

CONTINUUM

THE 2020

CONFERENCE

25 Years of Reflection



Celebrating 25 Years!

Although we cannot be together, we did not want the Continuum's 25th Anniversary to go by unnoticed. We have compiled some reflections to commemorate this milestone!



## 25 Years in Review!

### FOUNDED IN 1995

The Continuum of Services of Adolescents Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviour grew out of a small group of clinicians in Toronto who met to discuss and coordinate their work with youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour.

#### **LEADERSHIP**

Since 1995, The Continuum has endeavoured to provide leadership in their field. Our annual conference has provided up-to-date training on a variety of topics related to the assessment and treatment of youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour.

## A COALITION OF AGENCIES

Still true to its origins, The Continuum continues to be a coalition of agencies and individuals committed to reducing sexual violence and protecting the community.

### CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

Reflecting on 25 years of The Continuum, we recognize that words matter. The words we use can influence people's perceptions, attitudes, and actions. As such, The Continuum will undergo a name change to: "The Continuum of Services for Adolescents Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive





Getting on Board: Bringing Together Systems, Services and Communities

THE CONTINUUM

Confere Conference Registration

Support Conference Registration

Bridging the Gaps betwee Research and Prevention

Dr. michael F. Carowell, PSYO Decline in Juvenile Sexual Recidivism Rate

Help Wanted: A Public Health Approach to Meip Wanted: A Public Meant App.
Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

3 Park Home Avenue North York, ON M2N 6L3 A26.733.2929

NICOLE HART 416-222-1153 EXT 129

griffincentre.org/continuumconference



**Our Evolution** 

Our roots run deep. Our mission has remained the same. Take a peek at some of The Continuum's earlier newsletters and event programs.





## CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY NIPISSING & PARRY SOUND

"Throughout the years, The Continuum Conference has been a source of current evidence based practices, which has shaped the way we deliver our services. We have always left the conference, having gained new information and a sense of support and validation from fellow professionals. Thank you to Radius, and to all who help organize this conference, as you are an invaluable source of knowledge, and even more important, an escape from the snow and black flies of Northern Ontario."

Community Support Team of Nipissing/Parry Sound and Muskoka

#### **GAELA MINTZ**

"It has been a pleasure serving on the Continuum Committee with caring and passionate professionals from 2010-2018. The community of practice that was fostered through this committee is truly unique - as it is rare to sit on a committee that cross-pollinates in a field with clinicians, probation, child welfare, court workers and prevention educators. I feel incredibly fortunate for the opportunities I have had meeting experts and leaders in the field both locally and internationally. I have gained incredible knowledge from my participation, but I am most thankful for the professional relationships and friendships I have made over my time with this committee. Congratulations on 25 years of partnerships, education, and a commitment to serving vulnerable youth. Thank you for letting me play a small role in this journey."





#### **ANDREA DUNCAN**

"I would like to thank the many staff and volunteers who have worked hard to put on the yearly Continuum to support individuals in the field. Unlike the United States the GTA offers very little in regards to conferences and trainings to support youth with sexualized behaviour. I started attending The Continuum when I joined the sexual abuse treatment program in 2011 and I believed I have only missed one of the Continuum conferences to date. Keep up the good work and I look forward to attending future Continuums."

#### **PETER HOAG**

"As I recall, there was some political pressure after a few reports in the newspapers about a rash of adolescents with developmental delays offending in the community. The Advocates Office wanted a review of what sort of treatment was being offered throughout the province. A survey was prepared and sent out to all agencies around Ontario and the returning responses had a number of programs indicating they did do "Offence Specific Treatment". But what that really meant was that they were filling their beds with youth who had offended but had no evidence based treatments or interventions. I believe Dr. Tracey Curwen headed the collection of data. The Committee to research this was made up of Continuum members, but I mostly remember Rick Owens and Jim Worling as actively involved. Upon presenting these findings to the Minister, funding was made available for province-wide training."





#### HEATHER BARBOUR

"Jim Shea had a vision. He believed not only in the young people and their families that we worked with, but in the therapists he gathered round. Presenting at The Continuum has been an extension of that belief. Being able to share with the larger community the work we are trying with youth has been an opportunity for us to build our practice-based evidence. A way to create our larger reflective practice. It has given me the courage to try things when there was yet a road map to follow. I hope and believe The Continuum gives our community of practitioners an annual time to reflect, share and learn together."







