ways to include mothers as potential perpetrators in prevention programs and in sexual abuse investigations. Six key therapeutic issues for recovery will be identified. (A complementary handout cites research and includes resources for survivors.) The presenter is both an experienced counselor and a resilient survivor of maternal sexual abuse.





Surviving the Stand: How to Testify in a Child Sexual Abuse Case - Robert Peters

How do you escape traps on cross-examination? How can you avoid them? Can you recover from mistakes in testimony? This workshop will equip MDT members, especially CPS workers and forensic interviewers, with practical tools and tactical insight to succeed in the stressful environment of courtroom testimony. The presentation includes multimedia components and integration of hypotheticals to illustrate principles, and will and will include practical, concrete tips for testifying and interacting with judges, juries, and defense attorneys. Specific strategies for case preparation, recovering from mistakes on the stand, and surviving cross-examination will be discussed and illustrated.

Day 2 Sessions: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

E2

CONT'd: Investigation, Trial, Conviction and Appeal: Overcoming with a Coordinated Sexual Abuse Investigation - Mike O'Neill and Crystal Uhe

This session is continued from D2.



What About Our Boys? Understanding the Challenges Facing Male Victims of Sexual Abuse and Assault - Julie Brand

Male victims can experience overwhelming gender bias when disclosing sexual abuse, whether their perpetrator is male or female. This program discusses male sexual victimization, the unique challenges men face and the myths that keep male victims silent. It is both research-based and survivor-informed. We will discover how "The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study" validates what many professionals have long believed about

both the frequency and the resulting trauma of male sexual victimization and offer specific trauma-informed approaches to working with male victims—from disclosure to therapy. (A complementary handout cites research and includes resources for survivors.)



"We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."



When the Suspect is a Child: MDT Response to Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors - Robert Peters

The tragedy of youth sexually abusing other children is frequently encountered by prosecutors and other multidisciplinary team members, yet it poses significant and persistent challenges. This workshop provides pertinent research and practical strategies for the effective, appropriate investigation and prosecution of juvenile offenders, alongside treatment considerations and appropriate intervention strategies for children with sexual behavior problems.



Too Young to Know: Supporting Children and Youth Grieving with a Suicide Loss: Diana Cuddeback, LCSW

This session focuses on suicide and grief occurrence data for children and youth, a practical grief theory to guide practice, therapeutic conversations for youth and caregivers, suicide-loss focused information to share with children and caregivers, activity and body-based interventions for children and youth, and resources to inform practice.

Day 2 Sessions: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023



Behind the Facade: Exposing Female Sex Offenders and Helping Their Victims Heal - Julie Brand

Society no longer views females as "above suspicion" of child sexual abuse simply because of their gender. We are finally recognizing that some women—from relatives and family friends to trusted teachers, babysitters and church leaders—do sexually abuse children and adolescents. For this session, the speaker combines case reports, research data, and survivors' histories to enlighten participants about the reality of female offenders. This program examines the dynamics of female–perpetrated sexual abuse with both male and female victims and shares cases of female offenders found guilty of child sexual abuse (from teachers to Ghislaine Maxwell to Sister Norma Giannini). A landmark research study of 36 female offenders' own childhood histories will be highlighted. (A complementary handout cites research and includes resources for survivors.).





Smoke and Fire: Trauma, ACES and How They Impact Child Abuse Investigations - Robert Peters

To effectively investigate and prosecute child abuse cases, practitioners must understand the impact of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) on children. This workshop offers suggestions for working with traumatized children in the context of a criminal case, and for developing a holistic approach to addressing victim needs.



Grooming 101 - Michelle Denault

How often do you see a headline read that a trusted authority figure has been in an "inappropriate relationship" with a minor? These are not "relationships" but instead abuse that begins with grooming. "Grooming 101 - A Predator's Playbook" is done by Michelle Denault from her dual lens of educator abuse survivor and superintendent's wife. Michelle weaves her story in as she breaks down each step of grooming. This allows participants to see through the lens of a survivor how predators use a child's natural want for love to manipulate them into consenting to their own violation. It also helps them see why bystanders often place blame back on the victim instead of where it belongs. Michelle then incorporates her lens as an administrator's wife to show how lack of training and societal misconceptions can often cause people to fail children in their care. These failures have lifelong consequences for our children, create lasting divisions between our schools and communities, and can cause massive financial fallout for our institutions.

Day 2 Sessions: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

G3

Resiliency 101: From Victim to Survivor - Julie Brand

Some victims of childhood abuse and trauma perpetuate the cycle of violence. Some victims do self-destruct. Yet others become safe, nurturing, emotionally healthy adults. How can we influence which path they take? This dynamic, upbeat program identifies seven key steps that can help victims to overcome trauma and to develop a "survivor's perspective." Attendees will learn how to use the "language of resiliency" to identify and to reinforce victims' strengths thereby positively impacting both their self-perceptions and their life scripts. Participants will learn how to foster resiliency in their clients' lives and in their own.

