

## Conference Workshop Descriptions

### Registration (8:00am-8:30am)

### Workshop #1 (8:45am-10:15am)

1. *First, Do No Harm: Facilitating a Trauma Informed Response*

Presenter: Jonathan Kurland, Aequitas

Description: This presentation will describe various forms of trauma that victims may experience throughout their lives and as a result of an offender's victimization. Presenters will define cultural humility as a key element of a successful trauma-informed response that improves our individual, collective, and systematic responses to survivors. Additionally, the presenters will provide strategies to identify, document, and introduce evidence of trauma to improve case outcomes and community safety by holding offenders accountable.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocate/Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Medical

2. *Know More, Do More: Recognizing and Responding to Stalking*

Presenter: Dana Fleitman, SPARC

Description: Stalking is a prevalent, dangerous, and often misunderstood crime. This presentation explores the dynamics of stalking, focusing on the highly contextual nature of the crime by discussing common tactics used by perpetrators, the co-occurrence of stalking with domestic and sexual violence, as well as tools to plan for victim safety and hold offenders accountable.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocate/Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Medical

3. *Review of Sexually Transmitted Infections in the Setting of Sexual Assault*

Presenter: Karin Wickwire, UPMC Hamot

Description: This presentation will provide a review of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that are of concern for persons who report that have been sexually assaulted. Topics covered will include a review of STIs, options for treatment and/or prophylaxis, and what follow-up care may be needed.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocate/Mental Health, Medical

## **Workshop #2 (10:30am-12:00pm)**

### 1. *Overcoming the Consent Defense: Prosecuting Known Offenders*

Presenter: Jonathan Kurland, Aequitas

Description: This presentation will address the challenges inherent in prosecuting known offenders and alcohol-facilitated sexual assault, with an emphasis on overcoming the consent defense. The presentation will examine offender characteristics, motivations, and behaviors, as well as the impact of the offender's actions on the victim. The presenter will suggest strategies for overcoming common misconceptions at trial, including the importance of establishing a compelling trial theme, introducing evidence of the defendant's predatory behavior, presenting corroborating evidence to support witness credibility, and recreating the reality of the crime at trial.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocate/Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Prosecutor, Medical

### 2. *Stalking 2.0: The Use of Technology to Stalk*

Presenter: Dana Fleitman, SPARC

Description: Stalkers are creative criminals who use—and misuse—a variety of technologies to locate, surveil, and monitor their victims. Building an effective stalking case means asking the right questions, collecting needed evidence, and constantly assessing for victim safety. This presentation will address common technologies utilized by stalkers, discuss evidence preservation concerns, as well as identify effective strategies for safety planning.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocate/Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Prosecutor

### 3. *Advocacy Best Practices and Rights of Survivors*

Presenter: Marli Mayon, PCAR-Respect Together

Description: This workshop aims to equip participants with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in advocating for the rights and well-being of sexual assault survivors in Pennsylvania. Participants will gain a deep understanding of the legal framework, advocacy strategies, survivor-centered approaches, and community resources essential for effective advocacy and support.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocate/Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Prosecutor, Medical

### 4. *Forensic Rape Exam FAQ: Kit Guidelines, Contents, and Time Frames*

Presenter: Karin Wickwire, UPMC Hamot

Description: In this presentation, the contents of the PA Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit will be reviewed as will the guidelines as set forth by the Department of Justice and the state. These guidelines will include time frames for collection and options for evidence collection.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocate/Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Prosecutor, Medical

### **Lunch 12:00pm-1:00pm (networking)**

### **Workshop #3 (1:15pm-2:45pm)**

1. *Alcohol Facilitate Sexual Assault: Understanding the Toxicology*

Presenter: Jonathan Kurland, Aequitas

Description: This presentation will explain the toxicology of alcohol in lay terms that will help participants understand how alcohol affects the body. Topics will include alcohol metabolism, the disproportionate effect of alcohol on women and men, the mechanism of intoxication, an explanation of blackouts vs. pass outs, and other common toxicological issues. A better understanding of these basic principles will shape the manner in which investigators and prosecutors handle these challenging cases from investigation through sentencing. It will also explore common issues and challenges related to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases where alcohol is present.

