

CHILD ABUSE
SUMMIT 2024:
HELP THEM SOAR!

Thursday
April 16, 2024

8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Location:
Lafayette Baptist Church
501 Hope Mills Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Be Their
Voice
Help Them Soar!



**SOUTHERN
REGIONAL AHEC**

PART OF NC AHEC

In affiliation with the Duke AHEC Program

Register by QR Code



Target Audience

This program is designed for mental health professionals, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, counselors, child advocacy centers, department of social services, law enforcement investigators, and other professionals working with children that have been abused or in high-risk environments.

Program Description

Each year, local Cumberland County and Fort Bragg community partners collaborate to provide a regional conference to highlight Child Abuse month in April. This year's Child Abuse conference will discuss the following topics: the family dynamics of addiction, DBT skills group for adolescents, neurobiology of trauma, trends in child abuse and exposure to trauma, addressing the impact of child abuse on health, and the Introduction to the Interdiction for the Protection of Children Program (IPC).

Agenda

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| 7:30 a.m. | Registration /Check In |
| 8:15 a.m. | Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping; Celebration of Children Champions |
| 8:45 a.m. | Opening Plenary Presentation: A Voice for the Voiceless
<i>Erin Merryn</i>
This opening plenary Mrs. Merryn will share her experiences as a child who experienced sexual abuse. She will share with participants what kept her silent, the warning signs missed in school and at home.
<u>Objectives:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professionals will be able to understand the physical and emotional impact of sexual abuse on a child during and after the abuse.• Professionals will learn the warning signs of a child keeping a secret of sexual abuse.• Professionals will be able to recognize the important role they play in a child's life after a child discloses sexual abuse.• Professionals will understand what "Erin's Law" is and why sexual abuse curriculum is important in schools. |
| 10:15 a.m. | Break |
| 10:30 a.m. | Morning Breakout Sessions
Session A – Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) Skills Group for Adolescents: Using Evidence-Based Treatment to Nurture Improvements in Emotion Regulation and Enhance Family Relationships
<i>Julie Lee Jacobs, Psy.D., ABPP, Steffany Hoolka, Ph.D., and Channon Robinson, MSW, LCSW-A</i>
Based on an evidence-based model, this session will review the biosocial theory that informs DBT skills group, and the core problem areas addressed through this type of treatment. Content and purpose of skills modules will be reviewed with focus on mindfulness, dialectical thinking and validation, emotion regulation, interpersonal effectiveness, and distress tolerance. We will highlight the pivotal role of mindfulness training and practice in DBT group treatment and provide demonstration of mindfulness training as implemented in group. The presentation will review how a DBT family skills group functions in an overall treatment plan. Additionally, we will review the impact of trauma from the perspective of biosocial theory and the role of DBT in trauma-informed care. Implementation challenges and solutions will be shared.
<u>Objectives:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the five core problem areas that are addressed through Dialectical Behavioral Therapy skills group.• Identify the five core skills taught through Dialectical Behavioral Therapy skills group and identify at least five practical tips for implementing a skills group in a treatment setting. |

- Identify the key components of the biosocial model that inform Dialectical Behavioral Therapy as an evidence-based treatment.
- Identify the impact of trauma within a biosocial model framework and the role of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy in trauma-informed care.

Session B –Forensic Healthcare, Neurobiology of Trauma and Trauma Informed Communications

Kelly Taylor, RN, SANE-A, SAMFE, FHE

This presentation will address a multidisciplinary approach to addressing violence in our community. We will explore what happens to the brain during trauma and how First Responders can improve communication and enhance outcomes for survivors using a trauma informed approach. This presentation is geared towards Medical, Law Enforcement, Advocacy and Legal but open to all.

Objectives:

- Understand how the brain processes trauma and common responses that survivors of crime may experience.
- Explore tools to improve communication throughout different disciplines using a trauma informed approach.
- Explore examples of trauma responses and how first responders can impact the healing process.

Session C- Trends in Child Abuse and Exposure to Trauma

Deana Joy, Executive Director

This workshop will look at CAC specific trends regarding child abuse pre and post pandemic while also referencing data in various geographical areas to identify shifts and/or trends in child victimization. We will also compare North Carolina to national data in order to gain a broader understanding of the work that must be done within our state to meet the needs of child abuse victims.

