

Right From the Start

October 16, 17, & 18, 2019

Bear Creek Ski Resort, Macungie, PA

Registration 7:30 a.m. each day

Continental Breakfast Daily; Lunch provided Wednesday & Thursday

This year's conference theme is "How the System Fails Victims and How to Fix It"

Despite #MeToo, despite high profile investigations and prosecutions, the system and society continue to fail in the understanding and protection of victims. These failures stem from a variety of sources – backlash and retaliation towards victims, continued adherence to myths about abuse, lack of information and training of decision makers, and failure to take a holistic approach to cases. The offender, too, continues to fool people and benefit from our social problems. This year, the conference attempts to identify and address some of the issues, as well provide the training necessary to fill the gaps. Knowledge is power.

Course Descriptions

(Schedule Subject to Change)

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:00 am – Keynote Speaker –

9:00 am – 12:00 pm – **"FAIL: How the system fails victims"** – V. Valliere, PsyD *Victims continue to suffer, not only at the hands of the abuser, but during investigations, by prosecution, and in the hands of society. The system is still replete with myths, misinformation, and misguided efforts in assisting victims and identifying perpetrators of interpersonal violence. This training will highlight these areas through research and experience, as well as provide guidance for professionals involved in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of violence . (3 hours) ***

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch Provided

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Choose one

"Lessons Learned – Case Study in the Investigation and Prosecution of Human Trafficking" (part 1) – L. Majewski, JD & SA Duncanson – *Through a recent high profile investigation and conviction of a local human trafficker, the district attorney, investigator, and detective uncovered tremendous systemic failures that facilitated the ongoing abuse of the victims. The District Attorney and Investigator will discuss what they learned about the system, about victims, and about offenders, and about themselves, as well as how they addressed to attain victim cooperation and a successful conviction. This shocking case exposed serious issues in the system's understanding and treatment of victims. (3 hours) ***

"Accountability and Agency in Treatment of Difficult Clients" – A. Myers, Psy.D. *Offenders, personality disordered individuals, and resistant clients often deny responsibility for their problematic behaviors and abusive acts, either outright or by blaming other factors, including victims. Accountability is necessary in creating change in clients, for their choices and to address their personality factors. Dr. Myers will discuss this issue in terms of fostering a sense of agency and improving accountability in difficult clients. (90 minutes) **

"He Killed Her Anyway – Reducing the Risk of Homicide in Domestic Violence Cases" – M. Galantino, JD – Homicide of victims continues despite the existence of protection and restraining orders. This training will explore this continued occurrence of DV homicides and how the system can be improved to reduce the risk in these cases to enhance protection of victims. (90 minutes) *

2:30 – 3:00 – Snack break

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Choose one

"Lessons Learned – Case Study in the Investigation and Prosecution of Human Trafficking" (part 2) – L. Majewski, JD & SA Duncanson **

"Empowering versus Enabling: How Helpers Can Harm" – A. Myers, Psy.D. - Often, providers and other helpers foster a sense of dependency and incompetency in their clients, or even facilitate offense behavior in offending clients, by offering help that enables, rather than empowers. This training will explore the helpers' need to rescue or excuse and provide guidelines and strategies to ensure that the help is not harmful. (90 minutes) *

"Victim Safety and Offender Accountability: Is There a Better Way" – Hon. D. Miles – As a judge presiding in domestic violence court, Judge Miles has experienced did me being at Mercer County disappear on Friday? I'm not sure why you think Friday's clear first hand the tragic system failures for victims, as well as learned about the successful strategies to ensure victim safety and offender accountability. This training will explore how the system has failed and what works to improve it in domestic violence prosecution, sanctioning, and supervision. (90 minutes) *

Networking at the Pub! 5 pm - ??

Thursday, October 18, 2018

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – Choose one

"Serious Mental Injury – What is it and How Do You Address It?" – B. Beckwith, Psy.D. – Serious mental injury is Pennsylvania's attempt to capture the trauma and psychological injury produced in victims of child abuse, regardless of the source. This training will define serious mental injury, discuss possible diagnoses related to the finding, and identify possible sources of mental injury that are atypically identified as child abuse, like exposure to domestic violence. (90 minutes) *

"Evidence Based Prosecution of Interpersonal Violence" (part 1) – B. Ryan, JD – Prosecutors are sometimes handcuffed in prosecuting interpersonal violence because of their reliance on often uncooperative victims. This training will provide concrete strategies that investigators and prosecutors can use, including the introduction of 404(b) evidence that focuses on prosecuting offenders without victim participation. Attendees will be offered a paradigm shift in the investigation and prosecution of very difficult cases and receive tools for effective prosecution. (3 hours) **

"Fractured: Domestic Violence and the Impact on Children" (part 1) – V. Valliere, Psy.D. – Domestic violence and violence in the home has a profound impact on others – not just the victim, but the witnesses too. Those witnesses are often children. This training will explore the overt and more subtle impact of domestic violence on children, defining it as a form of child abuse and maltreatment. (3 hours)**

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Choose one

"Co-opted by the Offender: Strategies to Understand and Resist Alignment with the Abuser" – B. Beckwith, Psy.D. – Offenders are highly effective at manipulating others and exploiting prosocial feelings and interaction. They can utilize

