



OUR CHILDREN
OUR COMMUNITY

35th Annual Child Welfare Workshop

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

8:30 am - 3:30 pm




The Maryland Theatre
21 South Potomac St
Hagerstown, MD



BROOK LANE

Hope • Healing • Recovery

an affiliate of  Meritus
Health

35th Annual Child Welfare Workshop

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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*The annual Child Welfare Workshop is funded in part
by an educational grant secured by the
Washington County Department of Social Services.
Thank you!*

Certificate Information

Attendees must attend 100% of the workshop to receive a certificate of completion and continuing education credits (CEUs).
Partial Credit will not be awarded.

How do I get my Certificate?

Certificates will be available at the conclusion of the workshop (3:30pm) only in the Grand Lobby where you signed in.

Certificates will be given in exchange for your completed evaluation form.

Only one evaluation per person will be accepted.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Understanding and Addressing the Complex Web of Childhood Abuse and Trauma, *Harvey Payne, PsyD*
Dr. Harvey Payne grew up in Hagerstown, MD, and has worked in the behavioral health field (counselor, psychologist) for over 40 years. His primary work history has been in organizations serving children and adolescents with a variety of life issues and disabilities from front-line worker to behavioral health provider to administrator and consultant. He has worked at various behavioral health agencies throughout Washington County, MD, and Franklin County, PA, and has consulted overseas in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan. He has been at Divine Mercy University (graduate school with programs in psychology and counseling) for 10 years and is currently the VP of Academic Affairs for Digital Learning.

35th Annual Child Welfare Workshop

SCHEDULE

7:15-8:15 am	Check-in, Continental Breakfast, Visit Exhibits & Network
8:30-10:00 am	Keynote Presentation - Theatre Understanding and Addressing the Complex Web of Childhood Abuse and Trauma, <i>Harvey Payne, PsyD</i>
10:00-10:15 am	Morning Break
TRACK 1	
10:15-11:45 am	Session A: Theatre A Taste of Trauma: An Intro to Trauma Informed Care, <i>Fred Edell, MA, M.Div., LCPC</i>
	Session B: 3rd Floor - The View Studio Implicit Bias: Working with Students (Cultural), <i>Jennifer Kelman, PhD</i>
	Session C: 4th Floor - Manager Ballroom Inclusive Futures: Effective Approaches for Supporting Young People with Autism, <i>Sarah Bendekovits, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA</i>
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Complimentary Lunch served in the Grand Lobby. Dining space is available on the Theatre Stage and in the Ballroom. Exhibitor visitation and networking
TRACK 2	
12:45 - 2:00 pm	Session D: 3rd Floor - The View Studio ADHD Toolkit: Fun, Practical and Evidence-Based Interventions for Children and Teens <i>Jennifer Lowrey MEd, LCPC & Ashley Rooney, LCPC</i>
	Session E: 4th Floor - Manager Ballroom Managing Behavior: Mental Health Services in School, <i>Diamond Carr, PhD, NCSP</i>
	Session F: Theatre Turning Trauma Around: Transforming Negative Experiences into Personal Growth, Healing and Resilience, <i>Samantha Reaves, PhD</i>
2:00-2:15 pm	Afternoon Break
TRACK 3	
2:15 - 3:30 pm	Session G: Theatre Effective Strategies & Techniques to Address Complex Behaviors in Children, <i>Renee Smucker, PhD</i>
	Session H: 4th Floor - Manager Ballroom Navigating the Digital Age: Social Media's Impact on Young Minds, <i>Susan Corley, LCSW-C</i>
	Session I: 3rd Floor - The View Studio Empowering Youth to Cultivate and Build Healthy Relationships, <i>Kelsey Green LCSW & Sarah Gann</i>
3:30 pm	Conclusion - Grand Lobby Exchange Evaluation for Certificate

To view each session presentation please
scan the QR code or visit **BrookLane.org/35CWW**



Thank You to Our Exhibitors



Brook Lane, an affiliate of Meritus Health

13121 Brook Lane
Hagerstown, MD 21742
301-733-0330
www.brooklane.org



Interagency Family Preservation (IFP) Services

122 N Potomac St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-420-2622
www.dhs.maryland.gov/local-offices/washington-county



The Mental Health Center of Western Maryland, Inc.

