

THE 2024 CONTINUUM *Conference*



**BREAKING BARRIERS: NURTURING ADOLESCENT
WELL-BEING ACROSS DIVERSE POPULATIONS**

MAY

6 & 7

2024

Novotel Hotel, North York
A Hybrid Event

THE 2024 CONTINUUM CONFERENCE BREAKING BARRIERS: NURTURING ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING ACROSS DIVERSE POPULATIONS



About the Continuum:

Founded in 1995, the Continuum of Services for Adolescents Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviour (The Continuum) 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. This group shared a commitment to providing effective treatment to these youth in order to reduce sexual offence recidivism, and thereby reduce further victimization. With the move to a more formal network came the inclusion of a much wider range of professional groups and service providers, including probation, live-in treatment and day treatment programs, children's mental health centres, child welfare agencies, the police, the judiciary, lawyers and Crown Attorneys. As the name suggests, the intention was to support and coordinate the work of this "continuum" of services and people who become involved with these youth, from the first point of contact to their transitioning from treatment.

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, and other clinically relevant topics. Through a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in the late 1990s, The Continuum initiated

a research project designed to measure the efficacy of comprehensive treatment and to inform the development of best practice standards. This project later became the foundation for a long-term national research project.

For several years, beginning in the late 1990s, The Continuum's Steering Committee created a Legal Issues Sub-Committee to identify legislative and procedural barriers in the youth justice, child welfare and treatment systems. Finally, The Continuum has, throughout its existence, been a persistent conduit for advocacy for the treatment needs of this population and the resource needs of those who share our commitment to reducing sexual violence.

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. We still receive no outside funding, so we depend on our participants to carry out and support the work of The Continuum. Our strength and dynamism comes from the individuals and organizations that make up The Continuum. We invite you to get involved and to stay in touch.

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Our Speakers:



Kevin Creeden
M.A., LMHC
Whitney Academy



Christa Outhwaite-Salmon
MSW, RSW
Mackenzie Health



Lauren Ireland
M.A. BCBA
Mackenzie Health



Franca Cortoni
PhD., CPsych
Université de Montréal



Kim Spence, Ph.D.
Specialized Treatment &
Assessment Resources, PA



Shan Jumper, Ph.D.
Liberty Healthcare



Robert Wright
The Peoples'
Counselling Clinic

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL: TREATMENT OF ID YOUTH WITH SEXUAL BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

Kevin Creeden: May 6 | 9:15am



Overview:

Adolescents with intellectual disabilities who exhibit problematic sexual behaviors are a diverse group whose cognitive and neurodevelopmental challenges are reflected in a wide array of social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral impairments that are frequently combined with comorbid psychiatric conditions. While the specific research on effectively addressing the assessment and treatment of ID youth exhibiting problem sexual behavior remains limited incorporating approaches with ID youth from outside the PSB field can serve to improve our effectiveness and broaden our understanding of the challenges these children and adolescents may face in integrating and utilizing various treatment interventions (Blasingame, Creeden, and Rich, 2022; Byrne, 2022; Creeden, 2023; D'Amico, et al., 2022).

This workshop will focus on highlighting the common principles and obstacles associated with the effective assessment and treatment of ID youth exhibiting problematic sexual behaviors while identifying specific treatment needs and treatment interventions for some of the different constellations of social, emotional, and cognitive difficulties with which these youth may present.

Bio

Kevin Creeden, M.A., LMHC is the Director of Assessment and Research at the Whitney Academy in East Freetown, MA. He has over 40 years of clinical experience treating children, adolescents, and their families working extensively with sexually and physically aggressive youth. Over the past 30 years, his primary focus has been on issues of trauma and attachment difficulties, especially regarding the neurological impact of trauma on behavior. He has authored several articles and book chapters on the neuro-developmental impact of trauma on sexual behavior problems and harmful sexual behavior and he was one of a team of clinicians and researchers tasked with developing the ATSA Adolescent Treatment Guidelines.