Objectives:

- Assess trends in child abuse, seen by Children's Advocacy Centers, across the state of NC pre and post pandemic.
- Assess variations in abuse rates and child demographics in rural, suburban, and urban areas.
- Compare NC data against national data to identify commonalities, differences, and what it means for our response.

12 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Session A-Connecting the Dots: Addressing the Impact of Child Abuse on Health

Jennifer Green, Ph.D., MPH

Children who experience child abuse and neglect are more likely to experience negative mental, physical, and behavioral health outcomes. This presentation will explore the links between abuse and neglect and health outcomes into adulthood. During the presentation, strategies to intervene and reduce the risk for health outcomes will be discussed. Children and families need a strong connection to the public health and healthcare system to improve overall health. Available resources to connect families to need services will be discussed.

Objectives:

- Identify at least three physical health outcomes that are impacted by child abuse and neglect.
- Identify at least one policy, system, or environmental strategy that can be implemented to reduce health disparities resulting from child abuse and neglect.
- Identify at least three local resources to address and reduce health disparities resulting from child abuse and neglect.

Session B - The Family Dynamics of Addiction: Impact on Children

Katie Salmons, LCSW, LCAS, CCS

Twenty percent of children in the United States live with someone with a substance use issue. Yet, those children are often misunderstood and often dismissed as resilient. This presentation will take a deeper dive into exploring the impact of parental substance use on children. More specifically, this presentation will outline what the research presents around outcomes and the social, emotional, and physiological risk to children as well as protective factors that can minimize those risks. Finally, a discussion around strategies in which professionals can further minimize the risks will wrap up the presentation.

Objectives:

- Analyze the statistics of parental substance use and children impacted.
- List the social, emotional, and physiological risks of children with parental substance use.
- Outline protective factors for children with parental substance use.
- Implement strategies and interventions to aid in clinical treatment of children with parental substance use.

Session C - Introduction to the Interdiction for the Protection of Children Program (IPC)

Rick Hoffman, Investigator District 13, Johnston County and Jonathan Davis, Lieutenant, NC State Highway Patrol

This program provides instruction on how to identify and act on threats to children that include sex offenders and other child offenses. It stresses the need for a Multidisciplinary teams (MDT) approach and includes the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) as a key partner. IPC is an example of what can be accomplished when diverse agencies and dedicated people work together for the common benefit. IPC is making a difference in the lives of children everywhere.

Objectives:

- Discuss research supported indicators to identify endangered children and high-risk threats to children including the importance of documenting them.
- Learn how and what resources should be accessed when you encounter an endangered child.
- List key partners needed in multi-disciplinary approach to help at risk children in a patrol environment.

3 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m.

Closing Plenary Presentation: Creating an Awareness, Understanding and Welcoming Workspace for All

Yamile Nazar, MPA, BA

In order to create and/or sustain a welcoming work environment for employees and customers, there must be a shared understanding of the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as well as the topic of unconscious bias. Through lectures, scenario analysis, concept simulation, and interactive discussion, this workshop will provide a framework to foster greater knowledge about these topics. Participants will learn how to work with these issues to create positive interactions leading to greater employee relationships and workplace synergy.

Objectives:

- Define and discuss the concepts of diversity, equity & inclusion.
- Explain and discuss unconscious bias & stereotyping, and their relationship to the "isms."
- Outline ways that we can be effective "Allies" to one-another.
- Describe actions (individual & otherwise) that promote successful DEI in the workplace.
- Colors: A self-assessment activity that assists in (1) Understanding yourself, (2) Understanding others, and (3) Appreciate the differences.

Speakers

Jonathan Davis, Lieutenant, has served with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol since 1998. Prior to being sworn in law enforcement, Lt. Davis graduated from Central Carolina Community College - Sanford with an AAS (Associate in Applied Science Degree) in General Education and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, Minor in Sociology. Lt. Davis earned his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the Department of Justice in 2010. Lt. Davis has earned several certifications during his career to include the NCSHP Command College in 2023.

Jennifer Green, Ph.D., MPH, is the Local Public Health Director for Cumberland County Health Department. She has served in this role since November 2019. In this role, Dr. Green works to carry out the vision of the health department, to have healthy people living in a healthy community. She oversees the delivery and promotion of public health services, strategies, and initiatives to the citizens of Cumberland County.