1180 Professional Court
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-791-3045
www.thementalhealthcenter.net



Potomac Community Services

324 E Antietam St. Ste. 301
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-791-3087
www.potomaccommunity.org



Safe Place Child Advocacy Center

24 N Walnut St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-420-4300



**WASHINGTON COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
Washington County Health Department (WCHD)
www.washcohealth.org

WCHD/Administrative Care Coordination Unit (ACCU)

1302 Pennsylvania Ave
Hagerstown, MD 21742

WCHD/Healthy Families

1302 Pennsylvania Ave
Hagerstown, MD 21742
240-313-3270

WCHD/Behavioral Health Services Prevention Services

925 N Burhans Blvd
Hagerstown, MD 21742
240-313-3210

WCHD/Immunizations

1302 Pennsylvania Ave
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Learn more about our exhibitors at BrookLane.org/35CWW

Session Descriptions and Presenter Biographies

TRACK 1: SESSION A - A Taste of Trauma: An Intro to Trauma Informed Care, Fred Edell, MA, M.Div., LCPC

A Taste of Trauma: An Invitation to an Introduction for Reflection With Recommended Excursions. To evoke awareness, empathy for those who are traumatized, and interest in causes, effects, healing, and recovery in the context of our work and relationships.

Objectives:

- Explore an Overview of some primary concepts
- Explore references and resources for excursions (post-training invitations) that can further introduce, stimulate, deepen and enrich awareness of trauma that has a conversation with and supports continued development of trauma-informed practice
- Be challenged to develop, correlate and integrate approaches overviewed in your own highly unique, creative, eclectic and valuable practice for these unprecedented, troubled times and be inspired to be a catalyst for others.

Fred holds a Master's in Theology from Wesley Theological Seminary and brings his pastoral experience into his counseling, encouraging clients to draw on their faith as a resource for healing. Specializing in trauma, mood and anxiety disorders, ADHD, and OCD, Fred works with individuals, families, and groups. He is a Certified Trauma-Focused CBT practitioner and an Approved Supervisor by the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors.

TRACK 1: SESSION B - Implicit Bias in the Classroom, Jennifer Kelman, PhD

A significant body of research has documented the existence of implicit bias in education, leading to differential treatment and unfavorable outcomes for some children and youth. This workshop will critically examine implicit bias in the educational setting, including how it can manifest across multiple domains such as discipline, grading, instructional materials, and expectations for achievement. Participants will be encouraged to explore and reflect on their own biases, and will leave with strategies for identifying and mitigating the impact of implicit bias to create more inclusive and equitable learning environments.

Objectives:

- Define, explain, and identify the origin of implicit bias.
- Examine how implicit bias may inform and shape teaching and educational practices and contribute to less favorable outcomes for some children and youth.
- Enhance awareness of personal biases through critical self-reflection, shared experiences, and tools for uncovering bias.
- Develop actionable strategies to combat implicit bias as instructors in educational settings.

Dr. Jennifer Kelman has over 20 years of experience in the development and implementation of training and technical assistance initiatives, prevention services, and specialized interventions targeting diverse audiences and focused on a wide range of issues. In her current role as the Director of the Child Welfare Academy (CWA) at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, she oversees all aspects of a comprehensive state-wide training unit including leading strategic planning and providing oversight and direction for the design, development, and implementation of training initiatives for child welfare professionals, resource parents, kinship care providers and community partners across Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. This includes the development and provision of culturally and trauma-responsive in-person, live online, and asynchronous training curricula, materials, and transfer of learning supports to address identified needs, increase knowledge acquisition, and enhance skill development. Priority is placed on creating and maintaining affirming, supportive learning communities that inspire collaboration, celebrate differences, and ensure that everyone feels valued, safe and heard.

TRACK 1: SESSION C - Inclusive Futures: Effective Approaches for Supporting Young People with Autism,

Sarah Bendekovits, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA

This presentation will provide the audience with a foundational overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including key characteristics, common challenges, and strengths of individuals on the spectrum. Participants will also be introduced to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), a research-based approach to understanding and ultimately improving behaviors. The session will cover core ABA principles, practical applications, basic functions of behavior, and strategies for supporting individuals with ASD in a variety of settings. This training aims to enhance awareness and promote effective and evidence-based interventions.

Objectives:

- Identify common characteristics of individuals with autism spectrum disorder
- Identify each component of the three-term contingency used in applied behavior analysis
- Identify types of antecedent and consequence variables
- Identify the four functions of behavior
- Describe how to pair yourself with reinforcement

Sarah joined ATS in September 2024. She started her career as a registered behavior technician in 2018, working at a specialized school and then in the clinic setting with 2-5-year-olds. She pursued her BCBA certification and became a BCBA in 2021. After becoming a BCBA, she realized she wanted to one day be in academia and contribute to research, so she pursued her PhD. Sarah completed her PhD in applied behavior analysis in 2024. During her time in school, Sarah was a teaching assistant for masters level classes, was a peer mentor, presented at a conference in Kansas City, and was an author in a book chapter. Sarah is passionate about mentoring, training, and supervising new BCBA's. She is also passionate about teaching clients skills that will generalize to home/the community and will lead to success in a less restrictive environment. In Sarah's role as Clinical Director, she supervises a team of BCBA's in Washington County. Sarah lives in Hagerstown, MD, with her fiancé and one dog, Cooper. Fun Fact(s) About Sarah: Sarah loves to make sourdough bread, travel, and be a homebody. Sarah lived in Ireland for 2 months during college and is looking forward to her 2-week-long honeymoon in Europe this June.