Learning Objectives

1

Examine the different ways that youth with neurodevelopmental and intellectual disabilities can present within the social service, juvenile justice, and educational systems that may impact the type of services they receive.

2

Learn about the how to address common issues that emerge in the assessment of ID youth with sexual behavior problems.

3

Explore different treatment approaches and modalities that can be utilized in working with youth who present with a range of learning and neurodevelopmental issues.



ENSURING POSITIVE BEHAVIOURAL SUPPORTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH FASD WHO ENGAGE IN PROBLEMATIC SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS

Christa Salmon & Lauren Ireland: May 6 | 1:00pm



Overview:

The past few decades have seen great gains made in better understanding the nature and manifestation of sexual violence; however, only recently has the field seen research regarding best practice for adolescents with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) who engage in problematic sexual behaviours. As is the case for many adolescents with presentations in need of accommodation, identifying and managing problematic sexual behaviours in individuals with FASD is complex and requires a multi-level response. The popular Risk-Need-Responsivity framework requires that we intervene at the level of risk while targeting specific criminogenic needs in a fashion that is responsive to individual client characteristics.

In this presentation we will consider the nuances inherent in responsively providing positive behavioural supports for persons with FASD. We will explore and discuss how contemporary approaches may differ or overlap with current perspectives in addressing prevention and treatment needs. Strategies, teaching tools, and adaptive behavior analytic-informed models of support will be discussed and reviewed.

Bios

Christa Outhwaite-Salmon, MSW, RSW is a registered Social Worker and a member of the Ontario Association for Social Work. She currently holds the position of Clinical Programs Consultant with the Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences; Program for the Assessment and Treatment for Healthy Sexuality (PATHS). She specializes in socio sexual assessment, risk assessment and the treatment of persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Dual Diagnosis who engage in sexually abusive behaviours.

Lauren Ireland, M.A., BCBA has worked at the Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences in FASD Services since 2014. She specializes in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and challenging behaviour; she also has a keen interest in neurodevelopmental trauma. Lauren has a Masters in Applied Disability Studies and is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst.

Learning Objectives

1

Upon completion of this educational activity, learners will be able to describe research findings related to FASD and its intersection with the criminal justice system.

2

Upon completion of this educational activity, learners will better understand the necessity of applying the responsivity principle when addressing treatment needs for individuals with FASD.

3

Upon completion of this educational activity, learners will be able to enunciate many of the complexities associated with individuals with FASD and risk for engaging in problematic sexual behaviours.

WOMEN WHO SEXUALLY OFFEND: LATEST FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERVENTION

Franca Cortoni: May 6 | 2:30pm



Overview:

Women who sexually offend constitute a small yet significant proportion of all sexual offenders. In recent years, increased empirical attention has revealed a number of gender-specific issues related to women who sexually offend. This presentation will review our latest empirically-based understanding of women who sexually offend. The implications for gender-responsive assessment, treatment, and management practices with these women will also be discussed. When relevant, a contrast with male-based information will be provided.

Learning Objectives



Enhance knowledge of the similarities & differences between women and men who have sexually offended.



Understand current best practices for gender-responsive assessment, treatment, and management of women who have sexually offended.

Bio

Franca Cortoni, PhD, CPsych received her PhD in clinical & forensic psychology from Queen's University in Kingston. In 2007, after many years with the Correctional Service of Canada where she worked as a psychologist specialized in research and treatment of sexual offending, she joined the School of Criminology at the Université de Montréal where she is Professor of criminological psychology and Research Fellow at the International Centre of Comparative Criminology. Her research focuses on the factors associated with the development of sexual offending behavior, risk assessment, and treatment of both women and men convicted for sexual offences. She has published two books on women who have sexually offended, and her current project focuses on understanding the factors associated with improved outcomes in the treatment of sexually offending behaviour.

