

The 26th

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Maine Child Welfare Education



Annual Conference

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

JUNE 10, 2021

VIA ZOOM

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Progress and Challenge in Child Welfare:
By the Numbers

presented by

David Finkelhor, PhD

DIRECTOR, CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN RESEARCH CENTER
CO-DIRECTOR, FAMILY RESEARCH LABORATORY
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



Department of Health
and Human Services
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Northern Light Health Eastern Maine Medical Center Clinical Education Department is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Northeast Multistate Division (ME-MSD), an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Approval for 6 Continuing Legal Education credits and 6 Continuing Professional Education credits for Guardians ad Litem is being sought.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00 - 8:15	WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING
8:15 - 9:45	KEYNOTE - Progress and Challenge in Child Welfare: By the Numbers David Finkelhor, PhD
9:45 - 10:00	BREAK
10:00 - 11:00	WORKSHOP A - Child Maltreatment Fatalities in the United States: Policy, Program, and Other Professional Responses Emily Douglas, PhD
11:00 - 11:15	BREAK
11:15 - 12:15	WORKSHOP B - Child Victims and Witnesses in the Legal System Lisa R. Bogue, Esq. Jamie Hastings, VWA
12:15- 1:00	LUNCH Todd Landry, PhD (Invited Speaker) 12:30 - 1:00
1:00 - 2:15	WORKSHOP C - Healing the Child and Family: Evidence-Based Treatment Options in Maine Allegra Hirsh-Wright, LCSW Lauren Holleb, PhD Rita LaBarbera, MSW, LCSW Jamie Bartlett, LMSW
2:15 - 2:30	BREAK
2:30 - 3:45	WORKSHOP D - Protective Factors for Children in the Digital Age Katie Church, MS Colleen Walker
3:45 - 3:50	CLOSING REMARKS
3:50 - 4:00	EVALUATION

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Progress and Challenge in Child Welfare: By the Numbers

David Finkelhor, PhD

Child welfare professionals encounter many multifaceted and challenging issues in their daily work. Examining child welfare research and statistical trends reveals the complexity of the issues and challenges. Public health advocates have led efforts to produce some significant generational improvements such as reducing delinquency and teen pregnancy, as well as physical and sexual abuse. The data also, however, reveals some concerning trends in parental substance use, incarceration, suicide, depression and childhood obesity, and there is growing debate about the impact of technology on children's welfare. How should child welfare professionals' attention be focused in order to leverage positive trends and restrain negative trends?

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Participants will be able to identify at least one long term and one recent trend in child welfare.
- 2) Participants will be able to describe at least one aspect of the complexity of anticipating the effects of current social changes on future children's welfare.
- 3) Participants will be able to articulate at least one theory that explains the various trends in child welfare.

MORNING WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP A - Child Maltreatment Fatalities in the United States: Policy, Program, and Other Professional Responses

Presenter: Emily Douglas, PhD

Annually, 1,500-2,000 children die from fatal child maltreatment. These deaths tend to be high-profile cases that demand a response from the public. Professional groups and state and federal policy-makers have each responded with their own intervention or “solutions” in an effort to reduce the number of fatalities that occur in the USA. This presentation will provide an overview of child maltreatment fatalities (CMFs), the prevalence rates, and risk factors for child, parent, and household characteristics. The following responses will be discussed and described in detail: the child welfare profession, child death review teams, criminal justice responses (infant death scene investigation, “child death laws”), safe haven laws, prevention programs, the national commission on CMFs, and multi-state, collaborative efforts. The presentation will end by outlining the effectiveness of our approaches and where our gaps in knowledge remain.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to describe at least three risk factors for child maltreatment fatalities.
2. Participants will be able to identify at least two programs or policies that are in place to try to prevent child maltreatment fatalities.
3. Participants will be able to describe at least two gaps in our knowledge that keep us from moving forward in eliminating child maltreatment fatalities.

