

Speaker Bios
 28th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference
 Springfield, Illinois
 October 13-14, 2022
 Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

Plenary Speakers

- (1) **Tonier Cain**
Job Title and Affiliation: CEO and Founder of Tonier Cares International, Film Producer, & Author
Degree:
Phone:
Email:
Other: Tonier Cain is an advocate and educator, speaking all over the world on trauma, addiction, incarceration, homelessness, substance abuse and mental health. Tonier was the former team leader for the National Center for Trauma Informed Care, with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Director. Currently she works to create international leaders in the field of Trauma Informed Care.
- (2) **Ira J. Chasnoff, M.D.**
Job Title and Affiliation: President, NTI Upstream
Degree: MD
Phone: (312) 560-1436
Email: irachasnoff@gmail.com
Other: Ira J. Chasnoff, M.D., is an award-winning author, researcher and lecturer, as well as president of NTI Upstream and a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. He is one of the nation's leading researchers in the field of child development and the effects of environmental factors on the developmental trajectory of children and adolescents.
- (3) **Gaelin Elmore**
Job Title and Affiliation: Motivational Speaker, Facilitator, & Child Welfare Advocate
Degree:
Phone:
Email:
Other: Gaelin Elmore is a keynote speaker, facilitator, and child welfare advocate. Elmore went from the foster care system, to the University of Minnesota, and then to the NFL. During his childhood, he endured abuse, neglect, homelessness, failed adoptions, and more. Elmore's current mission is to help adults and youth in the child welfare space embrace their past and uncover their future through belonging.

Workshop Presenters

- (A1) **Lisa J. Betz**
Job Title and Affiliation: Deputy Director, Child and Adolescent Services
Degree: LCSW, LCPC
Phone: 217-558-3932
Email: Lisa.J.Betz@illinois.gov
Other: Lisa Betz is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, with a Type 73 School Social Worker Certification. Lisa has a Master of Social Work Degree, with two areas of concentration Child Welfare, and a Type 73 School Social Work, from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has 30 years of post-master's experience. She has been the Deputy Director for Child

and Adolescent Services with the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health since September 2016. In her current role, she serves as the subject matter expert for the administration of Child and Adolescent mental health services statewide. This includes the development and implementation of the goals, policies, programs and standards that guide the Illinois' children's mental health systems. Prior to serving in this role, she served as the Associate Deputy Clinical Director, and the Mental Health and Schools Coordinator. As the Associate Deputy Clinical Director, she played a vital role in the development of two SAMHSA funded Systems of Care grants in Illinois that resulted in Pathways: Illinois' Strategic Plan for Children's Mental Health. Her facilitation of the planning process and organization were crucial to the successful outcome resulting in a plan that crosses all Illinois Child Serving Systems. As the Mental Health and Schools Coordinator, Lisa took the lead in the development of Illinois' Interconnected Systems Model for School Based Mental Health and conducted presentations at both the State and National Level.

(A2) **Sara Sefried**

Job Title and Affiliation: Central Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator, IL State Police
Degree:

Phone: 217-558-2579

Email: sara.sefried@illinois.gov

Other: Sara Sefried is the coordinator of the Central Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force, employed through a collaboration between the Illinois State Police and Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. Sara is assigned to the Division of Criminal Investigations within the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center. Prior to this role, Sara spearheaded the creation of the Center for Prevention of Abuse's Human Trafficking Services where she oversaw all anti-trafficking efforts for survivors of sex and labor trafficking. Sara has over 18 years' experience working with survivors of crime and is an active speaker on human trafficking. Sara presents on a variety of topics including identifying victims of human trafficking, intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, trauma-informed case management, and specialized trainings for law enforcement and healthcare providers.