TRACK 2: SESSION D - ADHD Toolkit: Fun, Practical and Evidence-Based Interventions for Children and Teens,

Jennifer Lowrey MEd, LCPC & Ashley Rooney, LCPC

This workshop will focus on evidence-based therapeutic interventions and tools that can be used to enhance the overall functioning of children and adolescents with ADHD and other challenging behaviors in both home and school settings. Participants should be prepared for active engagement, as this workshop will be interactive and experiential. Resources applicable to daily work will be provided.

Objectives:

- Understand and Define Symptoms of ADHD
- Navigate the ADHD Diagnostic Process
- Develop Strategies for Managing Impulsivity
- Facilitate Emotional Regulation Skills
- Recognize and Address Risky Behaviors in Adolescents with ADHD
- Support Families through Education and Resources

Jennifer Lowrey, MEd, LCPC, is a seasoned and accomplished Clinical Director at Innovative Therapeutic Services in Hagerstown and Laurel, Maryland, boasting nearly three decades of extensive experience in the mental health field. Her leadership role encompasses overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization, ensuring the smooth and efficient delivery of mental health services. Additionally, Ms. Lowrey plays a crucial role in shaping the future of the mental health profession by mentoring and guiding aspiring clinicians through a comprehensive internship program. Ms. Lowrey's therapeutic approach is characterized by a deep-seated compassion and respect for individuals she works with. She firmly believes in the importance of evidence-based interventions, carefully selecting and tailoring them to meet the unique needs and circumstances of each individual she serves. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, providing a foundation in human behavior and social welfare. She then earned a Master's Degree in School Counseling, which gave her specific skills and knowledge to pursue clinical licensure.

Ashley Rooney, LCPC-NCC has been working with Innovative Therapeutic Services since 2021 and acts as Lead Clinician for their Hagerstown office. Ashley earned her Bachelor's degree in Development Psychology, and soon after, obtained her Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Ashley brings a refreshed and exciting perspective to therapy services and has a deep commitment to mental health and the ever expanding field. As Lead Clinician, Ashley strives to provide high-quality care, using therapies such as CBT and DBT. She is also skilled in trauma- focused CBT, helping clients heal from past trauma and build resilience for the future. Though Ashley works with clients of all ages, her population of choice is children and adolescents. She specializes in depressive disorders, PTSD and anxiety disorders, working with young clients not only to address their immediate struggles, but also help equip them with the skills and tools they need to grow into successful adults. Ashley's goal is to empower youth to understand their actions and emotions, improve their mental well-being, and thrive as they move through the challenges of adolescence and beyond.

TRACK 2: SESSION E - Managing Behavior: Mental Health Services in School, Diamond Carr, PhD, NCSP

Improving Student Behavior: This presentation explains the functions of behavior and the basics of behavioral planning for students. Lastly, it includes strategies to promote positive student behavior with case examples for participants to practice what they have learned.

Objectives:

- Identify the functions of behavior.
- Describe the basics of behavioral planning for students.
- Implement strategies to promote positive behavior.

Diamond Carr, PhD is a nationally certified school psychologist who has worked with students from preschool to twelfth grade providing a range of services from psychological assessment to counseling. Dr. Carr is a systems-oriented professional working across tiers to provide direct services, consultation, and professional development for students and the staff supporting them.

TRACK 2: SESSION F - Turning Trauma Around: Transforming Negative Experiences into Personal Growth, Healing and Resilience, Samantha Reaves, PhD

Turning Trauma Around: This presentation describes trauma and the concepts of resilience, a healing-centered approach, and post-traumatic growth. Using these concepts, participants will learn strategies to promote wellness and consider how they may be applied in practice.

Objectives:

- Explain the concept of trauma and some of its effects on youth.
- Describe ways to move beyond trauma to foster youth's well-being.
- Implement supportive strategies when working with youth who have experienced trauma.

Sam Reaves, PhD is a community-clinical psychologist committed to supporting schools, at multiple levels, to improve policies and procedures around student socioemotional functioning. Dr. Reaves integrates her research and clinical experiences to improve outcomes for children at the intersection of mental health and education considering how school or family factors influence student outcomes in underserved communities.

