

Keynote Speaker – Summoned: Why This Is More Than Just A Job

Kevin McNeil

Workshop Description

Using the metaphor of being summoned to court, Detective McNeil presents a motivating and compelling presentation to those who care for abuse victims. He explains why helping abuse victims is more than something you get paid to do; but is a unique call to service that few people can answer. He highlights how people who care for abuse victims are the key to positive change in the world. Detective McNeil reminds the audience that they have not arrived to attend a conference; but they have been officially summoned to join the world's greatest team to help end abuse. Consider yourself served.

Kevin McNeil has twenty years of law enforcement experience, with twelve years as a Special Victim's Detective. He has been utilized as an Expert Witness in court pertaining to sexual assault cases. He is currently enrolled as a student at South New Hampshire University, acquiring a master's degree in psychology in Child and Adolescent Development.

Impact of Family Violence – A Panel Discussion

Regina Fitch, LSW

Dr. Karyn Smarz, Ph.D

Helen Emond, LSW

Juan Rios

Melissa Telleria

Panel Description

Violence against children can take a variety of forms with differing consequences. This panel will serve to identify these different forms and how children are affected in order to facilitate a discussion and deeper knowledge of how to improve outcomes for children through prevention.

Karyn C. Smarz, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist in the State of New Jersey since 2008. She is the Supervising Psychologist and Program Director of the Family Life Education Center at the Regional Diagnostic & Treatment Center at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Dr. Smarz received her Doctorate from Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus. She has worked in the field of child maltreatment for over 13 years conducting therapy and assessments with children and adolescents with histories of trauma, abuse, and neglect.

She is involved in training students at the doctoral level. Dr. Smarz also has a private practice in Montclair. She has also presented at numerous national and state conferences such as the Montclair State University Annual Child Advocacy Conference, NJ Task Force for the Prevention of Child Abuse and APSAC. Her presentations have focused on a wide range of topics related child abuse and maltreatment. Most recently her interests have centered around increasing cultural competency in the forensic assessment process.

Regina E. Fitch is the Supervisor of Social Services at the Shani Baraka Women’s Resource Center. She is a Licensed Social Worker with 11 years of experience in program design and development, and non-profit management. Ms. Fitch is also experienced in clinical intervention with youth and families and is trained in complex trauma and solution focused brief therapy. The Shani Baraka Center provides this and other services to support clients from the greater Newark Area. Under Ms. Fitch’s leadership, the Center (opened May 2017) has reached over 400 women and families in its first year of operation.

**A Live Narrative by: Allen Vandever
Facilitated by Derek Hopkins**

Allen Vandever
Derek Hopkins

Allen Vandever will paint and narrate his traumatic experience of being sexually abused and tortured as child. In light of the current social discourse surrounding sexual abuse, it is more important now than ever to showcase the voices and artistic expression of survivors to prove we hear, see, and believe them. It is the hope and intention of Childhood Fractured to kindle a critical, constructive, and positive dialogue about sexual abuse through art and storytelling; and, moreover, to exact generational change conducive to ending the sexual abuse of children.

Derek Hopkins

Derek Hopkins is a writer of fiction, non-fiction, essays, and poetry. He is co-founder of Childhood Fractured and a student at Northwestern University.

**Understanding ACE Findings for Child Maltreatment Professionals:
Perspectives on Hope and Resilience**

Christine Baker, Ph.D
Shaina Groisberg, MD

Workshop Description

While most professionals are aware that chronic poverty, disease and violence can damage the developing minds and bodies of children, few recognize that increased numbers of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) negatively impact all levels of society. This workshop presents a medical review of the pioneering ACE research and scoring system and offers perspectives on how professionals can develop hope and resilience for families involved with CPS. An excerpt from “Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope” will be shown and the Resilience Questionnaire will be discussed.

Christine Baker, Ph.D. is Clinical Director of the Metro Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Center at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Dr. Baker directed the Community Based Adolescent Medicine rotation at RUTGERS-NJ Medical School Newark Campus, as Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics for more than 15 years. She served as Visiting Specialist at

Montclair State University's Center for Child Advocacy, and has been qualified expert witness in child maltreatment for civil and criminal cases in several NJ counties.

Dr. Baker is former President of the NJ Chapter, American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC-NJ), and was recognized with the "President's Honor Roll" award by national APSAC in 2003. She has published in peer-reviewed journals, and has presented at local, state, and national conferences.

Dr. Baker has been honored with the HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION of NJ's "Lester Z. Lieberman Humanism in Healthcare Award", and the "Live Your Dream Ruby Award" by Soroptimist International of Suburban Essex. She currently serves on the Prevention Sub-Committee of the NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect where she helped develop the most recent "Standards for Prevention Programs". Dr. Baker also serves on the Integrity House, Inc., Board of Trustees, where she is Board Chair, and Chair of the Quality and Safety Committee.

Dr. Shaina Groisberg, MD obtained her medical degree from Tufts University in Boston Massachusetts. Her residency was in pediatrics at Yale-New Haven hospital in Connecticut. She completed a subspecialty fellowship in child abuse pediatrics at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston Texas.

Dr. Groisberg was awarded the University of Texas Health Sciences Center Fellowship Research award for her work with the abusive head trauma prevention program the Period of PURPLE Crying. She also was awarded first place in the Texas Pediatric Society poster contest regarding her evaluation of residents' ability to manage child abuse patients. She served on the Harris County Fatality Review Board, the Child Protective Services Special Needs Staffing Committee, and the CPS Regional Death Review Committee.

Dr. Groisberg is a child abuse pediatrician at the Metro Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Center and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark New Jersey. She is an active member of the Helper Society and has a special interests in child abuse prevention and education.