WORKSHOP B - Child Victims and Witnesses in the Legal System

Presenters: Lisa Bogue, Esq. and Jamie Hastings, VWA

This workshop will provide an overview on how to prepare a child for testimony in a courtroom setting starting with an evaluation of the child’s competency to testify all the way to the courtroom experience. The presenters will offer best practices for interacting with children who are themselves victims or who have witnessed the commission of a crime.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to describe at least two components of practical and legal approaches to establishing competency of child witnesses.
2. Participants will be able to describe at least two best practices for gathering information and/or interviewing children.
3. Participants will be able to describe at least two ways to support child witnesses from initial disclosure or statement through trial or hearing.
4. Participants will be able to describe at least two components of how to prepare a child witness for their testimony and how to question a child witness at trial or hearing.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP C - Healing the Child and Family: Evidence-Based Treatment Options in Maine

Presenters: Allegra Hirsh-Wright, LCSW; Jamie Bartlett, LMSW; Lauren Holleb, PhD; and Rita LaBarbera, MSW, LCSW

Picking up the pieces and healing from traumatic experiences can be complex and a long journey. For some children and families, therapy will be helpful in their process. It can be challenging to find providers trained in evidence-based practices, particularly in rural areas of Maine. This breakout session will address how Children’s Behavioral Health Services is addressing this issue and it will review five evidence-based practices available in Maine: Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), Child Family Traumatic Stress Intervention (CFTSI), Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and Attachment, Regulation, Competency (ARC).

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to identify two evidence-based treatment options in their area.
2. Participants will have a basic understanding of at least two evidence-based practices and how to find more information about resources available.
3. Participants will be able to identify three common and key elements in evidence-based trauma treatments approaches and how to be an informed consumer when EBPs are not available in their area.

WORKSHOP D - Protective Factors for Children in the Digital Age

Presenters: Katie Church and Colleen Walker

Now, more than ever, technology plays a significant role in the lives of children. While the internet is a helpful tool for learning and connecting with others, it presents specific risks and challenges that parents and educators must consider in order to keep children safe online. In this presentation, sexual violence preventionists Katie Church and Colleen Walker introduce various popular online platforms and the protective factors parents and educators can provide to increase online safety for children.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to identify at least three protective factors for online safety.
2. Participants will be able to identify at least two popular platforms or ways youth use the internet and, as a result, learn how to support them and model safety online.
3. Participants will be able to describe at least one method of engaging a youth about online safety.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID FINKELHOR, PhD is the Director of the Crimes against Children Research Center, Co-Director of the Family Research Laboratory and Professor of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire. He has been studying the problems of child victimization, child maltreatment and family violence since 1977. He is well known for his conceptual and empirical work on the problem of child sexual abuse, reflected in publications such as *Sourcebook on Child Sexual Abuse* (Sage, 1986) and *Nursery Crimes* (Sage, 1988). He has also written about child homicide, missing and abducted children, children exposed to domestic and peer violence and other forms of family violence. In his recent work, he has tried to unify and integrate knowledge about all the diverse forms of child victimization in a field he has termed Developmental Victimology. He is editor and author of 11 books and over 150 journal articles and book chapters. He has received grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the US Department of Justice, and a variety of other sources. In 1994, he was given the Distinguished Child Abuse Professional Award by the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children and in 2004 he was given the Significant Achievement Award from the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

JAMIE BARTLETT, LMSW is currently a Program Support Coordinator with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services based in Bangor, Maine. In her current role, Jamie is charged with working with Maine's Behavioral Health System to ensure that Mainecare is providing quality services to children. Duties include providing behavioral health consultation and training to children's behavioral health providers and to child welfare staff, completing quality reviews of services provided by Mainecare, assisting with Mainecare Rule writing and DHHS procedure writing and participating in system improvement efforts. Current system improvement efforts include identifying and developing Evidence Based Practices in Maine. Jamie spends time researching models utilized by providers in Maine as well as working with the system in efforts to bring more EBPs to the children's system. This work allows Jamie to develop relationships with multiple system entities such as Mainecare, Department of Education, Department of Corrections, psychiatric hospitals and many of the children's services provided by Mainecare.

LISA R. BOGUE, Esq. joined the Maine Office of the Attorney General as an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division as a homicide prosecutor in the summer of 2019. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Maine with a degree in Political Science and Cum Laude from the University of Maine School of Law, earning her Juris Doctorate. AAG Bogue has worked as a prosecutor handling child sexual abuse cases since 2003. From 2013-2019, she heavily focused her work on those cases as an Assistant District Attorney in Androscoggin County. While an ADA, she was appointed to be a member of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Board, served as a team member of the multidisciplinary team of Androscoggin Child Advocacy Center, and served as a co-advisor of the Advisory Team for the Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford County Child Advocacy Centers. She has also received basic and advanced training as a Forensic Interviewer through the National Children's Advocacy Center. Currently, she sits on the Domestic Violence Homicide Review Panel and prosecutes homicide cases statewide.

