

**The 23rd Annual
Northern New England Conference
on Child Maltreatment**

**Continuing the tradition of
state-of-the-art,
practical, and evidence-based
education for
all professionals working
with abused and neglected children**

October 25 & 26, 2018

**Hilton Garden Inn
Freeport Downtown
5 Park Street
Freeport, ME 04032**

2.5 general GAL Credits Approved for selected sessions.

About Spurwink

In the 1960's, Spurwink developed what was a unique concept for that time - the treatment of troubled children within the community, rather than in institutional settings. The agency's first residential program served eight boys. This same residence is now one of over 60 treatment homes Spurwink operates for children, adolescents, and adults.

While residential treatment is a significant part of Spurwink's services, it is just one segment of the agency's comprehensive programming. Over the years, our services have expanded to include a wide array of community-based programs designed to meet the unique, identified needs of each client.

With over 900 caring and dedicated professionals in our employment, Spurwink has gained a reputation for excellence in evidence-guided treatment and service delivery throughout New England and Canada. While we have experienced tremendous growth over the years, Spurwink's foundation has remained strong: provide a stable, emotional, and supportive environment that strives to be the most effective in helping clients find their strengths, reach their full potential, and lead healthy and productive lives.

About Spurwink's Child Abuse Program

The Child Abuse Program (CAP) was developed in response to the need for expert diagnostic and treatment services for Maine children who may have been abused. This diagnostic program provides, forensic interviewing and medical evaluation of children suspected of abuse, in addition to psychological evaluation of children and adults. The program's combination of individual and team services allows our clinical staff to choose the best mode of evaluation and treatment for every child and family.

The Cumberland County Children's Advocacy Center is co-located at the Spurwink Child Abuse Program. This coordinated approach to the investigation of child abuse provides a child friendly forensic interview of a child that is observed by a team of investigating professionals. This team approach helps the family and child access appropriate medical, mental health and/or advocacy services.

The main office is located at 778 Main St., South Portland, Maine and can be reached via phone 1-800-260-6160 or 207-879-6160. CAP also provides medical examinations at Satellite clinics which are located in Waterville, Bangor, and Lewiston, Maine.

Audience

The Northern New England Conference on Child Maltreatment is intended for a multi-disciplinary audience, including professionals from the fields of nursing, mental health, law, child welfare, law enforcement, child advocacy, emergency services, medicine and education.

Conference Goals

The goal of the conference is to provide multi-disciplinary training to increase professional skills and knowledge to professionals who are involved in child abuse prevention, recognition, evaluation, reporting, investigation, prosecution, treatment and all forms of child maltreatment.

Thursday, October 25

8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45 Introduction: Joyce Wientzen, LCSW & Eric Meyer, LCSW, MBA

9:00 **Building Pathways to Power: Creating Opportunities with young people to access and build social capital**
Amnoni Myers, MPA

Oftentimes young people find themselves trying to navigate the world with little resources, services and support upon aging out. Unemployment, incarceration, homelessness, and a lack of relational support are a few reasons why foster youth have difficulty thriving beyond the age of 18. This presentation will focus on ways of empowering young people to understand their inner agency, and abilities while finding ways to identify and strengthen their support systems, and building bridges of access and networks to increase their social capital.

10:15 Break with refreshments

10:30 **Beyond Trauma**

Amnoni Myers, MPA

Growing up in the foster care system, I learned a lot about social work! I learned that there are amazingly dedicated people out there helping kids and families very day. I learned that it does really just take 1 or 2 people to make a world of difference. I also learned that despite best intentions and laborious efforts, my siblings and I were each exposed to new traumatic events while in foster care. In this workshop we are going to go there – talk about how to mitigate the impact of systems induced traumas, like traumatic separation, while increasing protective factors in a very concrete way so those serving young people are equipped and trained with resources that will help young people excel beyond trauma.

11:45 Lunch will be served

GAL Credits 1:00 **Maltreatment, Methylation and Mental Illness: How Trauma Impacts the Brain and Body**
1.25/0 Heather Forkey, MD

Expanding evidence from molecular biology, genomics, immunology and neuroscience links the early experience of adversities with subsequent impacts on health, development, academic achievement, productivity and mental illness. Yet childhood experience is not destiny. How trauma impacts the developing brain, how children can be impacted and protected, what explains the variable response to adversity and the challenges of preventing and recognizing the effect of trauma on children will be explored.

