



2026 WYOMING JOINT SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Official Program Guide

TUESDAY, JUNE 09, 2026

🕒 07:30 AM - 08:15 AM

Registration & Breakfast

📍 GRAND LOUNGE & REGISTRATION BOOTH

Welcome to the symposium! Start your day by officially checking in and grabbing a delicious bite to eat. Whether you're a morning person looking to network over coffee or just need a quiet pastry before the action starts, our breakfast and registration hour has you covered.

🕒 08:15 AM - 08:30 AM

Opening Remarks & Awards

📍 GRAND BALLROOM

Join us as we officially launch the event! We'll set the stage for the days ahead, share exciting updates, and most importantly, take a moment to honor the outstanding individuals doing incredible work in our communities. Grab a seat, get comfortable, and get ready to be inspired by this year's award winners.

🕒 08:30 AM - 10:30 AM

The Covenant School Tragedy: The Nashville Mass Shooting Event from the Officer's Perspective

📍 GRAND BALLROOM

Advocacy | Criminal Investigation | Law Enforcement | Mental Health

🗣️ *Michael Collazo*

On March 27, 2023, an armed intruder entered the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee, tragically claiming the lives of three children and three adults. In this riveting and somber presentation, an officer who was among the first on the scene and who actively engaged the shooter will provide a detailed, firsthand account of the mass casualty event.

Attendees will hear a breakdown of the events leading up to the incident and the tense moments law enforcement spent locating the assailant. The session will conclude with a critical debrief on the emergency response, highlighting best practices, tactical decision-making, and vital lessons learned from an officer's perspective to help other jurisdictions better prepare for the unthinkable.

🕒 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Conference Break, Snacks & Exhibitors

📍 GRAND LOUNGE & REGISTRATION BOOTH

Brain feeling a little full? Take a breather, grab a tasty snack, and stretch your legs! Use this time to connect with peers, swap notes on your favorite sessions, and explore our fantastic exhibitor booths. Our sponsors and partners have amazing resources and giveaways to share, so don't miss the chance to say hello.

🕒 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

You Should Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Make You Flinch: What You Should Know About Sex Offenders

📍 GRAND BALLROOM A, B, C

Criminal Investigation | Law Enforcement | Legal

🗣️ *Cory Jewell Jensen*

Professionals across all disciplines handling crimes against children should be familiar with the various theories regarding the etiology of pedophilia and the development of pro-offending attitudes. Through video-taped interviews with various offenders, this presentation highlights the common pathways to developing and maintaining deviant sexual interests and criminal behavior.

The session also reviews critical studies examining detected versus undetected offenders, the average degree of "crime switching" behavior, and common misconceptions surrounding re-offense rates, recidivism, and the expected impact of sex offender treatment.

Champion of Change: Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Overdose and Suicide

📍 GRAND BALLROOM D

Advocacy

🗣️ *April Ferguson LCSW-C*

One out of six adults has more than one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), placing them at an increased risk for overdose and suicide. This session presents the "Champion of Change" program—a collaborative initiative by NASW, APHA, and the CDC—that utilizes the "Building Bridges" public health messaging framework to address ACEs, overdose, and suicide.

Attendees will explore innovative methods and preventative interventions designed to reduce exposure to ACEs, mitigate their harmful impacts, and help children and families heal.

Annual Case Law and Legislation Update

JACKSON HOLE A

 **Wendy Ross**


Legal

Every year, new court decisions and legislation significantly affect how child welfare cases operate. This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of court decisions and legislation related to the child welfare arena from June 2025 through June 2026.

Attendees will receive practical guidance on incorporating these new regulations and decisions into their daily practice to stay current with the evolving legal landscape.

Wraparound Services and School-Based Support

JACKSON HOLE B

 **Holly Mittelstadt, Jesse Weber & Lucretia Maes**

Education

High Fidelity Wraparound is a family-driven, team-based care coordination process that aligns naturally with school-based services to support students with complex needs. This session highlights how Wraparound enhances school-based efforts—such as MTSS, PBIS, and special education—by creating a structured process that unites families, educators, and community partners to address the whole child.

Attendees will also learn how this approach plays a critical role in proactive crisis prevention and long-term transition planning, ensuring students are better positioned to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

Postvention is Prevention: Intercepting Trauma to Disrupt Cycles of Harm for Children and Youth

JACKSON HOLE C

 **Josephine Carlson**

Advocacy Criminal Investigation

Law Enforcement Legal

Crime prevention efforts often focus on upstream risk factors or immediate crisis response, but postvention—the intentional, coordinated response after violence, loss, or system involvement—is a critical, frequently overlooked opportunity. This session reframes postvention as an evidence-informed crime-prevention strategy that reduces risk, strengthens protective factors, and interrupts the pathways leading children back into systems of harm.