Dr. Green completed her doctoral degree in the Department of Health Promotion Sciences in the College of Public Health at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) where she was an inaugural Hudson Fellow. Dr. Green has a Master's degree in Public Health and Bachelor's degree in Health Science studies from Baylor University. She received a 2021 Merit Award from the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and was selected as a member of the Fayetteville Observer's 40 under 40 2021 Class. She serves on the Carolina Collaborative Community Care (4C) Board of Directors, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) Taskforce on the Future of Local Public Health, and the Fayetteville Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Richard Hoffman, Investigator, retired from the Raleigh Police Department after a career as an investigator and majoring in the investigative division. Currently, he works as an investigator in the Johnston County District Attorney's Office. Throughout his career, he's been passionate about providing police training. He has delivered advanced investigative training courses to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. He also assists in training officers to identify threats to children and help vulnerable children with other instructors of the IPC program.

Steffany Homolka, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist at Womack Army Medical Center, Department of Behavioral Health, Child, and Family Member Behavioral Health Services (CAFBHS) at Fort Liberty, NC. She has a PhD in clinical psychology with a specialty in children's families from Case Western Reserve University. At a young age Steffany decided she wanted to become a child psychologist because she grew up in a family that did adoptive/foster care and saw the significant need for behavioral health providers willing and able to treat such children. Since then, while providing clinical services for a wide variety of mental health conditions, Dr. Homolka's clinical interests have continued to focus on the treatment of trauma, abuse, and complex mental health conditions among children and families. She is a co-facilitator of the CAFBHS Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Multi-Family Skills Group.

Deanna Joy, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina, has spent her career working in the nonprofit sector with victims of crime. She began by working with victims of sexual violence, with the responsibility of volunteer recruitment, training, and oversight of the 24-hour crisis line. In 2002, she began working with child abuse victims in addition to her work with sexual assault survivors. This work included management and facilitation of both the child and adult multi-disciplinary teams. Deana was promoted to Executive Director of a local Children's Advocacy and Sexual Assault Center in 2006, where she stayed until 2014. Additionally, she was a trained forensic interviewer from 2005-2014.

In 2014, Deana began working as the Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina, the state chapter for Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs). Her responsibilities include oversight of 11 staff, fiscal operations of the entity, legislative advancement, ensuring training and technical assistance are available to all accredited and provisional CACs, ensuring standards compliance and high-quality service provision by Children's Advocacy Centers as well as multi-disciplinary teams, and sustaining existing CACs while growing centers in underserved areas of the state. Additionally, in 2017, Deana became a national accreditation site reviewer for National Children's Alliance, the accrediting body of Children's Advocacy Centers.

Julie Lee Jacobs, Psy.D., ABPP, is a clinical psychologist at Womack Army Medical Center, Department of Behavioral Health, Child, and Family Member Behavioral Health Services (CAFBHS) at Fort Liberty, NC. Julie's clinical work and career have focused on military medicine and supporting the overall health of military children and families.

She is also director of the School Behavioral Health Program at Womack Army Medical Center and an advocate for integrating effective behavioral health services in school environments. Julie is a co-facilitator of the CAFBHS Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Multi-Family Skills Group. Additionally, Julie serves on the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Board of Directors and is grateful to volunteer with the CAC, one of the organizations committed to improving child development and preventing child abuse in our greater-Fayetteville community.

Erin Merryn, Opening Plenary Speaker, is an internationally recognized author, speaker, and child abuse advocate and activist. She earned her MSW from Aurora University. For six years of her childhood, she was sexually abused keeping her secret locked away in her childhood diary. Before graduating high school Erin published her diary into a book called *Stolen Innocence*. She has since published 4 more books.

In 2013 she had Erin's Law passed in her home state of Illinois. A law that requires personal body safety is taught in public schools every year. She has made it her mission to have it passed in all 50 states. Currently Erin's Law is in 38 states and Kerala, India.

Since 2004, Erin has shared her story in over two hundred publications and appeared on Oprah, OWN, Today, Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, CNN, Fox, Katie Couric, Tamron Hall, MSNBC among others. In 2015 she was featured in the documentary *Breaking the Silence* on TLC. Glamour magazine named Erin Woman of the Year and People magazine named her one of fifteen women changing the world. Erin lives in Chicago, Illinois where she is married and the mother of four.