(A3) **Melissa Box**

Job Title and Affiliation: Clinical Director, ABC Counseling & Family Services

Degree: LCSW, LSOE, LSOTP

Phone: 309-839-9863

Email: melissa@abccounseling.org

Other: Melissa Box is a licensed clinical social worker and the Clinical Director of ABC Counseling & Family Services. ABC has been providing therapy services to children and families affected by trauma for thirty years across central Illinois. Melissa has ten years' experience using play, art, and trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy modalities to help children heal from abuse and neglect and maintains specific licenses that allow her to assist children and youth with sexual behavior problems. Melissa recently earned her Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, where she studied the most effective ways to prevent violence against children, and is now taking a lead role in the prevention and community education efforts at ABC Counseling.

(A4) **Glendean Burton**

Job Title and Affiliation: MCH Nurse Consultant, Illinois MIECHV

Degree: MPH, BSN, RN, CLC

Phone: 630-319-9706

Email: glendeanburton@hotmail.com

Other: Glendean is an RN and CLC with over 35 years of experience working in Maternal and Child Health. She served as an MCH Nurse Consultant with IDHS for many years, retiring in 2015 as the Bureau Chief of Maternal and Infant Health and Acting Associate Director of the Office of Family Wellness at IDHS. She began working as an MCH Nurse Consultant with the Illinois MIECHV program

in the fall of 2015, and is employed as the Program Coordinator for a Perinatal program with SIDS of Illinois.

(A5) **Alisha Foster**

Job Title and Affiliation: Arrowleaf

Degree: LCSW

Phone: 618-841-3901

Email: alishafoster2010@gmail.com

Other: Alisha Foster is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with almost 10 years' experience providing mental health and substance use treatment to youth and adults. She has received her Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Health certification and has worked with over 100 youth on a variety of presenting problems, including various forms of trauma. She has facilitated multiple trainings on ACEs, trauma, and intergenerational cycles of trauma and violence. She lives in Hardin County, IL for the past 13 years and works closely with the Hardin County school system to provide mental health and socioemotional learning support.

(B1) **Julia Marynus**

Job Title and Affiliation: Maternal Child Health Consultant, Stephenson County Health Department

Degree: R.N., B.A., LNC

Phone: 815-235-2354

Email: jmarynus@comcast.net

Other: Julia Marynus recently retired from her position as Director of Public Health Family Services at Stephenson County Health Department (SCHD) after 25 plus years of work as a Maternal Child Health Nurse. She provided direction to staff in programs such as Family Case Management; WIC (Women, Infants & Children); Doula; Healthy Families Illinois, and Illinois Family Connects, a newly implemented universal newborn home visiting program. She was Prevent Child Abuse Illinois Friend of Children Award recipient in 2011, a 2005 YWCA Women of Excellence Award winner, and has been recognized for her work with families and community leadership throughout her career. She currently continues as a member of the Illinois Public Health Nurse Administrators Group and as well as working limited hours to support foster/relative caregivers in her area. Her goal is to give families as much patience and generosity required to be able to realize current family needs, develop a plan to meet those needs, and then spend time learning and supporting their children's dreams.

(B2) **Brittney Hale**

Job Title and Affiliation: Grant Outreach Coordinator, Arrowleaf & Co-Founder, Creating Compassionate Communities

Degree:

Phone: 618-697-4828

Email:

Other: Brittney Hale is the Grant Outreach Coordinator at Arrowleaf. Brittney received her Master's of Social Work from Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, where she was also a fellow within the Trauma Based Behavioral Health Fellowship. Brittney has previously worked in direct service in various capacities such as adult and youth outpatient counseling, crisis counseling, and youth programs coordinator. She has also worked in prevention, advocacy, and providing professional development opportunities. Brittney has delivered hundreds of hours of training and prevention education to community partners, providers and other stakeholders on topics such as childhood trauma, domestic violence, child sexual abuse prevention, poverty and trauma, and secondary trauma. She is the co-founder of the Creating Compassionate Communities initiative which is geared towards addressing Secondary Trauma and combatting the symptomology of that with compassion. Brittney has a passion for community collaboration and outreach, cultivating compassionate communities, and growing access to social services.