Participants will explore how timely, trauma-informed interventions across schools, victim services, justice systems, and community organizations can stabilize families, reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and prevent escalation into delinquency or chronic system involvement.

 **11:45 AM - 01:15 PM**

Lunch On Your Own

Take a well-deserved break! We've carved out this time for you to step away from the venue and enjoy lunch exactly how you want to. Whether you're organizing a networking lunch with a big group or seeking a quiet cafe to review your morning notes, take this time to relax and refuel for the afternoon sessions.

 **01:15 PM - 02:15 PM**

From Outcry to Conviction: Navigating Your Way Through A Child Abuse Investigation

GRAND BALLROOM A, B, C

 **David Clark**

Criminal Investigation Law Enforcement

Legal

This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of the child-abuse investigative process, guiding professionals from the initial outcry all the way to preparing a case for trial. Participants will learn how to identify and interpret various forms of child outcries and understand their significance in initiating a thorough investigation.

The session also covers effective investigative techniques, including search-warrant development, the value of social media, lawful suspect interviews, and the importance of strong courtroom demeanor, equipping attendees with practical tools for both the field and the courtroom.

Through Their Eyes: What Your Kids Want You to Know About Their Online Life

GRAND BALLROOM D

 **Jan Edwards**

Advocacy

Today's youth are growing up in a digital landscape that is vastly different from the one their parents and caregivers experienced. This session bridges the generational divide by offering an unfiltered look at how children and teens truly experience their online world—from the apps they use and the games they play, to the complex peer dynamics they navigate daily.

Attendees will gain valuable insights into the hidden pressures, digital boundaries, and very real safety concerns that young people face but often hesitate to share. By understanding the digital environment directly from a youth perspective, professionals and parents will learn how to foster open, non-judgmental conversations, establish effective protective measures, and empower kids to navigate their online lives safely and responsibly.

Whose Job Is It Anyway? A Judge's Role in Supporting Family Reunification

JACKSON HOLE A

 **Karen Braxton**

Advocacy Legal

In the child welfare system, parents face temporary custody and termination of parental rights petitions for issues such as homelessness, mental health disorders, domestic violence, and poverty. While numerous organizations exist to address these issues, finding and connecting with them—and determining whose job it is to do so—remains a significant dilemma.

In this session, participants will learn how judges can proactively assist agencies and attorneys in finding and effectively engaging culturally specific community resources. The presentation will empower attendees to encourage local judicial officers to be active in the community, aiding in successful family reunification efforts.

From Survival to Agency: Lived Experience, Development, and What Helps Youth Change

 *Thomas R. Rivera III*

 JACKSON HOLE B

Advocacy Criminal Investigation

Law Enforcement Legal

This session offers a powerful lived-experience perspective on how early family instability, chronic fear, and untreated emotional distress shape the inner world of at-risk youth. Drawing from personal experience, the presentation explores the hidden struggles of youth—including hypervigilance, emotional isolation, body dysmorphia, and suicidal ideation—and how these factors deeply influence their behavior and decision-making.

The presentation concludes by examining the critical roles of restorative justice, community inclusion, and belonging in rebuilding a youth's identity and self-worth, offering clinicians and counselors actionable insights into how youth experience interventions from the inside.

Best Interest or Best Guess? Why Evidence Must Guide Child Welfare Decisions: Ethics, Evidence, and Decision-Making in Family Court

 *MJ (Maleeka Jihad)*

 JACKSON HOLE C

Criminal Investigation Law Enforcement


Emerging Trends

Child welfare and family court systems routinely make life-altering decisions that are too often driven by professional discretion or "common sense" rather than empirical evidence. Drawing from social-science research, attachment theory, and trauma studies, this session argues that research-guided practice is an ethical obligation when determining a child's best interests.

Participants will explore how courts and professionals can intentionally ground their decision-making in evidence to minimize harm and promote family-centered outcomes, while maintaining an individualized and culturally responsive approach.