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April 29, 2020

## Continuum Conference and Jim Shea Awards

Youth Connections and Fostering Family Relations has operated residential treatment programs Youth Connections and Fostering Family Relations has operated residential treatment programs offering supports to boys and girls who present with sexual boundary issues since 1998. We have supported depoly throughout this time with professionals from similar accounts and in consult with worked closely throughout this time with professionals from similar agencies and in consult with

Our staff have attended The Continuum Conference on a yearly basis for the past 20 years. This therapists who have close affiliations with The Continuum. Our stan have attenued the Continuum Conference on a yearly pasts for the past ZU years. This allows us to network with a group of professionals who provide fresh insights into addressing the

The presentations are informative and allow us to keep pace with Best Practices. The staffing needs of our clients.

THE PRESENTATIONS ARE INFORMATIVE AND ABOVE US TO REEP PACE WITH DEST FRACTION OF THE PROPERTY We have been fortunate enough to receive recognition from this esteemed group of peers via The we nave been rortunate enough to receive recognition from this esteemed group or peers via 111 Jim Shea Award. Our St. Catharines unit as a collective body in addition to two of our Fostering Family Relations managers/parents have been rewarded for their exemplary service. This award rainily relations managers/parents have been rewarded for their exemplary service. This award provides a sense of notoriety and appreciation for positive efforts that often go unnoticed within

The majority of our contracted therapists attend this conference also. These people are extremely The majority or our contracted therapists attend this conference also, These people are extremally valuable to our agency and this conference provides a pronounced opportunity for everyone the state of the state o valuable to our agency and this conference provides a pronounced opportunity for everyone (clinicians, associated peers, staff) to interface and to ultimately provide enhanced supports to our children.

Wyatt Johns Executive Director



### **JEAN GAUTHIER**

"Being a Probation Officer for 30 years and during that time specializing with youth that have offended sexually, I have enjoyed and depended on the knowledge and expertise I received on a yearly basis attending The Continuum Conference.

I attended most years during my career and always appreciated the cutting edge research and hands on tools, techniques and strategies that were provided during the workshops that I could take back and adopt into my practice. Working with youth that offend sexually can be a very challenging and yet rewarding experience and sharing our experiences and practices with like-minded individuals was always extremely helpful. The connections I made as well as the resources and contacts I established over the years made the service I provided to my clients much richer, appropriate and practical.

I was also honoured to receive the Jim Shea award at one of these conferences for my continued work and involvement with this population and this acknowledgment was greatly appreciated as I was not from a clinical background but from a case management direct intervention role.

I would greatly encourage anyone who is interested in enhancing their knowledge and skills working with this unique population to attend and the breaks, snacks and food are pretty amazing too."



#### **SHELLEY KAVANAUGH**

"I had the privilege to present at the 2013 Continuum; Promoting Healthy Outcomes Through Innovative Approaches with Keynote Speaker John Briere. Sharing how expressive arts plays an integral role in facilitating health and wellness for youth and the community through an experiential workshop was such a great experience. Equally as gratifying has been the experience of learning from incredibly diverse and gifted speakers."

#### NANCY FALLS

"It was with great honor and gratitude that I accepted the Jim Shea award in 2017. As I reflect over the years that I have been involved in working with youth who have engaged in sexually harming behaviors, the professional connections I have made, and the learning I have done through the Continuum, four words come to mind that capture my experience: To listen, To learn, To gather and To share.

**To Listen** with compassion and understanding to the children, youth, and families who have placed their trust in us as professionals and to listen to the varying professional perspectives as we work towards a common goal.

**To Learn** as a life-long endeavor –we learn not only from every encounter with our clients, the Continuum has provided a valuable and cost- effective opportunity to learn and grow as professionals.

**To Gather people and resources**. Jim Shea was exceptional at gathering a group of passionate and talented clinicians and I was very fortunate to have that opportunity to be a clinical consultant. The Continuum has provided the forum for us to gather as professionals who do this unique and challenging work. Being a part of the organizing committee for a number of years has allowed me to make and maintain connections with those who I otherwise would not have had the opportunity.

**To Share.** The Continuum has been an opportunity for us to gather and so generously share our knowledge. We have valued and highlighted the many accomplishments of our local and Canadian talent.