2:15 Break with refreshments

GAL Credits 2:30 **All the Fright We Cannot See: The Health Needs of Children in Foster Care**
1.25/0 Heather Forkey, MD

Children in foster care have a significant health burden, and are among the most medically vulnerable. The medical needs of children who have suffered abuse and neglect and are impacted by trauma vary from other children. Understanding how best to access effective healthcare and how healthcare providers can be a resource in helping to keep children safe is critical for anyone working with court involved youth.

3:45 Adjourn

Friday, October 26

8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45 Introduction: Lawrence Ricci, MD & Eric Meyer, LCSW, MBA

9:00 **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (part 1): Identification and Response**

Michele Mullen, MSW, LCSW

This workshop will provide an overview of the identification and response for CSEC victims and youth at risk for exploitation. This workshop will provide information about working with exploited youth, including strategies for survivor care.

10:15 Break with refreshments

10:30 **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (part 2): System Response**

Michele, Mullen, MSW, LCSW

This workshop will focus on the multidisciplinary system response needed to address the complexities of CSEC cases from identification, investigation, service delivery and prosecution

11:45 Lunch will be served

1:00 **Myths and Misconceptions: Sexually Transmitted Infections and Child Abuse**

Amanda Brownell, MD

The understanding of sexually transmitted infections as a component of child abuse has evolved over the last several decades. While STIs are common in adolescents, young children diagnosed with certain infections should be evaluated for sexual abuse. This presentation will discuss infections concerning for sexual abuse, conditions commonly mistaken for STIs and the forensic limitations of available testing. Myths and legends surrounding the transmission of these diseases will also be explored.

2:15 Break with refreshments

2:30 **What Child Abuse Pediatricians Have to Share About the Diagnosis and Treatment of Child Abuse**

Lawrence Ricci, MD

In early 2018, Dr. Ricci published, *What Happened in the Woodshed: the Secret Lives of Battered Children and a New Profession to Protect Them*. The book tells the stories of 30 child abuse pediatricians on topics such as how and why the field of child abuse pediatrics developed, Munchausen by Proxy, impactful experiences including deaths, neglect and failure to thrive, and the future of child abuse prevention in our country. This lecture will discuss those stories.

3:45 Adjourn

The Speakers

Amnoni Myers, MPA is a dynamic public speaker and child welfare advocate. A native of Boston, MA, Amnoni now resides in California where she is working with Forward Change Consulting, as a Research Associate. Amnoni recently received her Master of Public Administration degree with the National Urban Fellows Program Class of 2017. In this prestigious program, Amnoni was placed at the California Endowment located in Oakland, CA where she worked on The My Brother's Keeper Initiative for young boys and men of color. Amnoni previously worked with U.S. Children's Bureau as a child welfare policy consultant as well as interning on both Capitol Hill, and The White House Domestic Policy Council helping influence policy. She graduated from Gordon College with a double major in Social Work and Sociology, and completed a Social Work and Peace and Conflict Studies Practicum in San Francisco. She has also traveled to South Africa to study Race, Class and Gender. Amnoni became a ward of the state at birth, and through her experiences in foster care she became committed to helping others break the cycle of poverty. Amnoni received the 2016 Re-envisioning Foster Care Champion Award from the Treehouse Foundation, in recognition of the contributions she has made to child welfare nationwide. She also was the recent recipient of the 2017 Ron Gonzalez Memorial Fund award where she was recognized by the National Urban Fellows Program for her dedication and demonstration of Leadership that promoted Gonzalez's core values as a change agent in the world. Amnoni is an Advisory Board member with the Treehouse Foundation and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network where she has collaborated with the network on several projects including helping them develop NCTSN's Trauma Informed Organizational Assessment tool (TIOA) that will be a standard tool offered by the NCTSN. Amnoni is a compassionate and driven individual dedicated to reshaping policies affecting vulnerable populations.

