

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

- **When Faith Hurts: Understanding, Recognizing and Responding to the Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Impact of Child Maltreatment (Parts 1, 2, 3)**

Victor Vieth, JD, M.Th., Chief Program Officer, Zero Abuse Project

This opening session will provide an introduction to the issue of child abuse in faith-based communities. The speaker will highlight the prevalence of child abuse, how children disclose sexual abuse, the impact of sexual abuse on spirituality, behaviors indicative of sexual abuse, the interest sexual offenders have in faith based camps and schools and the methods often used in selecting children to be abused, effective policies for deterring sexual offenders, helpful rules and lessons from youth-serving organizations, physical abuse signs, types of emotional abuse, the role of background checks and worker interviews, how to respond when the church, synagogue, seminary or other faith institution is sued by a victim or group of victims, and suggestions for speaking with an adult survivor disclosing childhood maltreatment and an adult confessing child sexual abuse. The ongoing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) studies out of Kaiser Permanente and the Center for Disease Control suggest that childhood maltreatment and family dysfunction are major risk factors for the leading causes of illness, death and poor psychological adjustment in the United States. Cumulative adverse childhood events have a role in poor physical health, problematic health risk behaviors, learning challenges, behavior problems and disease. The presentation will introduce faith leaders to this research and discuss the importance of faith, medical and mental health providers working to address having a holistic approach to fulfilling a child's needs.

- **Mandated Reporting for Clergy**

Shauna Galloway-Williams, M.Ed., LPC, Chief Executive Officer, Julie Valentine Center

One of the most important roles a clergy person plays in protecting children and responding to a disclosure of child abuse is that of a mandated reporter. This session will provide an overview of definitions, important laws, and procedures for fulfilling the role of the mandated reporter and will address the issue of clergy/penitent privilege.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

- **Race, Religion, & Violence**

Victor Vieth, JD, M.Th., Chief Program Officer, Zero Abuse Project

In this workshop, participants receive an overview of the use of religion in justifying slavery, segregation and other oppressive practices. Students will also see the seeds of these teachings in modern day conspiracy theories. Armed with this knowledge, students will receive practical suggestions for addressing this aspect of historical trauma.

- **When Children Offend**

Kim Ponce, MS, NCC, LPC, Programs Officer, JVC

We spend a lot of time talking about the characteristics of adult offenders and how to best protect children against these offenders. Did you know that 36% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone under the age of eighteen? Child on child sexual abuse can be just as traumatic as when abuse is inflicted by an adult. When abuse is inflicted by an older peer or sibling, families and even mandated reporters may be resistant to reporting and seeking interventions. This session will focus on the issue of children abusing other children. This includes: Risks of older children serving in supervisory roles of younger children in youth and faith settings, the importance of reporting incidents of child on child sexual abuse, Age appropriate sexual behaviors and concerning behaviors, Understanding the reoffending risks of child and adolescent offenders, and why reporting these incidents and treating young offenders is so important

- **Creating a Spiritual Home for LGBTQIA+ Youth and Their Families**

Rev. Adam Schultz, M.Div, Pastor, Good Shepherd and Chaplain, Project Horizon

Whether you know it or not, LGBTQIA+ people exist as part of every community--even communities of faith--and even well-intentioned faith communities can impart unwelcoming messages and spiritual abuse to LGBTQIA+ children and youth in the congregation. In this module, we will define the LGBTQIA+ community, explore the challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ children and youth, discuss how the lived experience of LGBTQIA+ can deepen all of our understanding of the gospel, and learn about what you as individuals and congregations can do to create communities of welcome for LGBTQIA+ children, youth, and their families.

Thursday, October 12, Session A - 8:30 am - 10:00 am

- **Lessons from the SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examination) Room**

Ellen Kennedy, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, SANE Coordinator, Prisma Health Upstate

In this session our community SANE coordinator will educate participants on the process of patients seeking a rape kit, dispel myths about evidence collection and prosecution, and enhance our capacity to respond sensitively. Participants will learn about local and national resources for survivors. Through this module, faith leaders will be better prepared to provide a supportive and empathic environment for survivors of sexual assault in order to aid the healing process and foster a safer community for all members.