In summary, the Continuum has provided: the environment where people can share freely their struggles in the work, the up to date research and clinical perspective to further our understanding of how we help youth who have offended sexually and their families, and the opportunity develop lasting professional connections. **Congratulations on 25 years.**"





#### **RICK OWENS**

"I was - and still am - quite grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of the Continuum, especially in those early days. It provided me a chance to work with and learn from some of the best and brightest folks in this field and in this part of the world. For the first couple of years on the Steering Committee I felt like the kid who finally graduates to sitting with the grownups (I'm thinking particularly of folks like Jim Worling and Judy Tudiver, both of whom were 11 feet tall, as I recall, and exceptionally good at what they did). The Steering, Training and Legal Issues Committees were each populated by a wonderful group of people committed to the larger project of supporting the work of the broader community of folks working with youth who had sexually offended. The Continuum was a great idea back then and has remained so for 25 years. My thanks to the folks who started it, and to all those who have kept it going for so many years!"



# PROBATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

Congratulations to the Continuum on the 25th Anniversary of the Conference!



The Continuum has been an example to POAO in advocating for research based best practices in our work with complex cases involving sexual harm. POAO is pleased to highlight our Association at this venue. We look forward to an ongoing affiliation. We feel our collective goals, particularly related to professional development of Probation Officers in the youth and adult fields, can improve outcomes for our clients, families and communities. Founded in 1952





#### **TRACEY CURWEN**

"I was involved in the early stages of the Continuum, which was part of my introduction to the field; I learned a great deal at that time, including the value of multi-systemic collaboration. The Continuum has maintained the vision by nurturing and growing those initial collaborative goals, which have resulted in an invaluable clinical, practical, and research alliance.

During my first meeting with Jim Shea, his warm professionalism was evident. My fond memories of Jim include his commitment to providing youth with a safe and nurturing environment, fed by good clinical and research knowledge. I was grateful to receive the Jim Shea Award and I am still honoured to have my name associated with his."



#### **MICHAEL DAVIS**

"The Continuum has had a significant influence on my practice, both by introducing me to other clinicians working with this population and to new ideas in regards to our work. I remember the newsletter that The Continuum used to send out in the late 90's. During a time when the internet was still in its infancy the newsletter kept us updated on research and training in the GTA area. I also consider it an honour to have served on the legal issues and conference committee and through those experiences I met many wonderful people."



#### DR. JAMES WORLING

"The Continuum was initiated by Dr. Judy Tudiver, Ph.D., C.Psych., a psychologist at the J. D. Griffin Centre in Toronto. In the Spring of 1995, Judy contacted a few colleagues in Toronto who also worked at agencies providing services to adolescents who had offended sexually; with the goal of addressing service gaps and sharing resources. I was fortunate enough to be one of the people invited to the first meeting and to continue to work with Judy to address this goal.

Many dedicated individuals from several different agencies in Southern Ontario assisted with our goals of training, information sharing, and working to address the gaps in services. In 2002, with helpful guidance from Rick Owens and Jim Shea, we changed our name once again to the "Continuum of Services for Adolescents Who Sexually Offend" to move away from labelling youth as "offenders".

It was a tremendous privilege for me to have been involved in the inception and early development of the Continuum, and I was honoured to speak at several of the annual conferences between 1996 and 2017. I hope that Dr. Tudiver's vision of collaborative and enhanced services for youth who have offended sexually continues into the future."

(excerpt from <a href="http://www.drjamesworling.com/continuum.html">http://www.drjamesworling.com/continuum.html</a>)

#### FRANCA IANNOTTA

"As a regular attendee, I always feel privileged to be amongst such a group of committed clinicians. People come from so many different settings and different disciplines all with the same goal of improving their learning to enable their work with adolescents to be the best it can be. We often under estimate our local expertise, and the Continuum reminds us to look around and recognize the home grown talent! In presenting the Jim Shea award to Nancy Falls, I was honoured to acknowledge the contribution of a valued colleague and friend because Jim was one of my two mentors in the field, the other being Geraldine Crisci."