Professional Track Recommendations: Law Enforcement, Prosecutor, Medical

2. *“False Memory Syndrome” and Delayed Discovery of Memories: How Did We Get Here?*

Presenter: Molly Wolf, Penn West Edinboro

Description: This presentation will educate its audience on the invention of ‘False Memory Syndrome’, and the reality of dissociative amnesia (also known as ‘memory repression’ or ‘delayed discovery of memories’). The first part of the presentation will explore the definitions and prevalence of child sexual abuse, memory repression, dissociative amnesia, and false memory syndrome. The presentation will then focus on the societal backlash against dissociative amnesia throughout history, culminating in the invention of ‘False Memory Syndrome.’ Empirical research that has studied dissociative amnesia and false memory syndrome will be discussed along with theories pertaining to same. Finally, the presentation will culminate in a discussion of lawsuits against clinicians, and a practical exercise in learning how to work with clients using non-leading questions, such that therapists cannot be accused of leading clients into ‘false memories’ of abuse.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocate/Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Prosecutor, Medical

3. *Practicing Cultural Humility: Moving from Awareness to Action in Support of Survivors of Sexual Violence*

Presenter: Marli Mayon, PCAR-Respect Together

Description: This workshop digs into the crucial intersection of cultural humility, responsiveness, and action as it relates to supporting survivors of sexual violence who may hold a variety of identities. There is a growing recognition of the need for nuanced approaches that not only acknowledge the unique experiences of survivors but also actively work towards dismantling barriers to their healing journey. This workshop aims to bridge the gap between awareness and meaningful action by providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of cultural humility and practical strategies for applying these principles in service provision.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocates/Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Medical

**Workshop #4 (3:00pm-4:30pm)**

1. *Providing Context: Introducing Expert Testimony in Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Cases*

Presenter: Jonathan Kurland, Aequitas

Description: This presentation will focus on common victim responses to trauma, as well as their impact on fact finders' assessment of victim credibility in domestic and sexual violence cases. The presenter will summarize the law related to the introduction of expert testimony and highlight the importance of deciding how and when to introduce it. The presentation will also focus on strategies for identifying experts and how to use experts during the investigation and preparation of a case for trial, even if the testimony will not be introduced.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocate/Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Prosecutor, Medical

2. *Facilitating Wellness and Healing After Sexual Assault: A Trauma Recovery Group Intervention*

Presenters: Julaine Field, PennWest Edinboro & Kaylee Buziewicz, Crime Victim Center

Description: Process groups are a valuable tool in trauma recovery and the interruption of intergenerational trauma. This interactive educational session will focus on a 12-week trauma-informed, integrative group developed by the presenters. Recruitment, screening,

and the development of trauma recovery skills will be discussed, as well as activities from the group.

Professional Track Recommendations: Advocate/Mental Health

3. *A Best Practice Approach to Interviewing Sex Offenders*

Presenter: Joe Spusta, Erie County District Attorney's Office

Description: This presentation will focus on the characteristics of the two predominate interview methodologies currently at use by law enforcement during investigative interviews with individuals alleged to have committed sex crimes. The guild/presumptive/accusatorial protocol will be compared and contrasted to the information gathering protocol to determine which is most effective with the targeted population to obtain investigation relevant information as well as diagnostic evidence which can be used to substantiate guilt and criminal charges. Also examined will be how the correct methodology can assist in establishing a narrative framework in investigative interviews which can overcome impediments to admissions of guilt.

Professional Track Recommendations: Law Enforcement, Prosecutor

4. *PA Sexual Assault Evidence Collection and Lab Analysis*

Presenters: Matthew Santangelo & Jacob Heffner, PA Crime Lab

Description: This presentation will provide an overview of sexual assault evidence collection, submission, and analysis performed at the Pennsylvania State Police Erie Regional Crime Lab.

Professional Track Recommendations: Law Enforcement, Prosecutor, Medical