Yamile Nazar, MPA, BA, Closing Plenary Speaker, is the Diversity Equity & Inclusion Director for the Fayetteville-Cumberland Human Relations Department. Ms. Nazar manages the Department's various human relations programs and initiatives. She works with residents as well as leaders and organizations in the public, private, non-profit, and higher education sectors in support of positive human relations in compliance with the City's human relations ordinance.

A nationally recognized subject matter expert, Ms. Nazar has presented at state and national human relations and human rights professional conferences. She has provided expert counsel on human relations issues to elected and appointed officials, senior organizational management, and community leaders. Ms. Nazar has provided Diversity, Equity & Inclusion training seminars to higher education executive leadership, non-profits and the 82nd Airborne Commanding General and his (Maj. Gen. Chris Donahue) senior leadership.

Chanon Robinson, MSW, LCSW-A, is a Psychology Technician at Womack Army Medical Center, Department of Behavioral Health, Child, and Family Member Behavioral Health Services (CAFBHS) at Fort Liberty, North Carolina. Chanon has a BS from East Carolina University and a Master of Social Work Degree from UNC-Pembroke. Chanon is also working toward her clinical license. Chanon is certified in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Cognitive Processing Therapy. Chanon is a co-facilitator of the CAFBHS Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Multi-Family Skills Group.

Chanon is a veteran and has been connected to the military for the last 20 years with her spouse, who is now retired. Chanon brings her vast knowledge of military lifestyle and its challenges, both as an active-duty service member and spouse and is happy to advocate for this population. Chanon is an avid sports fan and loves gardening.

Katie Salmons, LCSW, LCAS, CCS, currently is the owner of her private practice called KS Empowers, PLLC, where she primarily works with teenagers and young adults navigating various things including neurodivergence, LGBTQIA+ needs, trauma, anxiety, depression, substance use, technology use, self-harm, and other needs. Katie is trained in EMDR. She also supervises LCASA and LCSWA therapists. Prior to being in private practice, Katie worked in the residential treatment world, where she helped children and teenagers gain safety and skills to return home. Thus, she is also a contracted employee with Elevate Family Services as a coach that helps students and families return home from residential settings or prevents children and families from needing them. This presenter is being supported through a partnership between the UNC-CH School of Social Work and the NC AHEC Program.

Kelly Taylor, RN, SANE-A, SAMFE, FHE, is a registered nurse, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and Forensic Healthcare Program Manager in North Carolina. She began her career as an emergency/trauma nurse in 2002 and became a forensic nurse in 2008. Her experience with direct patient care, training multidisciplinary teams, program development, management and sustainment has built her expertise in forensic healthcare.

Ms. Taylor trains medical personal, law enforcement, attorneys and advocates and serves as an expert witness and consultant nationally providing testimony and education on Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence and Strangulation cases. Her areas of focus include forensic healthcare, evidence collection, drug facilitated sexual assault, neurobiology of trauma, and strangulation.

Fee

This program is FREE to attend. Space is limited.

ADA Service

Americans with Disabilities Act Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the ADA coordinator at least five days prior to the event at (910) 678-7226 or ashley.diehm@sr-ahec.org.

Credit

C.E.U.: 0.6

Contact Hours: 6.0

NC Psychologists Category A: The program will provide 6.0 contact hours (category A) continuing education credit to NC Psychologists.

NCASPPB: Approved by the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board for up to 6.0 hours of credit (Approval pending)

Southern Regional AHEC is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

No partial credit will be given. Individuals arriving 15 minutes or more after the starting time will not receive credit. Credit will be awarded to participants who attend 100% of the program.

Substitutes/Refunds/Transfers

- Cancellations must be in writing (fax, email, or mail)
- Registrants cancelling between two weeks and two full business days prior to the first day of the event are refunded at 70% of the registration fee subject to a minimum \$25 cancellation fee.
- No refunds or credits will be given for cancellations received less than two full business days prior to the event.
- Cancellations greater than 2 weeks prior to the event will receive 100% refund.
- No vouchers will be issued in lieu of a refund.
- Transfers/substitute(s) welcome (notify in advance of the program)

Attendance at this activity grants permission for Southern Regional AHEC to use any photographs, audio, video, or other images from this activity for promotional or educational purposes. Please notify an AHEC staff member if you have concerns.

Register Online



Register here: <https://www.southernregionalahec.org/courses-and-events/73208> or scan the QR code.

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