(Note: humor is one of the components of resiliency!)



Thank you for attending Downstate Conference 2023!



Chazz Franke

Chaz has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from McKendree University, and a Master of Social Work degree from Saint Louis University (SLU). Chaz received his clinical license in 2009.

Chaz is a therapist and clinical supervisor for Light Source. A small group practice in Belleville, Illinois. Chaz is also adjunct faculty in the Saint Louis University MSW program.

Chaz has been practicing therapy full time since 2007. Since the beginning of his career as a therapist, Chaz has worked with trauma and its long reaching effects. This work has included extensive work with all ages and all walks of life.

Chaz specializes in self compassion and integrating Eastern thought and philosophy into the therapeutic process. Chaz has presented on topics including, but not limited to Trauma, Wisdom and Self Compassion, Mindfulness, Self Care, Transference and countertransference, and Expanding the Self of the Helper. Chaz provides both clinical and reflective supervision to clinicians across many settings to help further their ability to find their voice in the field an maintain engagement in their work.



Julie Brand

Julie Brand holds a Master's degree in Counseling and enjoyed a distinguished 25-year career as a school counselor. Now she uses her unique perspective as both counselor and survivor, to speak and to write about maternal incest. She combines research data, professional insights and her personal experiences to enlighten audiences about the reality of mother-daughter sexual abuse.

In 2006, she founded CAPER Consulting (Child Abuse Prevention, Education and Recovery) dedicated to confronting the subject of mother-child sexual abuse. She published A Mother's Touch: Surviving Mother-Daughter Sexual Abuse, in 2007.

Since 2005, she has educated and empowered audiences across the United States with her dynamic programs on maternal incest, female offenders in positions of trust and the opportunities for recovery from childhood trauma. In 2017, she launched her new workshop: "What About Our Boys? Understanding the Challenges Facing Male Victims of Sexual Abuse and Assault" which has been well received all across the U.S.

Her audiences include victim advocates, social workers, law enforcement, medical professionals, attorneys, CASAs, child advocates, mental health professionals, victim services administrators and always, of course, the many professionals who are themselves survivors of childhood trauma. Her resiliency workshop offers proven strategies for helping victims of childhood maltreatment and interpersonal violence to become strong, healthy survivors. Julie's upbeat presentations focus on the power of resiliency and healing in all of our lives.

In addition to numerous regional and state conferences, she is has been a frequent presenter at the annual August "Crimes Against Children Conference" in Dallas, Texas (including August, 2018 and 2019).

She has conducted full day trainings for the Orange County, CA Probation Dept. and the California Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance Center through the Center for Innovation and Resources, Inc. (CIR) in addition to various Child Advocacy Centers.

Julie and her work were also featured in a 2013 Canadian documentary on mother-daughter sexual abuse, entitled "It Was A Woman."

In January, 2017, Julie testified as an expert witness on mother-daughter sexual abuse in Colorado District Court, aiding in the successful criminal prosecution and sentencing of the defendant.

In 2018, she consulted with CIR in their development of a brochure entitled, "Considerations for Serving Male victims of Sexual Assault and Abuse, A Resource for Service Providers," as part of the Underserved Populations Training project.



Kathleen Nolan

Kathleen Nolan is a Senior Attorney with Zero Abuse Project. She joined the team in May of 2021. She brings over 15 years of experience as a Prosecutor in the area of Child Protection. Kathleen previously served as the Chief of the Children's Justice Division in the Madison County State's Attorney's Office in Madison County, Illinois.

She was appointed to that role in 2015 after joining the office in 2013. The Children's Justice Division handled the charging and prosecution of all child victim cases including physical abuse, sexual assault and child deaths. Her role as

Chief of the Division also involved mentoring and training the attorneys she supervised. She also created and presented specialized trainings for members of the Madison County Multi-Disciplinary Team including police, forensic interviewers and Department of Children and Family Services workers.

As a board member of the Southern Illinois Child Death Investigation Task Force, Kathleen worked with a team of professionals across Southern Illinois to create more effective procedures for the examination of suspicious child deaths. Her work as a board member including the creation and presentation of trainings for the various members of the task force.

Kathleen began her prosecution career in the Tazewell County State's Attorney's Office in 2006. Her role as a prosecutor in that office began with the handling of Juvenile Abuse and Neglect cases as well as the Juvenile Delinquency docket. She transitioned to the prosecution of all child abuse cases in the county and managed a docket of felony and misdemeanor cases.