 02:15 PM - 02:30 PM

Conference Break, Snacks & Exhibitors

 GRAND LOUNGE & REGISTRATION BOOTH

It's time for a quick intermission! Grab a complimentary refreshment and take a stroll through our exhibitor hall. This is your dedicated time to discover new tools, connect with industry-leading organizations, and network with fellow attendees before diving into your next breakout session.

 02:30 PM - 03:30 PM

"If They Knew What I Was Thinking" - What Sex Offenders Can Teach Us About Interviewing

 *Cory Jewell Jensen*

 GRAND BALLROOM A, B, C

Criminal Investigation Law Enforcement

Legal

This presentation examines the relationship between confession rates and sex offender characteristics, reviewing studies on the effectiveness of various interviewer styles and investigative approaches. By featuring anecdotal comments and video clips from 121 admitting adult male sex offenders, the session reveals the thoughts and concerns these individuals had while being interviewed by detectives.

Participants will gain valuable insights into the factors that cause offenders to decline interviews, lie, or confess, alongside specific skill recommendations from veteran child abuse detectives to help secure detailed confessions.

Yellow Flags and What to Do With Them: A Preventative Approach to School Safety

 *Brittany DeWitt*

 GRAND BALLROOM D

Education Mental Health

While much of school safety focuses on crisis management and response, this presentation shifts the focus to what can be done before the unthinkable happens. Gently pushing back against traditional responses like zero tolerance, this session dives into the research on mass shootings to highlight critical prevention strategies.

Attendees will learn easy-to-use, practical intervention methods that can be implemented by anyone—regardless of grade level, setting, or mental health background—to help create safer environments for students and staff.

Enhancing Legal Advocacy Through Trauma-Informed Lawyering

 *Wendy Ross*

 JACKSON HOLE A

Education

Children and families involved in the child welfare system frequently experience trauma, which can cause them to behave in unexpected ways. Understanding the profound impact of this trauma is essential for legal professionals representing youth and parents.

In this session, attorneys will learn how to identify trauma exposure and its effects on behavior. By incorporating these trauma-informed skills into their legal advocacy, practitioners can better support their clients through juvenile cases and ultimately improve case outcomes.

Supporting Youth Identity, Safety, and Belonging in Complex Times

 *Elliott Hinkle*

 JACKSON HOLE B

Education Mental Health


Emerging Trends

Professionals working with children and families in Wyoming are navigating increasingly complex social, cultural, and legal landscapes, leaving marginalized youth highly vulnerable. This session explores how identity development, connection, and belonging serve as essential protective factors for youth wellbeing and long-term resilience.

Grounded in research and practice-based examples from rural states, attendees will learn practical, trauma-informed strategies to promote safety, trust, and healthy development, all while remaining aligned with professional roles, agency policy, and state law.

Breaking the Silo: Optimizing Multidisciplinary Response in Child Maltreatment

JACKSON HOLE C

 **Antonia Chiesa**

Advocacy

Child Welfare/Juvenile Services/Department of Family Services (DFS)

Employing a robust multidisciplinary approach is vital to deepening our understanding and enhancing intervention strategies for child maltreatment. Using a complex child maltreatment case study, this presentation invites participants to analyze the unique strengths and challenges impacting child protection in Wyoming.

Through a structured "Assess, Explore, Design" model discussion, attendees will identify current system gaps and learn how to adapt and implement collaborative best practices immediately within their home jurisdictions.

 **03:30 PM - 03:45 PM**

Conference Break, Snacks & Exhibitors


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 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Helping Parents Navigate the Digital World: What Professionals Need to Know

GRAND BALLROOM D

 **Cathy Holman**

Education Emerging Trends

Parents often underestimate or misunderstand the digital environments their children navigate, making it critical for professionals to step in with effective guidance. This breakout session helps helpers understand common parental blind spots, high-risk platforms, and the digital warning signs that are most frequently missed.

Attendees will walk away with clear, plain-language strategies to explain digital risks, tools to help parents transition from fear to informed engagement, and practical conversation starters to address boundaries and behaviors.

Human Trafficking Case Study: MACC BUCC: Dallas Most Dangerous Pimp

JACKSON HOLE A

 **David Clark**

Criminal Investigation Law Enforcement

Anthony "Macc Bucc" Johnson built one of Dallas's most notorious prostitution rings through systematic exploitation, intimidation, and control over vulnerable women spanning nearly two decades. This case study delves into the violent and manipulative strategies used to recruit and maintain control over his victims.

Detectives will explore the psychological and emotional factors that contribute to victim loyalty, while detailing the collaborative, multi-jurisdictional methods used to gather intelligence, corroborate statements, and successfully build a prosecutable case against a dangerous trafficker.