Heather C. Forkey, MD is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and was recently named as *The Joy McCann Professor for Women in Medicine*. In her institutional roles as Division Director for the Child Protection Program and as Director of the Foster Children Evaluation Service (FaCES) of the UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center, Dr. Forkey leads programs to address the needs of the region's children who are victims of abuse, neglect and emotional trauma. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Forkey has been the recipient of local and federal grants to address issues of children in foster care and to translate promising practices to address physical and mental health needs of children who have been traumatized. She is a nationally recognized leader in the field of child trauma and foster care medicine, has published and presents nationally on the topic, and her work has been highlighted in the popular press as well, including Forbes, The Boston Globe and The Atlantic.

Michele Mullen, MSW, LCSW is a Training Specialist with Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center. Michele provides training and technical assistance to developing and established CACs and MDTs in Maine, New Jersey and Rhode Island. Michele joined NRCAC in September 2014 after 17 years with the Norfolk District Attorney's Office/children's advocacy center in Massachusetts. Michele began as a Victim Advocate before moving to the CAC Director role and was dedicated to the development of a fully accredited child advocacy center in 2010. Prior to working at the DA's Office, she worked with domestic violence survivors. Since joining NRCAC, Michele has coordinated a regional conference "CSEC and CACs", to assist CACs in the region to expand programming and resources to serve commercially sexually exploited children. Michele also conducts regional training on Victim Advocacy, Vicarious Trauma, and Multidisciplinary team development.

Amanda Brownell, MD is a child abuse pediatrician at Spurwink. She completed her pediatric residency at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center in 2015. She just completed a 3-year fellowship in child abuse pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Lawrence Ricci, MD is a board certified Child Abuse Pediatrician. Dr. Ricci is a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Tufts Maine Medical Center College of Medicine. Dr Ricci is the medical director of the Spurwink Child Abuse Program which he started in 1986. Over the past 25 years, Dr. Ricci has evaluated and treated several thousand children for abuse concerns. He is on the consulting staff at Barbara Bush Children's Hospital (BBCH) where he spends time training pediatric residents in clinical settings and monthly didactic sessions. He also performs approximately 40 inpatient child abuse consults a year at BBCH. He is in addition the director of the Pediatric Advocacy Program and resident rotation at Barbara Bush.

Dr. Ricci has served on a number of state and national child abuse committees including former Chair of the Maine Child Death/Serious Injury Review Panel (1992-2008) and former Chair of the Section on Child Abuse of the American Academy of Pediatrics (1990-1994). He is a former president of the Ray Helfer Society (2002-2004), an honorary society of several hundred physicians specializing in the care of abused children. Dr. Ricci has developed numerous child abuse workshops throughout Maine and around the country; these have been presented to social workers, mental health professionals, legal professionals, and medical professionals. He frequently testifies in both civil and criminal court both in Maine and around the country and has published approximately 25 articles and book chapters in the field of child abuse evaluation and treatment. He has a particular expertise in photo-documentation and lectures and consults regularly on camera systems and photographic techniques. In addition, Dr Ricci has focused his work in Maine on Shaken Baby Prevention, Safe Sleep, and physician recognition and reporting of child abuse. He works closely with multiple agencies throughout the state including the Maine Children's trust for which he serves on the board and the Department of Human Services for which he consults on clinical cases and policy development

Hilton Garden Inn Freeport Downtown

5 Park Street, Freeport, ME 04032 (207) 865-1433

Conveniently located in Freeport with easy access for travelers from all directions, and free on-site parking. There will be Wi-Fi internet connectivity and the menus are created fresh daily in the on-site kitchen.

Registration and Cost

The registration fee includes daily continental breakfast, lunch and refreshment breaks.

Both Days \$150.00

Thursday only \$75.00

Friday only \$75.00

All conference materials, including CEU information, will be available online, at www.spurwink.org. The access code to these materials will be emailed to you nine business days prior to the conference. Certificates of attendance will be emailed to you within 30 days after the conference.

Conference registration can be submitted electronically.

Continuing Education Credits and Contact Hours

We will provide you with instructions on what you need to do after the conference in order to receive your CEU's/contact hours.

Refund and Cancellation Policy

Refund and Cancellation Policy: Participants who cancel their registration will incur an administrative fee of \$25.00. NO REFUNDS will be given if cancellation is less than ten business days prior to the conference.

Contact Us:

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