In 2009, Kathleen accepted a position with the Illinois Attorney General's Office. She traveled throughout the state of Illinois handling the commitment of violent predators under Illinois' Sexually Violent Person's Commitment statute. She also prosecuted cases through the Trial Assistance and Statewide Grand Jury divisions.

Kathleen attended St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights, Illinois. She graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois in 2001. Kathleen received her Juris Doctorate from Valparaiso University School of Law in 2004.



Robert Peters

Robert J. Peters is the Director for Institutional Response at GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment), a national organization based in Virginia whose mission is to empower Christian Communities to recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse. That mission is carried out through education, consultation, and accountability within the organizations GRACE serves. Prior to this current position, Robert was a Senior Attorney at Zero Abuse Project, where he developed and presented state- of-the-art training and comprehensive technical assistance to child abuse prosecutors and allied professionals. Before coming to

Zero Abuse Project, Robert worked as the Senior Cyber and Economic Crime Attorney & General Counsel with the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), where his efforts included providing subject matter expertise on topics and training related to technology-facilitated child exploitation, and acted as lead instructor for NW3C's Judges & Tosecutors courses.

Mr. Peters served as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Special Prosecutor in multiple West Virginia jurisdictions, where he specialized in the prosecution of sexual offenses, online child exploitation, and juvenile crime. Robert authored several child protection-related articles in peer-reviewed publications, including the Florida Journal of International Law, Mitchell Hamline Law Review, Handbook on Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan, and Christian Ethics Today. While in law school at Liberty University, Peters clerked at the United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Virginia.

Mr. Peters is the founder and chair of SHIELD Task Force, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that partners with Child Advocacy Centers and local stakeholders to encourage reporting of sexual abuse and online safety. This initiative has brought age-appropriate abuse prevention education to thousands of schoolaged children and numerous civic and community groups. Mr. Peters also serves on the WV Child Advocacy Network (WVCAN) Board of Directors and WV Human Trafficking Task Force.



Michelle Stolleis Dengult

My name is Michelle Stolleis Denault and I am a survivor of Educator Sexual Abuse. In 2018, I filed a civil action against my abuser and my school district. I have been telling my story and advocating since I first spoke up in 2015 but since September of 2021, I have been taking my "Grooming 101" presentation into schools, churches and other institutions to train staff on how to recognize the signs a child is being groomed. I also speak to students to give them the tools to help recognize they or their peers may be being groomed. I am married to Mike Denault, Superintendent of the Waltonville School District. I have two boys, Jonny Forbes age 24 and Jacob

Forbes age 22 and two step-daughters, Emersyn age 23 and Addysen age 16. I have an insane love of Disneyworld and a passion for Duke Basketball. What students and adults alike find most entertaining about my presentation is that my high school mascot was a Pretzel. Everyone absolutely loves when I teach them how to make a pretzel with their fingers!



Crystal Uhe

Crystal Uhe is a Special Prosecutor for the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Office. She attended Southeast Missouri State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, with concentrations in criminology, criminal justice, and political science. Crystal graduated from Saint Louis University School of Law in 2007.

Crystal began her career as a prosecutor as an Assistant State's Attorney at the Madison County, Illinois State's Attorney's Office in 2007. She was promoted to First Assistant State's Attorney in 2019 at which time Crystal supervised the Violent Crimes Division, the Children's Justice Division as well as the State's Attorney's participation in the Madison County Veteran's Court, Mental Health Court, Drug Court, and the Domestic Violence Accountability Court. She continued prosecuting Violent Crimes in 2021 for the St. Clair County, Illinois State's Attorney's

Office before beginning work as a Special Prosecutor throughout the State of Illinois in November 2021.

As a member of the Violent Crimes Division, Crystal has tried hundreds of criminal cases and has obtained convictions in dozens of First Degree Murder, Attempt First Degree Murder, Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault, Home Invasion, Armed Robbery, and other homicide related cases. She received certification in the areas of Gang Homicide Investigation and Gang Prosecution by the National Gang Crime Research Center. In recognition of her hard work and dedication, Crystal was named the 2019 Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis Prosecutor of the Year.

Crystal is a current board member for Senior Services Plus in Alton, Illinois, and the Madison County Child Advocacy's (CAC) Advisory and Friends Boards of Directors.



Det. Sgt. Mike O'Neill

Lieutenant Mike O'Neill has been with the Alton, IL Police Department for 23 years. In 2007, O'Neill joined the Criminal Investigations Division, where he remained until 2021 when he took on the role as the Police Department's Administrative Lieutenant. During the majority of this time in the Investigations Division, O'Neill primarily investigated child death/ injury cases, adult/child sex crimes, child pornography, homicides, and missing persons. O'Neill finished out his time in the Criminal Investigations Division as the general case investigations supervisor.