- (B2) **Mary Beth Long**
Job Title and Affiliation: Kindness Champion & Co-founder, Creating Compassionate Communities
Degree:
Phone: 618-889-5591
Email: mblong1003@gmail.com
Other: For the past 30 years, Mary Beth Long has been a nurse and social-service caregiver, working mostly with moms and their children. However, a job, even a sometimes satisfying one, is a paycheck—and not a life purpose. Amidst the day-to-day grind and feeling burnt out by the demands of job and busy personal life, Mary Beth kept wondering: “What is my Life Purpose—what am I meant to do in this fleeting, fragile, precious life?” Now, Mary Beth knows. Certainly, she concluded that her Life Purpose is not about degrees, titles, and the material trappings of so-called success. Rather, her purpose is to spread her lifetime, soul-driven desire to champion kindness, compassion, and empathy in ways that build human connections. Mary Beth neither trained in some kind of academic kindness lab nor a professional speaker. She is just a regular gal who is passionate about starting conversations, committed to being vulnerable in sharing her own up-down-all-around journey, and dedicated to starting a Kindness Revolution, which starts with Self. Six years ago, Mary Beth, co-founded Creating Compassionate Communities to put her purpose into practice. The overarching goal of Creating Compassionate Communities is to encourage participants to become more aware of the impact of burnout, compassion fatigue, and trauma by providing trainings that will ultimately give participants the tools they need to feel reenergized, supported, and knowledgeable to thrive not only professionally but personally.
- (B3) **Gary Pate**
Job Title and Affiliation: Senior Trainer, YouthCare
Degree:
Phone: 337-281-8847
Email: gpate@centene.com
Other: Gary Pate, LCSW is a Senior Trainer responsible for training behavioral health providers, caregivers, child welfare professionals and other stakeholders like Court Appointed Special Advocates. Gary has been a social worker for the past 31 years, has practiced in a variety of settings and taught in two graduate schools of social work. Clinically, he has provided evidence-based treatments to young children and their caregivers.
- (B4) **Worsham El**
Job Title and Affiliation: Trauma Therapist & Consultant, CEO, Lotus Trauma Care, LLC
Degree: LCSW, CFTP
Phone: 312-757-0608
Email: worsham@lotustrauamacare.com
Other: Worsham El has nearly 15 years of experience empowering diverse populations of vulnerable youth and their families in medical, academic, residential, outpatient, substance use, and child welfare settings. She strongly advocates for the promotion of post-traumatic resiliency via trauma-informed care. Worsham El is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Certified Trauma Family Professional (CFTP). She is the Co-Founder and CEO of Lotus Trauma Care, your South Side Chicago trauma provider. Worsham El is an Adjunct Lecturer and was a Field Consultant at the University of Chicago in the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. She received her Bachelor’s in Psychology from Loyola University Chicago, with a concentration in child and adolescent development. Her Master’s is in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago, specializing in the treatment of complex trauma. She is trained in Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT), and Affect Regulation Competency (ARC). Worsham El is credentialed as a Level 2 provider of evidence-based, trauma-informed mental health services by the Illinois DCFS. She is passionate about educating professionals and caregivers on the impact of childhood, and complex trauma, and has trained over 1500 professionals across various social service settings in trauma-informed care.

