

When Faith Hurts

www.julievalentinecenter.org

#ChurchLeadersForChildren

#WhenFaithHurts2018

Equipping the church for faithful response to child abuse and its implications for congregational care

October 3-5, 2018

Session Descriptions

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Session 1

When Faith Hurts: Understanding, Recognizing and Responding to the Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Impact of Child Maltreatment - Victor Vieth, JD, Senior Director and Founder, Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center

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.

Session 2

Like a Footprint in Wet Cement: Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Children through the Lens of ACES Research- Victor Vieth, JD, Senior Director and Founder, Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center

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 to have a holistic approach to addressing a child's needs.

Session 3

When Child Abuse Hits Home: Corporal Punishment, the Law & the Faith Community-Victor Vieth, JD, Senior Director and Founder, Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center

In this session, participants will receive an overview of research on the effectiveness and risk factors associated with corporal punishment as well as an overview of the contracting legal definition of reasonable force. Various theological approaches to corporal punishment are discussed. Finally, participants are presented with a case scenario and work through possible approaches to a case of physical discipline resulting in child injuries.

Session 4

Survivor Story- Jen Bicha

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Session 1

Mandated Reporting for Clergy- Shauna Galloway-Williams, M.Ed., LPC, Executive Director, 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.

Session 2

Theological Distortions - Commonly Misapplied Scripture in Counseling- Carrie Nettles, MDiv, Chaplain, JVC and Gene Beckner, MDiv, PhD, LPC-S, Care Ministries Pastor, Brookwood Church

Victims often hear scripture and theological concepts weaponized by their offender, and often unintentionally by their pastoral caregivers and fellow church members. Unwittingly, these messages discourage child abuse reports, keep victims from seeking medical and mental healthcare, and shames the victim for their own maltreatment. These injuries often leave a lasting impact. This module indexes theological themes and passages of scripture that have been used to harm victims and embolden offenders. Students will receive suggestions on a trauma-informed approach to scripture, theology, and pastoral care and an increased awareness of the impact on victims when their faith has been weaponized.

Session 3

Addressing Emotional and Spiritual Injuries from a Mental Health and Lay Counseling Perspective- Gene Beckner, MDiv, Ph.D., LPC-S and Laura Thien, MSW, LISW-CP, Therapist, JVC

This session focuses on a mental health and lay counseling approach to trauma-informed counseling of survivors of trauma. Participants will receive an overview of possible approaches for coordinating pastoral and mental health counseling for children and adults impacted by child abuse.

Session 4

Challenging Dynamics in the Church: Case Examples for Addressing Sex Offenders in Places of Worship- Carrie Nettles, MDiv, Chaplain, Julie Valentine Center

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.

Friday, October 5, 2018

Session 1

It Takes a Team- A Multi-Disciplinary Approach at Child Advocacy Centers- Shauna Galloway-Williams, M. Ed., LPC, Executive Director and Kim Ponce, LPC, Children's Advocacy Center Director, Julie Valentine Center

This session gives an overview of the role child advocacy centers play in responding to child abuse in the community. Specifically, the material will highlight how multi-disciplinary teams provide a holistic approach to helping survivors and their families and the potential role faith-based community leadership could play.

Session 2

When Children Offend- Kim Ponce, MS, NCC, Children's Advocacy Center Director, Julie Valentine Center

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 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

Session 3

Child Abuse Prevention in the Faith-Based Setting- Nina Mitchell, Human Resources, 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.

Session 4

Moving Forward: Practical Application- Gene Beckner, Ph.D., LPC-S and Shauna Galloway-Williams, M. Ed., LPC, Executive Director, Julie Valentine Center

Participants will be divided into groups and given a case study for discussion and application. The case study, as developed by Boz Tchividjian (professor of law at Liberty University and Director of G.R.A.C.E), will entail addressing the many challenging dynamics of responding to a disclosure of abuse in a church setting.

Q&A Panels- Representatives from local churches, the mental health community, law enforcement, and child protection agencies will answer questions— some pre-determined and some from participants.

