



40TH ANNUAL

*Conference on
Crime Victims'
Issues*

**NOVEMBER 16-18, 2022
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**

Wednesday, November 16

2:00 - 4:30 PM	REGISTRATION & EXHIBITS
2:30 - 4:30 PM	PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE: JUSTICE FOR MADISON Justin Boardman
5:00 - 7:00 PM	HOSPITALITY ROOM

Thursday, November 17

7:30 - 8:30 AM	REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST		
8:30 - 9:00 AM	WELCOME Robin Bostic, Board President, Virginia Victim Assistance Network Kate Hanger, Executive Director, Virginia Victim Assistance Network		
9:00 - 11:30 AM	OPENING PLENARY: DEVILS INSIDE THE GATE: USA GYMNASTICS, MICHIGAN STATE, AND THE MAKING OF A PREDATOR Roger Canaff		
11:30 - 11:45 AM	BOOK SIGNING <i>City Dark</i> by Roger Canaff		
11:45 - 1:00 PM	AWARDS LUNCHEON		
1:00 - 2:30 PM	TITLE IX: WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT WORK? Ofc. Tim Meacham	WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO RESPOND IN A TRAUMA-INFORMED MANNER? Melissa McGinn, LCSW	A SURVIVOR'S PERSPECTIVE Tanya Gould
2:30 - 2:45 PM	BREAK		
2:45 - 4:15 PM	LED BY LIVED EXPERIENCE: WORKING ETHICALLY WITH SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE Laurie Tasharski Claudia Matteo, PSYM	FROM LOST TO FOUND: SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS Cpl. Det. Joanna Hartsook Det. Chris Lee	MY PARENTS WHIPPED ME AND IT DIDN'T HURT ME! THE USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT Melissa Ratliff Harper, MSN, APRN, SANE-A, SANE-P
4:30 - 5:30 PM	VVAN BUSINESS MEETING		
6:00 - 7:30 PM	HOSPITALITY ROOM		

Friday, November 18

8:00 - 9:00 AM	BUFFET BREAKFAST		
9:00 - 10:30 AM	STALKING 2.0: THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO STALK Dana Fleitman	ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM Ebony McGill	CULTURAL DIVERSITIES IN ASSISTING FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED Lt. Marilyn Durham
10:30 - 10:45 AM	BREAK		
10:45 - 12:30 PM	CLOSING PLENARY: FROM VICTIM TO SURVIVOR Kimberly Corban		



CONFERENCE PLENARIES & WORKSHOPS

PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE: JUSTICE FOR MADISON (JUSTIN BOARDMAN)

Madison Smith, a rape survivor, successfully petitioned the court in McPherson County, Kansas for a citizen's grand jury investigation of her case following the county attorney's refusal to file any rape or sexual assault charges, instead prosecuting Ms. Smith's attacker on one count of aggravated battery. The county attorney called Ms. Smith's rape "immature sex" due to the fact that it began consensually, but when the perpetrator repeatedly strangled Ms. Smith to the point of losing consciousness, she was unable to verbally revoke consent. The county attorney's office blatantly violated the Kansas Victims' Bill of Rights and the Kansas Court Rules of Professional Conduct, treating Ms. Smith with an utter lack of respect, dignity, or compassion, and in fact, actively re-traumatizing her. Smith built a pro bono consulting team; invoked an archaic Kansas statute allowing for citizens to call their own grand jury; secured signatures from registered voters in the county; and secured a citizen grand jury to review her case. Ultimately, the grand jury returned no charges, but Ms. Smith and her team continued to seek justice, appealing the grand jury's decision due to procedural issues, and taking action against the county attorney via bar complaint. Madison Smith's historic case has been featured by major media outlets including The Washington Post, NBC Nightly News, The Independent, Newsweek, and the Associated Press, and is a victory for sexual assault survivors everywhere who have been maligned by the justice system. This session will address the failures of the justice system in sexual assault cases; the crucial nature of advocacy; and the steps survivors can take to hold the system accountable.

OPENING PLENARY: DEVILS INSIDE THE GATE: USA GYMNASTICS, MICHIGAN STATE, AND THE MAKING OF A PREDATOR (ROGER CANAFF)

While no environment serving children can ever be 100% safe from sexual predators, it is tragically but utterly true that both USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University, two powerful, internationally recognized and well-supported institutions, failed miserably. This plenary will address several aspects of institutional child sexual abuse across the culture, with a focus on the almost unfathomable missteps, willful ignorance, and malfeasance at the heart of over two decades of predation by physician Larry Nassar on female child athletes.