*myths and misinformation to mislead others and facilitate their victimization of others. This training will explore offender strategies, including control of information and other's perception of the victim, to better arm investigators and helpers against being co-opted by the offender. (90 minutes) **

"Evidence Based Prosecution of Interpersonal Violence" (part 2) – B. Ryan, JD

"Fractured: Domestic Violence and the Impact on Children" (part 2) – V. Valliere, Psy.D.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch Provided

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Choose one

"Using the System to Shame Victims" (part 1) – J. Harbove – Technology is a powerful tool, for both good and evil. Unfortunately, offenders and their supports can use technology to shame and blackmail victims, contributing to lower reporting, recantation, and retaliation against victims. This training will explore how our system of tech companies and lawmakers have failed to protect victims from shame and blackmail and offer recommendations for change. (3 hours) **

"Open Secret: Detecting Human Trafficking in Our Midst" – M. Tokash, JD Human Sex Trafficking is the fastest growing crime world-wide, generating billions of dollars in profits by trapping millions of people in horrific situations around the world. Part of the reason for its success is our failure to identify it in everyday situations. This training will review the indices of trafficking, the methods of perpetrators, and the means for trafficking. (90 minutes) *

"I Thought I Was Going to Die: Effectively Investigating and Prosecuting Non-Lethal Strangulation" (part 1) – Dr. J. Markowitz & B. Ryan, JD – Strangulation is one of the most lethal types of abuse in interpersonal violence. However, it is often unsuccessfully investigated or prosecuted and is minimized criminally. This training will focus on the effective investigation of non-lethal strangulation from a medico-legal and investigatory perspective, followed by a practical training on the use of experts in these cases. Strategies and techniques for interviewing both victims and experts will be offered, along with concrete information about strangulation as an injury. (3 hours) **

2:30 – 3:00 – Snack break

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Choose one

"Using the System to Shame Victims" (part 2) – J. Harbove

"I Thought I Was Going to Die: Effectively Investigating and Prosecuting Non-Lethal Strangulation" (part 2) – Dr. J. Markowitz & B. Ryan, JD –

"The Invisible Victim: The Non-Offending Parent – V. Valliere, Psy.D. - The non-offending or non-protecting parent is often the vilified and overlooked victim of the offender. While some partners purposefully protect the offender, most are overwhelmed by grief, victims themselves, and manipulated and deceived by the offender. This workshop will provide insight into the experience of the offender's partner, exploring the impact of the abuse on the parent and the profound influence of the offender. Intervention strategies will be provided. (90 minutes) *

THURSDAY NIGHT

70's, 80's & 90's THROWBACK PARTY!!

**TO CELEBRATE OUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY, WE ARE HAVING A THROWBACK PARTY AT THE RESORT!
DRESS UP IN YOUR FAVORITE STYLE OF THE 70'S, 80'S, AND 90'S AND PREPARE TO DANCE AND KARAOKE!**

Friday, October 19, 2018

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – Choose one

“Ethical Issues in Working with Violence” (part 1) – V. Valliere, Psy.D. & B. Beckwith, Psy.D. – Most professionals are not trained to anticipate and negotiate the ethical issues in work with interpersonal violence. This training will discuss issues such as client/victim lethality issues, mitigating retaliation, sharing information, and understanding risk issues. Qualifies for ethics credits for attorneys, psychologists, counselors, PCACB, and social workers. (3 hours) **

“It’s not over! Understanding Pennsylvania’s Sex Offender Registration Law.” Participants will get a basic update on the key features of the law, how it works, how it’s different from the Adam Walsh Act/SORNA/ Megan’s Law. The presenter will explain how it impacts offenders, SVPs, SVDC, probation and providers. Critical for anyone working with or investigating sexual offenders. (90 minutes) *

“Boys and Men Get Raped Too: Issues for Male Victims” – B. Becker, MA – The victimization of males is not only underreported, but male victims face different issues than female victims. Some of these issues are a result of the social expectations related to masculinity. This training will explore male victims and their unique issues. (90 minutes) *

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Choose one

“Ethical Issues in Working with Violence” (part 2) – V. Valliere, Psy.D. & B. Beckwith, Psy.D.

“What Have I Done for You Lately? Utilizing Resources for Victims” – K. McDonald & R. Pucillo – Prosecutors and investigators are often unaware of the resources available to victims in their cases and fail to fully utilize them. Victim advocates, special investigators, and victim liaisons can be critical in helping attain information and cooperation from victims, as well as offering victims emotional and practical assistance through the investigation and prosecution of their abusers. (90 minutes) *

“Cultural Issues and Help-Seeking” – T. Dashner, LCSW – Culture impacts victims in a variety of complex ways that are often unaddressed or misunderstood in the system. From the identification of abuse and maltreatment in the home to help-seeking behavior (whether formal or informal), cultural norms can dictate a victim’s response. Issues of sexual identity, hidden systemic racism, and cultural “excuse making” will be addressed as well. (90 minutes) *

Conclusion of Training! Distribution of Certificates!



Valliere and Counseling Associates, Inc. has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 6294. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc. is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.



Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc. is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc. maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

This conference is approved for continuing education for CLE’s for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, PCACB APPROVED, and approved for Pennsylvania Law Enforcement.