- (B5) **Alisha Foster** – (See Workshop A5, above)
- (C2) **Jill Duden**
Job Title and Affiliation: Prevention Specialist, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
Degree:
Phone:
Email: jduden@pcaillinois.org
Other: Nancy J. Phillips, M.S. – PSY, CAADC, CFPP, currently serves as the coordinator for the Illinois Family Resource Center, a statewide project. She has been active in the substance abuse field for over thirty-five years in both prevention and treatment services. Phillips holds a Master’s Degree from Eastern Illinois University. Phillips was honored as Professional of the Year in 2018 by the Illinois Certification Board, Inc. During her years in the SUD field, she has developed and trained human service providers throughout the states.
- (C2) **Nancy J. Phillips**
Job Title and Affiliation: Coordinator, Illinois Family Resource Center
Degree: M.S.
Phone: 217-649-8812
Email: ceadnancyp@consolidated.net
Other: Nancy J. Phillips, M.S. – PSY, CAADC, CFPP, currently serves as the coordinator for the Illinois Family Resource Center, a statewide project. She has been active in the substance abuse field for over thirty-five years in both prevention and treatment services. Phillips holds a Master’s Degree from Eastern Illinois University. Phillips was honored as Professional of the Year in 2018 by the Illinois Certification Board, Inc. During her years in the SUD field, she has developed and trained human service providers throughout the states.
- (C3) **Mary Ratliff**
Job Title and Affiliation: Program Director, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Degree:
Phone: 217-415-9030
Email: Mary.Ratliff@illinois.gov
Other: Mary Ratliff, is a Program Director with ICJIA’s Federal and State Grants Unit. She has extensive experience in advocacy for people who experience domestic violence and/or sexual assault, providing training and technical assistance to various victim service and criminal justice agencies, developing and monitoring grants, and assisting criminal justice stakeholders in developing protocols for responding to violence. Currently, she manages both the Safe From the Start and the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council programs. In addition, she is coordinating efforts being carried out by criminal justice stakeholders as part of the Violence Against Women Act funded Improving Criminal Justice Responses project.
- (C3) **Fernanda Gonzalez**
Job Title and Affiliation: Research Analyst, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Degree: M.A
Phone:
Email: Lucia.F.Gonzalez@illinois.gov
Other: Fernanda Gonzalez, M.A., is a Research Analyst with ICJIA’s Center for Victim Studies. She has five years of program evaluation experience and has been an evaluator for the Safe From the Start program at ICJIA for two years. Ms. Gonzalez provides training, technical assistance, and research

activities that assesses the impact of service provision on young children exposed to violence and their caregivers for nine SFS providers across the state.

- (C3) **Stephanie Nguyen**
Job Title and Affiliation: Research Analyst, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Degree: M.S.
Phone:
Email: Stephanie.Nguyen@illinois.gov
Other: Stephanie Nguyen, M.S., is also a Research Analyst with ICJIA's Center for Victim Studies. She has six years of research experience, acquiring most of her skills working in a developmental psychology lab for several years. At ICJIA, Ms. Nguyen evaluates the Safe From the Start Program along with Ms. Gonzalez by providing training and technical assistance to grantees, writing research reports, and assessing unmet needs of providers and the families that they serve.
- (C3) **Jeannie Higdon**
Job Title and Affiliation: Program Manager, Family Support Services Program, Children's Home and Aid
Degree: LCSW
Phone:
Email:
Other: Jeannie Higdon, LCSW, began her professional career working with children ages 0-13 in residential care. She joined Children's Home + Aid in 2000 and within the agency, has had the opportunity to gather experiences in multiple avenues of working with children and families. These experiences include: case manager, licensing worker, adoption worker, Lead worker among others. Ms. Higdon's clinical experience began in 2009 as a therapist working with families parenting children ages 0-6 who have been impacted by violence. Ms. Higdon is currently the Program Manager in the Family Support Services Program. Ms. Higdon Manages multiple programs focused on providing services for families with young children who have experienced trauma, crisis, domestic violence, homelessness, etc. Ms. Higdon graduated with her Master's Degree in Social Work from Illinois State University in 2011 and obtained her licensure in 2014.
- (C4) **Victoria Davis Jones**
Job Title and Affiliation: Statewide Human Trafficking Prevention Program Manager, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Degree: MA, MSW
Phone: 312 328-2095
Email: Victoria.davis-jones@illinois.gov
Other: Victoria has been an employee with the Department of Children and Family Services for the past 32 years. Beginning her career with the Department as a Child Welfare Specialist. She has been the Department's Statewide Human Trafficking Prevention Program Manager for almost 5 years. Victoria is committed to ensuring that the Department provides the trauma informed, victim sensitive services needed to pull youth in care out of the life.
- (C4) **Dr. Kisha Roberts Tabb**
Job Title and Affiliation: Special Population Program Manager, Cook County Juvenile Probation
Degree:
Phone: 773-319-1787
Email: kisha.roberts@cookcountyil.gov
Other: Dr. Roberts-Tabb has created and implemented programs, mentored young ladies, and has been instrumental in bringing awareness to Cook County Juvenile Court around gender responsive issues, specifically domestic human trafficking by developing and implementing mandatory trainings. As the