TRACK 3: SESSION G - Effective Strategies & Techniques to Address Complex Behaviors in Children,

Renee Smucker, *PhD*

This presentation will review various complex behaviors that children exhibit and some of the associated diagnoses. It will also review evidence-based treatments utilized to treat these behaviors along with specific components of these treatments.

Objectives:

- Describe select diagnoses associated with complex behaviors in children.
- Describe select evidence-based treatments to address complex behaviors in children.
- List key components of these treatments, including how they are similar and different.

Renée Smucker, Ph.D. is the founder of the Maryland Parent Child Clinic (MPCC), LLC and a licensed psychologist in Maryland and New York. Prior to founding MPCC in 2020, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD from 2018 to 2020 where she worked with children aged 2 to 12 in the Behavior Management Clinic, providing outpatient therapeutic services to children and their families. Dr. Smucker graduated with her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Hofstra University in Long Island, NY in 2018. She has worked with children and families in various outpatient clinics, an inpatient unit, and a residential treatment facility during her career. Dr. Smucker has been providing Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) since 2013 and is a certified PCIT therapist and PCIT Within Agency Trainer. She currently specializes in complex behavior and anxiety problems, Selective Mutism and toileting difficulties.

TRACK 3: SESSION H - Navigating the Digital Age: Social Media's Impact on Young Minds, Susan Corley, *LCSW-C*

Social media in all of its forms has become an integral part of many children and adolescent lives. Social media can have both positive and negative effects on young individuals in the crucial stages of brain, identity and social development. This breakout session will explore the vulnerabilities of the child/adolescent brain and the influence that social media can have on the mind and behavioral/mental. Discussion will include: the importance of understanding child/adolescent use of social media, detrimental effects and interventions therapists and parents can use in assisting their youth to adapt and participate in healthier media use.

Objectives:

- Identify impacts of social media on and digital electronics on children and adolescents.
- Explain the brain vulnerabilities of the child and adolescent brain to the influence of social media
- Identify potential mental health impacts from use of social media.
- Identify Problematic Use.
- Use intervention strategies to mitigate negative effects of social media use.
- Teach best practices for media use.

Susan Corley, LCSW-C is a psychotherapist at Silver Psychotherapy in Frederick, Maryland. She provides individual, family and group therapy. She has over 30 years experience in the treatment of children, adolescents and adults with a variety of mental health concerns. She has presented a number of seminars on eating disorders, the teenage brain, and had a particular interest in how the child and adolescent brain responds to various social influences, technology and the digital world. Susan earned her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

TRACK 3 SESSION I - Empowering Youth to Cultivate and Build Healthy Relationships,

Kelsey Green, *LCSW* & Sarah Gann

How can we support youth in understanding and developing healthy relationships? In this session, we will explore the varying dynamics of this question. Specifically, we will discuss the strategies for supporting and cultivating healthy relationships in the adolescent population; identify risk factors and long-term consequences of unhealthy relationships; and learn to recognize unique characteristics of teen relationships including online dynamics, digital break ups, and peer influences. According to the CDC, 1 in 12 youth have experienced teen dating violence within the past year. Research and experiential knowledge confirm that teen dating violence is happening in our community. It is a victimization that does not discriminate against who it impacts, although certain populations appear to be disproportionately affected. After this session, we are optimistic that you will feel empowered to understand and advocate for the youth in your life that are encountering this issue.

Objectives:

- Identify characteristics of unhealthy and healthy relationships in youth
- Identify known risk factors and consequences of unhealthy relationships in youth
- Identify strategies to build healthy relationships in youth
- Identify unique and dynamics characteristics to youth relationships

Kelsey Green, LCSW-C - Kelsey has worked as a social worker in the Washington County community since moving to Maryland in 2013. Her work has consistently involved supporting children, youth, and families, and helping them navigate the various life stressors that they are experiencing. Kelsey has a master's degree in social work and holds a clinical social work license in the state of Maryland. She currently serves as the part-time Youth Prevention Advocate for CASA, Inc. Her primary focus in that position is to support community education around teen dating violence dynamics, and helping youth understand the dynamics of healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Sarah Gann - Sarah began her career in human services in September 2022, starting as a Resident Advocate for CASA, Inc. and moving into the Crisis Intervention Specialist position in January 2023. Her work has involved supporting survivors of intimate-partner violence (IPV), sexual assault (SA), and sex trafficking. Sarah earned her B.A. in General Psychology with a concentration in forensic services alongside a dual minor in both sociology and criminal justice in December 2022. Currently, Sarah is working toward her M.A. in Forensic Psychology and LCPC licensure for Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Sarah presently serves as the Medical Navigator for CASA, Inc. inside of the Forensic Nurse Program at Meritus Health.



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