- **Internet Safety**

Rick Floyd, Greenville County Schools

This session will cover current trends in threats to groom and exploit children online, measures safe adults can take to help protect our children and our technology, digital hygiene 101, as well as appropriate measures to take when we discover child sexual abuse materials on our devices.

- **The Ever-Growing, Positive Impact of Faith Communities & Victim Service Agencies Collaborating!**

Roger Acton, SCVAN

This session will cover the history of these collaborations across the state, highlight the ways that we can build effective trauma-informed partnerships, and our hope for future improvement and expansion so that survivors may experience wholly helpful support and community in their healing.

Thursday, October 12, Session B - 10:15am - 11:56am

- **“Love, Honor, and Obey?” The Implications of Marital Rape**

Mary McGee, RN, SANE-A, Prisma Health

In this session, we will address the unique social and legal aspects of this crime, its ties to traditions of power and social control and its intersection with other related interpersonal violence. Through case studies and testimony from survivors, we as providers will discuss what tools we need to provide the greatest amount of support and healing for this trauma. In doing so, we will hopefully lift the veil and bring light to an important aspect of sexual trauma.

- **Power of Prevention**

Alexa Harper, JVC, Anna Spatafora, Safe Harbor, and Rick Floyd, GCS

Research indicates that prevention education is powerfully effective in equipping children to recognize and report threats to bodily integrity and grooming. This session will define personal safety, consent, healthy relationships, and boundaries. Each presenter will offer an overview of the curriculum available to bring into your congregations and organizations further empowering all children and adults to maintain safe relationships.

- **Human Trafficking**

Roger Acton, SCVAN

This session will define human trafficking and its various iterations, highlight common tactics traffickers employ to coerce and control others, and discuss effective and trauma-sensitive responses faith communities are encouraged to embody in concert with local agencies and best practices.

- **Addressing Spiritual Injury from Trauma-Informed Pastoral and Mental Health Perspectives**

Laura Thien, MSW, LISW-CP, Therapist, JVC and Rev. Dr. Jay Kieve, M.Div., Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

This session focuses on trauma-informed approaches to addressing spiritual injury, through the lens of both pastoral care and mental health treatment. Participants will work through the six principles of trauma-informed care and discuss practical application in their contexts.

- **Child Sexual Exploitation in Places of Worship**

Kim Ponce, MS, NCC, LPC, Programs Officer, JVC

This module aims to assist participants to better understand how to identify and prevent child sexual exploitation in faith communities. We will learn how South Carolina defines sexual exploitation. This includes trafficking but is more commonly the exploitation of children to create digital records of sexual content. We will explore myths and facts of sexual exploitation, victims, and perpetrators. We will also highlight case examples that occurred in places of worship or were perpetrated by faith leaders, both nationally and in South Carolina.

- **Child Abuse Prevention in the Faith-Based Setting**

Nina Mitchell, Human Resources Director, Brookwood Church

Participants will receive information about child abuse prevention and protection policies in the church setting, as well as information about how child safety education programs will benefit church leadership, children, and parents.

- **Challenging Dynamics in the Church: Case Examples for Addressing Sex Offenders in Places of Worship**

Rev. Carrie Nettles, MDiv, Chaplain and Dr. Jay Kieve, M.Div., Th.M., D.Min, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Church leadership often faces challenges when making decisions about how to address sex offenders in the Christian environments, how to address issues arising from sex offenders and survivors in the same place of worship, and how to provide appropriate safety measures and pastoral care. This session will discuss these dynamics and provide practical case study examples for discussion and application.

- **“What happens after a child discloses?”**

Krista Alessandrini, CAC Program Coordinator, JVC and Dr. Lyle Pritchard, Prisma

This session gives an overview of the role child advocacy centers play in responding to child abuse in the community. After a child discloses abuse, the CAC facilitates the investigative party's evidence collection and response to the needs of the child and family. Participants will learn about the general trajectory of children's cases and the routes to justice and healing provided by community partners.

- **Spiritual Abuse in the Hispanic Community**

Brenda Mancilla, Bilingual Advocate, JVC and Arelis Alcantara, SC Victim Assistance Network

We will be discussing the impact of spiritual abuse in the Hispanic community: what that can look like, how religion/spirituality impacts and influences the Hispanic community, and how spirituality/religion impact survivors in the community.