

39TH ANNUAL

CONFERENCE ON CRIME VICTIMS' ISSUES



**HILTON VIRGINIA BEACH OCEANFRONT
NOVEMBER 17-19, 2021**

SPONSORED BY:



DAY 1 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021

2:00 - 4:30 PM	PRE-REGISTRATION
2:30 - 4:30 PM	PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE <i>Roger Canaff, A Fairer Fight: Preparing Children for the Adult Arena of the Courtroom</i>
5:00 - 7:00 PM	HOSPITALITY ROOM

DAY 2 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

7:30 - 8:30 AM	BREAKFAST		
8:30 - 9:00 AM	WELCOME Robin Bostic, <i>Board President, Virginia Victim Assistance Network</i> Kate Hanger, <i>Executive Director, Virginia Victim Assistance Network</i>		
9:00 - 11:30 AM	PLENARY: Dr. Aparna Polavarapu, <i>Restorative Justice</i>		
11:30 AM- 1:00PM	AWARDS LUNCHEON		
1:00- 2:30 PM	TRAUMA-INFORMED SUPERVISION	WITNESS INTIMIDATION: Eliminating the Payoff	WHAT IS STALKING?
2:30- 2:45 PM	BREAK		
2:45- 4:15 PM	THERE IS NO "I" IN MDT	INVISIBLE DISABILITIES: Trauma- Responsive Practices for Victim Advocacy and Mental Illness	BEING TRAFFICKED: What to Know About 'The Life'
4:30- 5:15 PM	VVAN BUSINESS MEETING		
5:45 - 7:30 PM	HOSPITALITY ROOM		

DAY 3 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021

8:00 - 9:00 AM	BREAKFAST		
9:00 - 10:30 AM	ADVOCACY FROM THE INSIDE OUT: Integrating Mindfulness into our Work	PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT: Authentic Listening	PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE AND LINGUISTICALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF CRIME
10:30 - 10:45 AM	BREAK		
10:45 - 12:30 AM	CLOSING PLENARY: Jennifer Storm, <i>Blackout Girl</i>		

Pre-Conference Institute: A Fairer Fight: Preparing Children for the Adult Arena of the Courtroom

Roger Canaff

Legal Expert and Author

Child victims and witnesses approach courts of law with inherent, but not insurmountable disadvantages. A relative lack of maturity, context and confidence can make their experience not only more traumatic, but simply unfair. However, when children are competently and compassionately prepared for court by a multi-disciplinary team, their confidence can be raised, and their anxiety lowered. Time-honored strategies are available to make the process of testimony effective, fair, and as non-traumatic as possible.

Plenary: Restorative Justice

Dr. Aparna Polavarapu

Executive Director & Founder, South Carolina Restorative Justice Initiative

Restorative justice offers an alternative idea of what justice is and how it can be achieved. Shifting the focus from what the law says to what harm has been committed, restorative justice seeks to address the needs of those who have been harmed, those who have harmed, and the community. Rather than rote punishment, the restorative process seeks accountability on the part of the responsible party. In this session, conference attendees will learn more about the concept of restorative justice, specific examples of how it has been practiced as an alternative to criminal processes, data on outcomes, and how restorative justice serves the needs of those involved.

Trauma-Informed Supervision

Melissa McGinn

Director of Community Prevention Programs, Greater Richmond SCAN

Trauma-informed supervision explores the role of a supervisor in supervision, how to create a psychologically safe supervisory environment and how to identify and

offer support to staff experiencing vicarious trauma. This training is appropriate for anyone in a supervisory role.

Witness Intimidation: Eliminating the Payoff

John Wilkinson

Attorney Advisor, AEquitas

Jane Anderson, Attorney Advisor, AEquitas

Coercive control asserted during an abusive or exploitative relationship rarely ends when an arrest is made. Intimidation tactics often prevent victims from identifying as such and discourage them from participating in the justice system. To overcome these challenges, keep victims safe, and achieve justice in these cases requires robust collaboration between criminal justice professionals and the community-based programs that serve victims. This presentation will introduce prosecution strategies to minimize opportunities for intimidation, identify it when it occurs, preserve, and make effective use of evidence of intimidation, and aggressively prosecute intimidation-related crimes.

What is stalking?

Ofc. Tim Meacham

University of Richmond Police Department

What is stalking? What behaviors constitute a criminal violation? Does the stalker have to threaten someone? These are all important questions asked during stalking investigations. This presentation seeks to answer those questions by reviewing important and interesting cases. In this session, participants will learn what constitutes stalking in Virginia, and will be guided through two Virginia cases to understand the law, and one Utah case to help apply legal standards. This session also provides reasoning in taking stalking reports seriously and methods for identifying stalking behaviors and using the language of the Virginia law to define the criminal offense.

There is no "I" in MDT

Erin Barr

Sr. Asst Commonwealth's Attorney, Colonial Heights Commonwealth's Attorney's Office

Jenelle Beverly, Administrator, Davis Child Advocacy Center

This workshop will be a conversational presentation discussing how to build and maintain a productive Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), highlighting best practices and how to train partner agencies, and how to weather the storms of conflict, such as differences of opinions and turnover in partner agencies.