## DR. DANA COSTIN DR. SIEGI SCHULER

"It was our honour to both present at the Continuum Conference and also attend the Conference for many years. Since it was first formed by a number of forward-thinking colleagues, the Continuum membership has provided a much needed, relied upon, and respected community of practice, research, and education for clinicians, researchers, other professionals, and students who are engaged in prevention and intervention with adolescents who have caused sexual harm. The Continuum Conference always felt like a welcoming environment for important dialogue and education about the challenges, successes, and evolution of our field, especially at times when it felt as though there were so few of us engaged in this work. As much as we valued the lessons learned at each Conference, it was equally important to both of us that the annual Continuum Conference was also a time to socialize, catch up, and laugh with colleagues and friends from both near and far, and to establish and deepen connections that were often both professional and personal. We strongly believe that the fondness and respect demonstrated through the Continuum collaborations over the years helped to shape the very collaborative and supportive nature of our field in Ontario. Involvement with the Steering Committee (for Siegi) for a number of years was formative in developing an interest in addressing system issues and promoting system collaborations. It was particularly humbling and sentimental (for Siegi) to receive the Jim Shea award at the 2013 Conference, as this award honours an individual who was both my friend and very first mentor in this important work. We look back on our many experiences with the Continuum with fondness, and we are so proud and honoured to be involved in saluting the Continuum membership and leadership, both past and present, in celebrating this incredible 25-year milestone of collaboration, community, and commitment to exemplary practice."



#### **NEW PATH YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES**

"The Continuum Conference has provided New Path and the staff who have attended the opportunity to stay connected in a field of work where support and connection are most important. Each year New Path has attended, staff have returned excited to share and implement new strategies or feeling restored about the good work they have been doing. The Continuum Conference is indispensable to learning and staying informed about best practices and upcoming trends. New Path is excited about the upcoming conferences and the enrichment in learning that comes with attending."

### JIM SHEA MEMORAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE



Jim Shea spent much of his social work career developing and delivering services for youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour and for those affected by them. He was the founding Director of the Peel Collaborative Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse Treatment Program, where he worked until his death in the summer of 2005.

Jim was widely recognized for having cultivated and nurtured a team of professionals who provided outstanding service to Peel Region, and have gone on to populate many of the agencies and organization engaged in this work throughout Southern Ontario.

This award is made once a year to someone who has made a significant contribution to the development and provision of services to youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour. Recipients are those who, like Jim, have contributed to our development and collaboration as a service community, have encouraged and supported workers, especially those just entering into this field of practice, and who have engaged in practice that is respectful, collaborative and effective.

# THE 2020 CONTINUUM CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

"I attended my first Continuum conference in 2019, following a year of preparation with a powerful team of dedicated and supportive individuals. My journey as an administrator with the Continuum committee has been very informative and educating. I am so proud to be a part of this incredible conference and look forward to working with my amazing team committee in years to come."

"Early in my career, my mentors told me that once you are in this field, you will not be able to see yourself doing anything else. be able to see yourself doing anything else. And this is exactly what happened. Preventing sexual violence by working with those who engage in sexually happened. Preventing sexual violence by working with those who engage in sexually happened. Preventing sexual violence by working with those who engage in sexually happened. nappeneu. Prevenung sexual violence by working with those who engage in sexually abusive behavior has become a passion of mine. Although I've had opportunities to abusive penavior has become a passion of finite. Annough the had opportunities it attend international conferences related to sexually harming behaviour, there is always something missing. Since 2004, when I started attending The Continuum always something missing. Since 2004, when I statted attending the Continuum Conferences, my need to build connection, reduce isolation, network, and share new, overting knowledge in this highly englished field with those who understand the overting knowledge in this highly englished field with those who understand the exciting knowledge in this highly specialized field, with those who understand the needs of adolescents in Canada, and Ontario, specifically, were fulfilled. I've been on the committee since 2018 and took on chairpersonship in 2019. We have a creative, fun, bright, thoughtful and ambitious group of committee members here to continue to serve you and provide you with a great conference every year. In 25 years, this annual event grew out of a small group of clinicians in covaling the discussion and coordinate their work with worth who have an agreed in covaling to their work with worth who have an agreed in covaling to their work with worth who have an agreed in covaling to their work with worth who have an agreed in covaling to their work with worth who have a great connected in covaling to their work with worth who have a great connected in covaling to their work with worth who have a great connected in covaling to the connected in covaling to the connected in the covaling to met to discuss and coordinate their work with youth who have engaged in sexually abusing behaviour. This group should a compilement to providing officering continuations. abusive behaviour. This group showed a commitment to providing effective services to these youth in order to prevent future sexually abusive behaviour and further sexual victimization. I am reminded of the Work of the Continuum When I read this quote from Dr. Alissa Ackerman: "Healing from intimate harm requires connection, authentic, vulnerable, and intimate connections, with those that commit the aumentic, vulnerable, and intimate confiections, with those who were harmed. Each of us has the capacity to heal society's and with those who were harmed. intimate wounds one connection at a time." Congratulations to The Continuum and

