Workshop Descriptions

“But You’re Not on my Schedule”... and Other Challenges
When Interviewing Children on the Autism Spectrum
Presenter: Julie Stauffer, LICSW, CornerHouse

The diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders has rapidly increased in recent years, yet Autism remains mysterious to most of us who do not have specialized education or training. Through exploration of the various areas of a child’s life that may be impacted by Autism, this session will provide child protection workers, law enforcement, and other professionals who interview children with the tools to understand what questions are important to ask, and why, when preparing to interview a child who is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Other pertinent information, including the increased risk of victimization for this population, will also be discussed.

Has this Child been Sexually Abused? Understanding Behaviors, De-mystifying the Examination, and Approach to Treatment
Presenters: Dr. Rebecca Moles, Division Chief, Child Protection Program; Dr. Heather Forkey, Assistant Director, Foster Care Evaluation Services (FaCES), UMass Children’s Medical Center

This session will use a case-based presentation style to review the collaborative approach to suspected victims of child sexual abuse, including outlining normal and abnormal sexual behaviors in children, the genital examination of children, and treatment options for children who have been abused.

Recent Research Affecting Child Abuse Investigations and Prosecutions
Presenter: Linda Cordisco Steele, M.Ed, LPC, Curriculum Chair & Senior Trainer, National Children’s Advocacy Center

This workshop is intended for all levels of professionals who are involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse. We are working in a continually changing field, and it is critical that direct service providers stay abreast of the current research affecting our work. This workshop will provide a general review of recent research affecting child abuse investigations and prosecutions, and challenge the attendees to relate this information to their current practices in the field.
Workshop Descriptions

Expanding our Scope: Navigating the Waters of the Safe Harbor Law for Trafficked Children
Presenters: Sgt. Pi Heseltine, Massachusetts State Police; Greg Friedholm, Assistant District Attorney, Essex County; Deb Bercovitch, Assistant Attorney General. Moderated by MACA Board member, Jeanmarie Carroll, First Assistant, Norfolk District Attorney’s Office

The panel will present participants with an overview of the new Human Trafficking statute in Massachusetts and its SAFE HARBOR provision. The law moves children who have been commercially sexually exploited from offender to the more appropriate category of victim and outlines the required response. Through the use of a case example, presenters will illustrate the application of the statute to assist professionals address the complexity of these investigations. Discussion will focus on the likely impact this law will have on multidisciplinary teams and Children’s Advocacy Centers within the state.

Trauma Stewardship
Presenter: Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, author of Trauma Stewardship

Through slide presentation, research and anecdotal information, Ms. van Dernoot Lipsky will demonstrate the impact of secondary trauma for providers and steps available for self-care.

A Pebble in the Pond: Factors in Multi- Generational, Childhood Sexual Abuse Victimization
Presenter: Tamara Hillard, LICSW, Clinical Treatment Specialist, Children’s Cove: The Cape & Islands Child Advocacy Center

A creative orientation towards Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) theory sets this presentation apart from others and engages the therapist and clients in immediate cognitive reframing and resiliency building in cases of child sexual abuse. The use of case examples, active and usable techniques, and a focus on the “clinician as change agent”, through attitude, humor, and creativity in treatment, will be highly emphasized.
Workshop Descriptions

**The NCAC Extended Forensic Interview Model:**
**Rationale and Key Components**
Presenter: Linda Cordisco Steele, M.Ed, LPC, Curriculum Chair & Senior Trainer, National Children’s Advocacy Center

An Extended Forensic Interview is a structured, forensically defensible interview conducted over multiple sessions with a child who is potentially a victim or witness of child abuse or other violent behaviors. This model attempts to meet the needs of subset of children who are considered at high risk; but are challenged by the demands of a single session approach because of young age, temperament, communication difficulties, or trauma. This session will provide an overview of the NCAC Extended Forensic Interview Model and will serve as an introduction to the process, as well as an update on changes and current practice for those who received their training more than 2 years ago.

**Severe Physical Abuse Injuries: Medical Evaluation and Challenges in Prosecution**
Presenters: Alice W. Newton, MD, Medical Director, Child Protection Program, Children’s Hospital; Lisa Beatty, Assistant District Attorney, Norfolk County; Detective Anthony F. D’Alba, Chelsea Police Department

Dr. Newton, Attorney Beatty, and Detective Alba will describe the medical evaluation of a child with severe abdominal injuries and the challenges faced by law enforcement in identifying and prosecuting a perpetrator. Additionally, issues of child protection will be discussed.