KATIE CHURCH, MS is the Children's Safety Partnership Coordinator for the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault. In this role, Katie coordinates the programmatic efforts to prevent child sexual abuse for grades Pre-K through 5. She has worked in the sexual violence prevention field for more than five years and has a master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Southern Maine.

EMILY M. DOUGLAS, PhD joined Montclair State University (NJ) in fall 2020 as a full professor and chair of the Department of Social Work & Child Advocacy. Her research focuses on the program and policy implications of issues that address child and family well-being, largely in the areas of family violence: fatal child maltreatment, under-represented victims of partner violence and help-seeking, children's exposure to partner violence, corporal punishment, family disruption, and the connection between research and policy.

Dr. Douglas is the author of 60+ peer-reviewed publications, 4 books, and she presents annually at domestic and international conferences. Dr. Douglas has spoken at the State Houses in Maine, Massachusetts, and Connecticut and before a Congressionally-created committee focused on children's deaths. She is a former Congressional fellow, sponsored by SRCD/AAAS; during this time, she held a position in the U.S. Senate where she was the lead author on an investigation concerning for-profit foster care.

JAMIE L. HASTINGS, VWA has been a Victim Witness Advocate with the District Attorney's Office since 2013. She is currently the Trial Assistant and Victim Witness Advocate for all sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking cases handled by her prosecution team. She received an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice degree from the University of Maine at Augusta in 2003. In 2010 she earned a Certificate in Paralegal Studies from the University of Maine at Augusta. Her first law enforcement work was as a full time corrections officer. Following the receipt of her Certificate in Paralegal Studies, where she completed an internship with the District Attorney's Office, she became a paralegal for a private law firm. Although she enjoyed that work, her heart is in the criminal justice system. Since 2013, Jamie has worked tirelessly with countless children and their families, assisting them through the criminal justice system. She has attended numerous trainings including the Maine/New Hampshire Victim Assistance Academy and Forensic Interviewing of Children Training through the National Children's Advocacy Center. Jamie is a passionate and dedicated advocate for children and their families.

ALLEGRA HIRSH-WRIGHT, LCSW is the Training Manager and a Project Director within the Department of Clinical Innovation at Maine Behavioral Healthcare. Ms. Hirsh-Wright has expertise in direct clinical practice, as well as training, supervision, dissemination and implementation of three evidence-based child trauma treatment models (TF-CBT, CPP, and CFTSI). Allegra is a nationally certified TF-CBT Clinician and Clinical Supervisor, has specific expertise in the areas of secondary trauma, burnout and professional resilience, and, as a member of the Secondary Traumatic Stress Workgroup for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, has contributed to fact sheets and a national website on secondary traumatic stress and professional resilience. Allegra has also co-authored an article on childhood exposure to violence and is an adjunct professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Southern Maine.

LAUREN HOLLEB, PhD is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Husson University and a licensed psychologist in part-time private practice. She is a Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) International Certified Therapist who provides therapeutic services to children and their families and conducts early childhood evaluations. She received her PhD in Developmental-Clinical Psychology from the University of Maine and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Her published works include journal articles and book chapters on peer relationships, social skills, and social development.

RITA ALFONSO LABARBERA, MSW, LCSW, CSP, MFA is currently the Program Director of Day Treatment and Residential Services for Spurwink in Cornville. She has over 30 years of experience providing mental health services including therapy, mobile crisis, adult ACT team, day treatment, school social work, and foster care services. She is trained in the Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC) model.

COLLEEN WALKER is a Community Outreach Educator with Rape Response Services, a Sexual Violence Victim Advocacy Center serving Penobscot and Piscataquis counties. She works primarily with students of all ages, teaching about a number of sexual violence prevention education topics, including but not limited to: Internet Safety, Bystander Intervention, Consent, Healthy Relationships, Gender Stereotypes and Media Literacy. Her work with Rape Response Services began as a volunteer advocate in March 2019 and she has worked in education for over a decade.

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