# THE 2020 CONTINUUM CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

"I began attending the Continuum Conference in 2010 as a participant and continue to be so impressed to see, year-after-year, such a diverse, dedicated and integrated network of people that are so immersed in this field. In 2018, I joined the conference planning committee and it feels a bit surreal that I am now supporting this amazing conference – I look forward to continuing to work with the committee to keep the continuum running strong for years to come!"

TIFFANY CHARBONNEAU "I have been honored to be on the continuum committee for the last 5 years. working and learning with other committee members, speakers and participants who support youth who have sexually abused, has strengthened my commitment to reduce sexual harm. I look forward to another 25 years of coming together to learn from one

ALLISON SWANSON "I have been privileged to be part of The Continuum Committee since 2018 and over that time I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this wonderful group of people from likeminded organizations in Ontario. Their dedication to providing education and training related to youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour is truly inspiring. I am thankful to have played a small part over the last 2 years serving this committee, and look forward to many more to come!"

# THE 2020 CONTINUUM CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

"I began attending the Continuum LISA LAING Conference in 2013 as a relatively new clinician to this field. Over the years I have learned from a diverse group of conference speakers including: John Briere, David A. Wolfe, James Worling, Geraldine Crisci, and Karen B.K. Chan. The Continuum Conference provides us the opportunity to network with other professionals in the community as well as gain access to current research. I am honoured to be a part of the planning committee and look forward to future conferences!"

"The Continuum has been has been a part of my professional life for the majority of my career in Youth Justice, 20 years this year! I've had such a rewarding and fulfilling experience I'm on my second round of being a conference committee member. As a Probation Officer, I've always found so much value in the conferences learning about best practices and current trends while building my toolbox of skills for working with adolescents, their families and community partners. It's been such a great opportunity, I've met so many amazing people, developed friendships and professional contacts and had a lot a fun along the way too. I am always inspired by the dedication, commitment and innovation of the Continuum participants, speakers and committee members all the in the name participants, speakers and committee members and the mane of sexual violence prevention. It's a challenging field to work in as we all know, the Continuum allows us to make connections and Support each other. I'm proud to be a part of journey! I look forward to being back at the conference! Happy 25th Anniversary to the

### PAST JIM SHEA AWARD RECIPIENTS

2006

Barbara Rodgers

Director of SAFE-T

Program

Dr. James Worling Clinical Psychologist & Researcher

2007

Rick Owens & Arlene Sager Griffin Centre's SORNAT Program

2008

2009
Heather Barbour
Halton Trauma
Centre

Dr. Tracey Curwen
Nipissing
University

2010

2011

**Karen Holladay** Clinical Therapist, SAFE-T Program 2012

Anita Diebel
Help Now,
Wellington County

2013

**Dr. Siegi Schuler**Clinical Director, Halton
Trauma Centre

2014

Janice Taylor Family Therapist, SAFE-T Program 2015

Youth Connections
St. Catharines
Team

2016

Jean Gauthier
MCYS, Youth
Justtice

2017

**Dr. Carl Bradley**Peel Children's
Centre

2017

Nancy Falls Radius Child and Youth Services 2018

Sara Place
Durham Children's
Aid Society

2019 Lucas Hayes

& Sandy McNeil
Youth Connections/
Fostering Family
Relations

Celebrating 25 Years!

#### **OUR NEW LOGO!**

In recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020, we acknowledge that words matter. The words we use can influence people's perceptions, attitudes, and actions. As professionals working to address misperceptions about sexual abuse, we recognize the importance of accurately communicating about individuals who have abused, in the hope that they will have opportunities to live safe, fulfilling and offence-free lives. As such, The Continuum will undergo another name change to: "The Continuum of Services for Adolescents Who Have Engaged In Sexually Abusive Behaviour".



## THANK YOU FOR 25 YEARS! The 2020 Continuum Conference Organizing Committee