Children's Abilities to Date Events and Other Unique Aspects of the Child's Forensic Interview

JACKSON HOLE B

 **Lynn Storey-Huylar**

Advocacy Criminal Investigation

Mental Health

Child Welfare/Juvenile Services/Department of Family Services (DFS)

During a forensic interview, investigators naturally seek specific details about when and how often alleged abuse occurred. However, children face unique developmental challenges that make them poor estimators of time and dates.

This session explores these cognitive hurdles, delving into the intricacies of memory, suggestibility, episodic memory, and the struggle to obtain corroborative contextual detail. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of what children are developmentally capable of sharing when telling their story of abuse.

I Am Worthy - Transforming Trauma Into Truth: A Lived-Experience Framework and Case Study in Trauma and Recovery

JACKSON HOLE C

 **Maria Walker**

Advocacy

This session offers child sexual abuse survivors and the professionals serving them a recovery framework grounded in lived experience, science, spirituality, and poetry. "Transforming Trauma Into Truth" helps translate the complexity of trauma and recovery into an accessible, shared language.

Participants will explore four core constructs—Layer, Lesson, Trauma, and Truth—gaining insight into how trauma-based beliefs distort perceptions. Ultimately, the session focuses on empowering survivors to reclaim a foundational truth essential to healing: "I Am Worthy."

 **05:00 PM - 07:00 PM**

Buffet & Cash Bar

GRAND BALLROOM

Let's toast to a fantastic first day! Head over to our evening reception for great food, cold drinks, and excellent company. This buffet and cash bar event is the perfect opportunity to continue the great conversations sparked during today's sessions, make new connections, or simply relax and recharge for tomorrow.

🕒 08:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Solving the Series - The Case of the Creeper (Case Study) Part 1

🗣️ *Jeff A. Udvarhelyi*

📍 GRAND BALLROOM

Criminal Investigation Law Enforcement Legal

This two-part presentation details the exhaustive, 18-month investigation of a suspect who terrorized North San Diego County between 2013 and 2015, sexually assaulting nine children while they slept. Participants will explore the development of a major case strategy, the post-arrest interview techniques used, and how a familial DNA match led to the suspect's historic arrest.

Attendees will learn how to employ unique investigative strategies to identify suspects in series-related crimes, develop effective interview tactics, and leverage cross-agency resources to successfully close complex stranger-assault cases.

🕒 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Conference Break

📍 GRAND LOUNGE & REGISTRATION BOOTH

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🕒 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Solving the Series - The Case of the Creeper (Case Study) Part 2

🗣️ *Jeff A. Udvarhelyi*

📍 GRAND BALLROOM

Criminal Investigation Law Enforcement Legal

This two-part presentation details the exhaustive, 18-month investigation of a suspect who terrorized North San Diego County between 2013 and 2015, sexually assaulting nine children while they slept. Participants will explore the development of a major case strategy, the post-arrest interview techniques used, and how a familial DNA match led to the suspect's historic arrest.

Attendees will learn how to employ unique investigative strategies to identify suspects in series-related crimes, develop effective interview tactics, and leverage cross-agency resources to successfully close complex stranger-assault cases.

🕒 11:45 AM - 01:15 PM

Lunch on Your Own

It's time to choose your own culinary adventure! Step out and explore the local dining scene, grab a quick bite with new connections, or simply take a quiet hour to decompress and recharge.

🕒 01:15 PM - 02:15 PM

Hiding in Plain Sight: Conducting High Risk Victims Operations

🗣️ *David Clark*

📍 GRAND BALLROOM A, B, C

Criminal Investigation Law Enforcement

This course equips law enforcement and investigative professionals with the skills to safely identify, locate, and recover high-risk victims of trafficking who are often hidden in plain sight. Participants will learn how traffickers blend victims into everyday environments—like hotels, truck stops, and online spaces—and how investigators can recognize subtle indicators without compromising operational integrity.

Detectives will also explore how Artificial Intelligence and open-source tools can be leveraged to support the detection, tracking, and safe recovery of victims engaged in prostitution and other exploitation scenarios.

WY District Court Judge's Panel

🗣️ *Judges Panel*

📍 GRAND BALLROOM D

Legal Emerging Trends

This interactive panel provides attendees with the unique opportunity to engage directly with Wyoming District Court Judges.