Invisible Disabilities: Trauma-Responsive Practices for Victim Advocacy and Mental Illness

Robyn Sordelet

ICJR Training Coordinator, Virginia Victim Assistance Network

Individuals with mental illness and/or intellectual disabilities are statistically more vulnerable to victimization than their peers, yet the criminal justice system remains ill-equipped to serve these victims without alienating or further traumatizing them. This workshop will provide an understanding of the impact of psychiatric diagnoses and intellectual disabilities on a victim's interaction with the criminal justice system and best practices for trauma-responsive advocacy with this population. Within the context of victim advocacy, this workshop will include an introduction to crisis intervention with this population and will provide background on the stigmatization of mental illness that continues to influence the quality of services these victims receive.

Being Trafficked: What to Know About 'The Life'

Jane Anderson

Attorney Advisor, AEquitas

Just Exits, Survivor Advisory Council

The criminal justice system can serve as both an on-ramp to and an

off-ramp from sexual exploitation. To minimize on-ramps and maximize off-ramps, we must first understand the complex nature of sex trafficking and exploitation. Traffickers prey upon vulnerabilities often historic and systemic in nature. Traffickers use a variety of tactics designed to ensure victims will do what they are told without resistance, questioning, or disclosure to law enforcement. This physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual control over victims too often allows traffickers to escape accountability. This presentation is designed to improve our understanding of what it is like to be sexually exploited and to illustrate how we can improve our response to victims, who often do not see the criminal justice system as a viable off-ramp from “the Life”.

The presenters bring their lived and professional experience to this presentation, which focuses on factors impacting entry into “the Life”, the realities of sexual exploitation and trafficking, and the factors impeding or delaying exits. The presentation will provide criminal justice professionals with tools for identifying individuals vulnerable to exploitation, limiting on-ramps, and providing viable off-ramps to achieve justice for survivors.

Advocacy from the Inside-Out: Integrating Mindfulness into our Work

Kim Flournoy Dijoseph
Hot Mess Work

This experiential, self-reflective and participatory workshop will go beyond defining and discussing the benefits of mindfulness by exploring and practicing mindfulness as an inner-work tool to intentionally prevent vicarious traumatization and burnout. Through guided visualization, quick bursts of prompt-based writing exercises, and meaningful sharing and discussion, participants will be offered opportunities to explore and embody mindfulness in a real “beyond-the-bubble-bath-ridden self-care talk” kind of way. At its core, the goal of mindfulness is to be fully

present and aware without judgement. And at its core, advocacy is defined as action that supports another. Participants will practice mindful advocacy, dipping toes into the vast waters of mindfulness, departing with a deeper understanding of mindfulness’ power to transform ourselves, our perspectives on this work, and those we serve in the heart-forward work of advocacy.

Please Don’t Say That: Authentic Listening

Brenda Moss
Fellow, Everytown for Gun Safety

Authentic leadership begins with authentic listening. From the viewpoint of a gun violence survivor, this workshop will convey the importance of being fully present in conversations, especially sensitive conversations of value to others. The workshop will discuss the need to listen without understanding, without crafting a reply while the other party is speaking..... simply listening.

Providing Culturally Appropriate and Linguistically Specific Services to Victims of Crime

Tomiko Tamashiro Pardo
Language Access Coordinator, Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center

Bilingualism is a prerequisite for interpretation, but not an inherent qualifier. Interpretation is also not exclusive to the monolingual, non-English speaker. Language access takes everyone’s commitment and practice. This workshop will review the importance of language access, how to work with an interpreter and create multilingual spaces, and the relationship between culture, language, trauma, and power dynamics. One cannot be part of the solution in stabilizing one’s life if they are not fully autonomous in the conversation.

Closing Plenary: Blackout Girl

Jennifer Storm
Survivor. Author. Victim’s Rights Expert. Consultant.

Sexual assault, addiction, and other traumatic experiences can leave both physical and emotional scars. For Jennifer Storm, these scars serve as a reminder – both, of the darkness and suffering she once experienced, and of how far she has come. When she was first assaulted at age twelve, Jennifer turned to alcohol to dull the emotional pain. After a string of childhood traumas, she fell into crack use and self-harm. Once Jennifer finally found treatment after surviving the last of multiple suicide attempts, she discovered it was possible to heal her shame. She could start to recover by uncovering the secrets she had kept hidden for years. *Blackout Girl* is the heartbreaking, enlightening, and inspiring story of Jennifer’s narrow escape from her own self-destructive instincts when all the odds, and systems, were stacked against her. Today, with over 23 years of active recovery and healing, Mrs. Storm’s inspirational story will leave the audience hopeful.

Cover image: a Fall sunset over Virginia Beach.

“Don’t forget, beautiful sunsets need cloudy skies...” - Paulo Coelho