Agenda

Wednesday, October 3rd

- 8:00 am Check-in and Breakfast
- 8:30am Welcome and Opening Remarks - Shauna Galloway-Williams, Executive Director, Julie Valentine Center
- 8:45am When Faith Hurts Part 1 - Victor Vieth, Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am When Faith Hurts Part 2 - Victor Vieth, Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 12:45pm Like a Footprint in Wet Cement : Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Children through the Lens of ACES Research - Victor Vieth, Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center
- 2:15 pm Break
- 2:30 pm When Child Abuse Hits Home - Victor Vieth, Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center
- 4:00 pm Break
- 4:15 pm Survivor Story - Jen Bicha
- 4:45 pm Dismissal

Thursday, October 4th

- 8:30 am Breakfast and Resource Table
- 9:00 am Mandated Reporting - Shauna Galloway-Williams, Julie Valentine Center
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am Theological Distortions - Carrie Nettles, Julie Valentine Center and Gene Beckner, Brookwood Church
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Addressing Emotional and Spiritual Injuries from a Mental Health and Lay Counseling Perspective - Gene Beckner, Brookwood Church and Laura Thien, Julie Valentine Center
- 2:30 pm Break
- 2:45 pm Challenging Dynamics - Sex Offender in Places of Worship - Carrie Nettles, Julie Valentine Center
- 4:30 pm Dismissal

Friday, October 5th

- 9:00 am When Children Offend - Kim Ponce, MS, NCC, Director of Child Advocacy Center, Julie Valentine Center
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am Team Effort: Responding to Child Abuse with a Multi-Disciplinary Approach - Julie Valentine Center Staff and MDT Team Members
- 12:00 pm Lunch and Presentation: Child Abuse Prevention in the Faith-Based Setting - Nina Mitchell, Brookwood Church
- 1:15 pm "Moving Forward" Practical Application Case Study Breakout - Gene Beckner, Brookwood Church and Shauna Galloway-Williams, Julie Valentine Center
- 2:30 pm Dismissal

Keynote Speaker



Victor Vieth, J.D.

Founder & Senior Director, Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC)

Victor Vieth serves as the Executive Director of the Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC), a state of the art training complex located on the campus of Winona State University (WSU). NCPTC includes five moot court rooms, four forensic interview rooms and a “mock house” in which to conduct simulated child abuse investigations. NCPTC staff provides intensive instruction for undergraduate students and current professionals in the field on how to better recognize, react, and respond to children who are being abused. The Center trains approximately 15,000 child protection professionals each year. Mr. Vieth has trained thousands of child-protection professionals from all 50 states, two U.S. Territories, and 17 countries on numerous topics pertaining to child abuse investigations, prosecutions and prevention.

He gained national recognition for his work in addressing child abuse in small communities as a prosecutor in rural Minnesota. He has been named to the President’s Honor Roll of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. The Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association named him one of the “21 Young Lawyers Leading us Into the 21st Century.” Mr. Vieth has been instrumental in implementing 22 state and international forensic interview training programs and dozens of undergraduate and graduate programs on child maltreatment.

Mr. Vieth has published countless articles related to the investigation, prosecution and prevention of child abuse and neglect. He is author of *Unto the Third Generation*, a bold initiative that outlines the necessary steps we must all take to eliminate child abuse in America in three generations.

Mr. Vieth graduated magna cum laude from WSU and earned his Juris Doctor from Hamline University School of Law (HUSL). While studying at HUSL, he received the American Jurisprudence award for achievement in the study of Constitutional law and served as editor-in chief of the Law Review.

Victor Vieth is an internationally recognized expert on child abuse who has done extensive work with faith communities throughout the United States and in 22 countries. This work includes service on the board of directors of GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment) and Sacred Spaces. He has also developed several national faith based ministries including Freedom for the Captives. Mr. Vieth is a graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary where his studies concentrated on the intersection between the faith and the child protection communities. He is the author of a number of theological works focusing on addressing the spiritual needs of survivors of abuse.

Sponsors