Participants are encouraged to ask questions and engage in open conversation regarding child welfare, juvenile court topics, and courtroom expectations, ultimately deepening their legal knowledge and familiarity with the bench.

Youth Exploitation in Wyoming: What's Emerging, What's Changing, and What We Can Do

🗣️ *Terri Markham*

📍 JACKSON HOLE A

Education Law Enforcement Legal
Child Welfare/Juvenile Services/Department of Family Services (DFS)

Youth exploitation and trafficking continue to evolve in ways that directly impact the safety and well-being of children across Wyoming. This session provides an updated overview of current and emerging trends, including digital tactics like sextortion and online grooming, as well as in-person coercive relationships.

Drawing from prevention education and youth disclosures, the presentation highlights key warning signs and risk factors, equipping professionals with practical, prevention-informed strategies to strengthen protective factors and improve early intervention.

Understanding and Building Effective Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs)

JACKSON HOLE B

 **Jewel Parrish, Drew Cotton & Tazia Peterson**

Criminal Investigation | Law Enforcement
Child Welfare/Juvenile Services/Department of Family Services (DFS)

This foundational session explores the Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team (MDIT) model and the essential roles each discipline plays in Wyoming's coordinated response to child abuse. Through the lens of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) model, participants will learn how collaborative investigations reduce trauma for children, improve case outcomes, and strengthen community partnerships.

Attendees will gain insight into the specific contributions of law enforcement, DFS, prosecutors, and advocates, leaving with actionable strategies to build, sustain, and enhance communication within their local MDITs.

Wyoming Home Visiting Alliance: Growing Healthy Families One Visit at a Time

JACKSON HOLE C

 **Brandi Chubb & Amanda Wilczewski**

Advocacy | Education | Mental Health
Emerging Trends

Child Welfare/Juvenile Services/Department of Family Services (DFS)

Home visiting is a primary prevention service that delivers education, resources, and support to promote family well-being, maternal health, and child development. In this panel discussion, the Wyoming Home Visiting Alliance (WYHVA) will highlight the profound benefits of utilizing these services to strengthen Wyoming families.

The panel will outline the collaborating partners within the Alliance, their essential roles, and how their community-based, multidisciplinary approach successfully connects families with the exact programs that support them best.

 **02:15 PM - 02:30 PM**

Conference Break, Snacks & Exhibitors

GRAND LOUNGE & REGISTRATION BOOTH

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 **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

The Trauma-Informed Approach to Supporting Youth Mental Health

GRAND BALLROOM A, B, C

 **Mitch Schoenwolf, RN**

Advocacy | Mental Health

Familiarity with how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress affect mental health is a critical component of suicide prevention. This session explores how childhood trauma negatively impacts brain development, relationships, and behavior, and how these risk factors can lead to increased suicidality.

Drawing on the trauma-informed care principles utilized at the Wyoming Behavioral Institute (WBI), attendees will learn to identify trauma-rooted behaviors and discover how building healthy connections and community-wide protective factors can help mitigate suicide risk and foster resilience in youth.

Connections for Justice-Involved Young People: How Positive Adults and Targeted Methods Lead to Better Outcomes

GRAND BALLROOM D

 **Wendy Leach**

Advocacy | Education | Mental Health

Child Welfare/Juvenile Services/Department of Family Services (DFS)

Many justice-involved youth lack the consistent, caring adult figures needed to guide them toward stability, making human connection a powerful and transformative intervention. This session highlights how positive relationships with adults—from law enforcement and judges to mentors and detention staff—can help young people build self-worth and motivation.

The presentation also focuses on shifting away from traditional, punitive methods (like weekend detention) toward targeted interventions that address specific needs, helping youth repair harm while developing skills for a positive future.

Empowering the Future with the Youth Wyoming Youth Advisory Council Panel

JACKSON HOLE A

 **Wyoming Youth Advisory Council**

Law Enforcement

The Wyoming Youth Advisory Council (WYAC) will facilitate an engaging panel discussion featuring four youth members who will share their lived experiences and the work WYAC has accomplished.

Attendees will hear firsthand how WYAC successfully captures and amplifies the youth voice to advocate for meaningful change, providing an interactive opportunity for the audience to ask questions and learn how to better support system enhancements.

Child Abuse Investigation as a Team: Using the MDIT Model

JACKSON HOLE B

 **Jewel Parrish, Drew Cotton & Tazia Peterson**

Education | Emerging Trends

Child Welfare/Juvenile Services/Department of Family Services (DFS)

This session highlights the critical importance of the Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team (MDIT) model in conducting effective, child-centered abuse investigations.