first Human Trafficking/ Gender Responsive/LGBTQ Specialist for Cook County Juvenile Probation Department, Dr. Tabb has worked alongside every branch of government and law enforcement. As a member of Chicago Coalition on Urban Girls, Cook County Human Trafficking Taskforce, ICARE, Cook County Multi-Disciplinary Team, Human Trafficking Housing Pilot with the Administration for Children and Families in partnership with Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Tabb has collaborated on both policy and legislation. The knowledge and passion that Dr. Roberts-Tabb possesses has impacted service providers nationally sitting before the Congressional Caucus for Black Women and Girls in Washington DC and Chicago Illinois, Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force Conference, US National Guard, Impact Youth, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, Cook County Court Clinic, Contribution to the Human Trafficking Task Force Law Enforcement Report, Gender and Justice Symposium, Ed Con, Congressional Caucus on Black women and Girls 2022, just to name a few.

(C5) **“The NEAR@Home Experience” Panel**

Elaine Duensing, M.A., L.P.C., Senior Program Advisor, NEAR@Home Facilitator, Start Early

Maria Aguilar, Supervisor, Family Focus Aurora Healthy Families Program

Melissa Vargas, Family Support Specialist, Family Focus Aurora Healthy Families Program

Carolina Ortega, Family Support Specialist and Group Coordinator, Family Focus Aurora Healthy Families Program

(D1) **Det. Jennifer Hillgoth**

Job Title and Affiliation: President, NTI Upstream

Degree: BACJ

Phone: 630-877-6828

Email: cosentij@aurora.il.us

Other: Detective Jennifer Hillgoth is a native to the Chicagoland area where she lives with her husband and two children. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology from Aurora University in Aurora, Il. She is currently working on her Master of Jurisprudence in Children’s Law and Policy from Loyola University of Chicago. Jen joined the Montgomery Police Department in 2003 after graduating from the Illinois State Police Academy. In 2004, Jen joined the Aurora Police Department and was assigned to the patrol division where she worked as a patrol officer, field training officer and TASER instructor. After being assigned to the patrol division for 9 years, Jen transferred to the Bureau of Investigations where she became a school resource officer. In 2014, Jen became a detective and began investigating crimes against children. Jen continues to lead child maltreatment investigations and has investigated hundreds of cases involving crimes against children while working closely with local prosecutors, Children’s Advocacy Centers, child abuse pediatricians and the Department of Children and Family Services (D.C.F.S). In 2021, she became certified as an expert witness in child abuse. Since 2015, Jen has been a child forensic interviewer and has conducted numerous forensic interviews with child victims, child witnesses and adult victims with special needs.

(D1) **Dr. Melissa Manrique**

Job Title and Affiliation: Pediatric Hospitalist/Child Abuse Physician

Degree: MD

Phone: 630-933-2340

Email: mmanrique@luriechildrens.org

Other: Melissa graduated with a BS in Psychology from Duke University and obtained her medical degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago. She then completed her pediatric residency and fellowship training in Child Abuse Pediatrics at Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital. Since 2007, Melissa has worked as both a pediatric hospitalist and child abuse physician for Central DuPage Hospital and Lurie Children's Hospital. While working in pediatrics, Dr. Manrique’s role with Central DuPage Hospital is the Pediatric Site Leader and the Chair of the Children Protection Committee. As part of her responsibilities, Dr. Manrique organizes and runs monthly child protection meetings for various multi-disciplinary team members which include nurses, social workers, law enforcement, D.C.F.S. and Child Advocacy Center team members. Dr. Manrique advocates for children and their families but also