In addition to his day to day duties, O'Neill is also the Southern Illinois Child Death Investigation Task Force Commander, where he has oversight over 34 Illinois counties separated into 6 districts. O'Neill is a Deputy Commander with the Greater St. Louis Major Case Squad. He is also the Crisis Negotiator Team leader for Region 8 Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS), in which he is a certified Hostage/Crisis Negotiator. O'Neill teaches Sexual Assault/Abuse Investigations for Southern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (SILEC) and the Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy.

O'Neill has also been active on the Madison County Child Advocacy Center Advisory Board since 2012 and Illinois Child Death Review Team since 2019.



Ky A. Miller, MSW, LCSW

Ky A. Miller, MSW, LCSW (they/them) is a non-binary social worker who provides affirming and competent psychotherapy to LGBTQ+ children, teens, adults, and their families throughout Illinois and Missouri. Ky's clinical focus is attachmentinformed, moving beyond adaptive models and aiming experience, through transformational which engage clients psychodynamically-oriented exploration of how their psyches have been formed in order to aid authenticity and self-actualization. It is a sacred honor to witness clients gain a deeply healing understanding of themselves - individually and within the family and social systems in which they exist. EMDR, IFS, and developmental trauma models support this deeper level of restoration.

In addition to clinical practice, Ky is committed to enhancing the well-being of people who belong to traditionally marginalized communities and participates in policy change efforts to ensure gender-expansive individuals experience inclusion, support, and celebration across the lifespan. Ky's social activism regarding the civil rights and humanity of the LGBTQ+ community spans 30 years. In 2018, Ky founded the Coalition for the Advancement of Ethical Practices (CoAEP), which focuses on protecting youth from sexual orientation/gender identity change efforts (or "conversion therapy"). Most recently, Ky founded ALIGN (an education, training, and consultation program that enhances providers' competencies in serving LGBTQ+ clients) and the Southern Illinois LGBTQ+ Coalition (SILC, a grassroots community organization movement). Ky also partners with the St. Clair County Mental Health Board on suicide prevention and other community-based mental health initiatives.



Diana Cuddeback, LCSW

Diana Cuddeback, LCSW is the Founding Director of Heartlinks Grief Center in Belleville, Illinois. Since her first Children's Grief Group in 1991, Diana has provided children, families, and individuals with innovative grief programming. Recognizing that many grieving individuals come to Heartlinks because of a suicide loss, Diana became active in community suicide prevention. She is an original member of both the St Clair County Suicide Prevention Alliance and the Madison County

Mental Health Alliance. Diana became a certified QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) instructor 6 years ago to increase community awareness about ways to prevent suicide. She is an author of Heartbroken: Grief and Hope in the Opioid Crisis. Diana's mission is to create a meaningful community of support for grieving people filled with learning, activity, fun and connection.



Jodi Flesner, PH.D., LPC

Jodi Flesner, Ph.D., LPC, is a licensed therapist and program coordinator at Heartlinks Grief Center located in Belleville, Illinois. She has worked at Heartlinks for seven years providing individual, family, and group counseling for grieving individuals, as well as community outreach to support those grieving in the community, and various grief support groups for adults and youth. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor in both Illinois and Missouri. She has taught

multiple master's level counseling courses, published a peer-reviewed article, and provided multiple presentations on grief, bereavement, coping in caregivers, theories of grief, and the importance of meaning making after a death loss.



Dr. Timothy Kutz

Dr. Kutz is an Associate Professor at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. He serves as the Director of the Child Protection Division at both Saint Louis University School of Medicine and Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Dr. Kutz received his fellowship training in Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Colorado/Denver Children's Hospital/Kempe National Center combined program. He has presented to a broad range of audiences regarding child maltreatment issues.

Dr. Kutz is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Child Abuse and Neglect and the Ray Helfer Society.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NOW OPEN!

Downstate Conference on Child Abuse

Register online at 2023downstateconference.eventbrite.com or through the link on our website.



Registration Fees

\$175 two-days if received by Sept. 1st - \$200 thereafter. \$100 one-day if received by Sept. 1st - \$125 thereafter. Student Rate (college ID required): \$70/1 day or \$140/2 days

Additional Registration Information

<u>Tuition:</u> Includes entry to all workshops, breakfast, lunch, snack and certificate of attendance.

<u>Cancellation Policy:</u> Cancellations after September 10th will be charged a \$35 cancellation fee per day, however registrations are transferable.

<u>Credits:</u> Provided at \$10 per type/per person: CEU's (\$10) and MCLE's (\$10). For this event, 12 credits will be provided for CEU's (LCSW, LCPC, LMFT and MCLE's).

<u>Payments:</u> You may pay via credit card or through check. (Please make checks payable to Downstate Conference)

Every person must register individually (if you are in a group).

ACCOMMODATIONS REMINDER

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