A SURVIVOR'S PERSPECTIVE (TANYA GOULD)

Participants will have the opportunity to hear Tanya's perspective after she worked her way towards wholeness after her human trafficking experience. People with this lived experience often go through systems interacting with agencies while still trying to process what happened to them. Traffickers are manipulators and therefore it is important to understand some of the mental health challenges survivors face as they try to piece their lives together.

WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO BE TRAUMA-INFORMED? (MELISSA MCGINN, LCSW)

This workshop is intended for anyone who already has a foundational understanding of trauma and resilience. This workshop goes beyond Trauma 101 and will focus on how we put this knowledge and awareness into practice. We will discuss how to apply our understanding of trauma and resilience in the moment when interacting with survivors of trauma. We will demonstrate skills and learn practical strategies to minimize re-traumatization and create psychologically safe environments / relationships with survivors of trauma. These approaches are applicable to working with clients in the office, home, courtroom, community etc.

TITLE IX: WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT WORK? (OFFICER TIM MEACHAM)

This workshop will present the basic of Title IX and how Title IX cases begin and are processed on a college campus. The workshop will provide an overview of the process and what is required, currently, by the Federal law. The workshop will also include how criminal investigations work concurrently with a Title IX investigation.

FROM LOST TO FOUND: SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS (CPL. DET. JOANNA HARTSOOK, DET. CHRIS LEE)

Identifying and then working with survivors of human trafficking can be different than working with victims of any other crimes. This course highlights the identification of the survivor, the difficulties that arise when the survivor does not identify as a victim, and the best practices for helping them through the case investigation and healing from the perspective of law enforcement.



CONFERENCE PLENARIES & WORKSHOPS

LED BY LIVED EXPERIENCE: WORKING ETHICALLY WITH SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE (LAURIE TASHARSKI, CLAUDIA MATTEO, PSYM)

“As a society we have a responsibility to create the safe spaces in which our stories can be heard and validated.”
Silent Waves ep VII, 28:40 – 29:00 How do we create programs informed by those with lived experience of childhood harm when the very act of remembering can retraumatize? We have a responsibility to ensure survivors can share their experiences with those tasked with prevention. Trauma-informed community networks (TICN) must work to reduce stigma around these conversations and engage those with lived experience in our communities. Learn how one community network created ‘guardrails’ for working with survivors to capture and incorporate their lived experience in community program development.

MY PARENTS WHIPPED ME AND IT DIDN'T HURT ME! THE USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (MELISSA RATLIFF HARPER, MSN, APRN, SANE-A, SANE-P)

The American Academy of Pediatrics defines corporal punishment as the "non-injurious, open-handed hitting with the intention of modifying child behavior." While current research shows waning support by young parents in the use of spanking/hitting children, some caregivers continue to use corporal punishment as a form of discipline. Numerous consequences are associated with corporal punishment including physical injury, aggressive behavior, mental health issues, substance use and changes in brain development. The workshop will define corporal punishment, discuss associated injuries, outline consequences of corporal punishment and offer strategies for effective discipline. Caution: The workshop will include case reviews.

ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM (EBONY MCGILL)

This workshop will provide an in depth look at the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP). Attendees will have a better understanding of what the ACP is, how it operates, what the victim base is, the application process, and how the program is used. Additionally, the workshop will assist advocates working with victims who meet the qualifications for the program, explain what the program is and how it works, and how it can assist with safety moving forward.

STALKING 2.0: THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO STALK (DANA FLEITMAN)

Stalkers are creative criminals who use – and misuse – a variety of technologies to locate, surveil, contact, and threaten their victims. This session will explore stalking dynamics and address common technologies utilized by stalkers, discussing evidence preservation concerns as well as identifying effective safety-planning strategies.

CULTURAL DIVERSITIES IN ASSISTING FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED (LT. MARILYN N. DURHAM)

Working with family and friends after a loved one is murdered, commits suicide, overdoses, or dies for other unnatural reasons can be challenging. Sometimes differences in cultures, values, and beliefs can be problematic while simply trying to help. This presentation will be a discussion on how advocates and law enforcement can work together to provide a better response to the survivors while employing culturally sensitive strategies.

CLOSING PLENARY: VICTIM TO SURVIVOR (KIMBERLY CORBAN)

Under a cover of darkness, he stalked and broke into his college victim's apartment in the early morning hours. When he came upon the 20-year-old woman asleep in her bed, he covered her face and attacked. But he never imagined he had just awakened a survivor. Join crime victim advocate Kimberly Corban as she details her sexual assault by a stranger and the harrowing journey to pursue justice that followed. The criminal justice system and university collaborations that brought this highly publicized case to a successful conclusion lay the foundation for an in-depth discussion on how we can best support victims of sexual violence. Kimberly offers inspiration and tangible ways to advocate for and respond specifically for advocates and criminal justice professionals.