spends time educating professionals involved in the identification and investigation of child abuse. She has presented a number of times in various settings such as conferences, grand rounds and continued education seminars. In addition to educating MDT members and medical providers, Dr. Manrique is also involved in the education and supervision of 4th year students from Loyola Stritch School of Medicine and medical education for Physician Assistant students from Northwestern. Dr. Manrique's commitment and service to children and families continues in her role with the Safety and Well-Being (SAW) Clinic in Winfield, IL. Here, Dr. Manrique provides evaluations and services to pediatric patients where abuse is either suspected or has been identified.

(D2) **Deja Finley**

Job Title and Affiliation: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy

Degree: Pharm.D.

Phone: 618-509-2389

Email: definle@siue.edu

Other: Dr. Deja Finley is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Deja earned a B.S. in chemistry from Millikin University in Decatur, IL and her Doctor of Pharmacy with a specialization in teaching from the SIUE School of Pharmacy. She completed a community-based residency at the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis and Walgreens Pharmacy. She practices as a clinical pharmacist, working alongside an interdisciplinary team, to provide primary care and internal medicine services to patients at Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation (SIHF) in collaboration with the SIU School of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program based at Alton Memorial Hospital. SIHF is a federally qualified health center serving the underinsured and uninsured population in the Alton, IL and surround areas. Dr. Finley is passionate about maternal and fetal health, serving the underserved population, opioid stewardship, substance use disorder, and mental health.

(D3) **Brittney Hale and Mary Beth Long** – (See Workshop B2, above)

(D4) **Ira J. Chasnoff, M.D.** – (See Plenary 2, above)

(D5) **Charity S. Bean**

Job Title and Affiliation: Full Spectrum Doula, Black Maternal and Infant Health Advocate, Student RN

Degree:

Phone: 618-570-3169

Email: doulabean@gmail.com

Other: Charity Bean is a certified pregnancy, labor, childbirth, and postpartum doula. She is a certified medical assistant, certified nurse assistant, and now a student RN with Chamberlain College of Nursing. She's worked in the medical field for 13 years (primary care, Trauma, Psych, ER and LDRP) with 6 years labor experience. She is also a community activist and supports and advocates for Black Lives Matter and the Black Maternal Mortality Crisis. When finished with her BSN, she plans to go on and become a Certified Nurse Midwife. She has held many community events including two "Doula Community Baby Showers" centered on spreading the word of doulas and how we help create better birth outcomes and are a part of the birth team as well as support groups for people to express themselves in a safe space free of judgment. Doula Bean Maternal Care, LLC was created to help educate, advocate, and empower every birth no matter race, gender, or financial class. We strive to be a community based small business that is truly a part of and for the community. By providing detailed and custom childbirth and postpartum classes that include the entire support system. We are here to truly explain the ends and out of childbirth as well as complications that can arise. Charity wants everyone to know that their birth matters. Especially people of color. She is fighting to put an end to fear based maternal care and the maternal/infant mortality rate that is continuing to rise in the Black communities.

(D5) **Kyra Betts**

Job Title and Affiliation: Full Spectrum Doula, Black Maternal and Infant Health Advocate, Lactation Counselor, Childbirth Educator

Degree:

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Email: kyrabetts@thedivineflowerchild.com

Other: Kyra Betts is a mother, full spectrum doula, childbirth educator, lactation counselor and safe birth advocate. She works from pre-pregnancy to postpartum as well as abortion, adoption, and infertility. She believes that access to a doula is a human right. She also specializes in infant care, working to educate parents on safest practices that can save their babies, and dispelling generational myths that have led to Black babies having the highest infant mortality rate. She empowers families to redesign healthy family bonds, helping to lower the maternal mortality rate one birth at a time.