Drawing on over a decade of combined experience, Special Agent Drew Cotton (DCI) and Investigator Tazia Peterson (DFS) will share real-world case examples, discussing the state statutes, successes, and challenges of multidisciplinary work. Participants will engage in open discussions to identify strategies that strengthen interagency communication and teamwork.

Before the Wildfire: Building Everyday Tools for Connection and Prevention

JACKSON HOLE C

 *Ian Fletcher*

Advocacy Mental Health

Emerging Trends

In rural communities, suicide prevention often begins long before a crisis intervention is needed. This research-informed session highlights the growing gap between crisis response and connection-based prevention, demonstrating how everyday moments can foster connections that make students feel seen and valued.

Participants will learn Tele-Hope's model of six repeatable habits that reduce isolation, discovering how reframing familiar skills—such as listening, appreciation, and accountability—can serve as powerful tools for early mental health support.

 03:30 PM - 03:45 PM

Conference Break, Snacks & Exhibitors

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 03:45 PM - 04:45 PM

The Real Man Behind the Mask (The Paul Gove Story)

GRAND BALLROOM A, B, C

 *David Clark*

Criminal Investigation Law Enforcement

Mental Health

Child Welfare/Juvenile Services/Department of Family Services (DFS)

This course provides a detailed examination of a child exploitation case involving an adult offender who gained access to minors through grooming, boundary-testing, and the manipulation of trusted relationships.

Participants will learn how the offender's behavior escalated, how critical red flags were identified, and how the strategic use of a one-party consent phone call broke the case wide open. The session will also highlight how a successful detective interview ultimately led to a confession and the discovery of CSAM.

Understanding Running Behavior & Strengthening Youth Interventions

GRAND BALLROOM D

 *Veronica Driz*

Advocacy Law Enforcement

Mental Health

Child Welfare/Juvenile Services/Department of Family Services (DFS)

In 2024, 1 in 7 missing children reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) were likely victims of child sex trafficking. Designed for youth-serving professionals, this presentation explores the complex push/pull factors behind running behavior and the heightened exploitation risks missing youth face.

The session will highlight practical, trauma-informed strategies for engaging youth, preventing repeat missing incidents, and utilizing NCMEC's tools and resources to support youth-centered recovery planning.

Cultivating Potential: Social Work in Early Childhood

JACKSON HOLE A

 *Kristina Stacy*

Advocacy

Child Welfare/Juvenile Services/Department of Family Services (DFS)

In this session, Kristina Stacy shares her unique journey from early childcare teacher to social worker, passionately blending both roles to reimagine what childcare can be.

Unpacking the common misconception that early childhood education is "just daycare," this presentation explains why the early years are foundational to lifelong development. Attendees will explore the compelling case for integrating social work and mental health support services directly into early learning spaces.

Applying the MDIT Model - Mock Case Review

JACKSON HOLE B

 *Jewel Parrish, Drew Cotton & Tazia Peterson*

Advocacy

This interactive session provides participants with the opportunity to apply the Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team (MDIT) model to a realistic child abuse scenario.

Working in cross-disciplinary teams, attendees will collaboratively review a mock case from the initial report through resolution. Facilitators will guide participants as they identify investigative steps, navigate communication needs, and balance child safety with investigative integrity, ensuring a consistent, child-centered approach.

Ethical Decision-Making in Juvenile Practice: Navigating the "Best Interest of the Child" Standard

JACKSON HOLE C

Advocacy Criminal Investigation

Law Enforcement Legal

 *Lisa Finkey*

Juvenile lawyers regularly confront unique ethical dilemmas, particularly when a child's expressed wishes conflict with what is perceived to be in their "best interest." Using the Wyoming Rules of Professional Conduct, this session examines the limits of substituted judgment and the risks of paternalism in child-client representation.

Participants will analyze how core duties like loyalty, confidentiality, and competence apply when representing youth, leaving with practical strategies to protect both the client's autonomy and the lawyer's professional integrity. (Note: This program is designed to satisfy the Wyoming ethics CLE requirement).

 **04:45 PM - 05:00 PM**

Closing Remarks

GRAND BALLROOM

It's hard to believe our time together is already coming to an end! Join us for our final session as we reflect on the highlights of this year's symposium and share a few final thoughts. We'll wrap things up, offer our final thank-yous, and send you off with renewed energy and inspiration for the incredible work you do.