ENSURING EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR YOUTH WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER WHO CAUSE SEXUAL HARM

Kim Spence: May 7 | 9:15am



Overview:

Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who commit sexual harm present with unique treatment needs often not adequately addressed by well-meaning treatment providers, community-based programs, and secured settings. Techniques to assist attendees in supporting youth with ASD who engage in sexually harmful behaviour will include suggestions to address: difficulty with victim empathy, Theory of Mind (TOM) deficits (e.g., perspective taking), making unwanted attempts to engage in romantic relationships, and stalking will be reviewed utilizing case examples. Evidence-based teaching techniques to improve appropriate social interactions between youth with ASD and their peers will be discussed along with targeted intervention strategy development.

Bio

Dr. Kim Spence, Ph.D is the Clinical Director Autism Support Services for Specialized Treatment and Assessment Resources, PA and has worked for the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) since 1999 as an Autism Disorders Specialist. For the past 20 years she has lectured internationally regarding treatment supports, specialized therapeutic intervention, and the creating of specialized sexuality education programs for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Dr. Spence began providing specialized sexuality education training for parents, teachers, and care providers of individuals with ASD in 2000 and has offered numerous learning opportunities focused on discriminating between maladaptive sexual behaviours versus mental health issues and specialized educational and behavioral interventions to support healthy sexual knowledge for individuals with ASD across the life-span. She has been training emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, and members of the criminal justice system across the nation since 2001 and is an appointed Advisory Board Member to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

Learning Objectives

1

Describe current trends in peer-reviewed literature related to youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who cause sexual harm.

2

List strategies for increasing the effectiveness of social interventions for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who cause sexual harm.

3

Describe several evidence-based, therapeutic intervention strategies recommended for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who engage in problematic sexual behaviour.

WORKING WITH TRANSGENDER AND GENDER DIVERSE ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS WHO SEXUALLY HARM

Shan Jumper: May 7 | 10:45am



Overview:

This workshop will provide an overview of the literature on the experiences of transgender and gender diverse (TGD) adults and youth who interact with the criminal justice system. The presentation will outline a cultural humility-based approach to the care and management of these individuals. There is an extremely sparse professional literature on TGD offenders in general, with no published studies on TGD adolescents or adults who have committed sexual offenses. As such, case presentations and audience participation will be utilized as a framework to discuss the special needs and gender identity development of TGD individuals in both inpatient and outpatient treatment programs for sexual offending. The presentation will also focus on the potential impact of gender identity concerns on dynamic risk and treatment approaches to address this risk among TGD adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour.

Learning Objectives



Summarize the socio-cultural and neurological research on gender identity development.



Discuss treatment of dynamic risk of sexual harm in adolescents with justice system involvement.



Utilize cultural humility as an approach to treating adolescents who engage in sexually abusive behavior.

Bio

Shan Jumper, Ph.D. received his doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of North Dakota and is licensed in Illinois as a Clinical Psychologist, Sex Offender Treatment Provider, and Sex Offender Evaluator. Dr. Jumper has worked in the field of sexual violence since 1991. Following a pre-doctoral internship in mental health and forensics at Connecticut Valley Hospital/Whiting Forensic Division, he was employed at the Sexually Violent Predator program in Wisconsin, where he conducted SVP re-examinations and provided court testimony and sex offense treatment. In 1999 Dr. Jumper joined the staff of the Sexually Violent Persons program at the Illinois Dept. of Human Services Treatment and Detention Facility as a psychologist, later serving as Treatment Team Leader and Associate Clinical Director. An employee of Liberty Healthcare, he has been the program's Executive Clinical Director since 2005. Dr. Jumper has worked in private practice as an expert witness, has published various peer reviewed articles and book chapters on sexual violence and has served on the adjunct faculty at Argosy University Chicago. Dr. Jumper served as the President of the Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA) from 2020-2021. He served on the ATSA board from 2013-2022 as Secretary and Treasurer in addition to his term as ATSA President.

WORKING WITH BIPOC YOUTH WITH SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS

Robert Wright: May 7 | 1:15pm



Overview:

We all stumble towards a healthy gender identity and sexual orientation. This is especially true for young people whose life experiences have led them to be involved with the criminal justice system. Add to this the intersection of being racialized, and it is clear that the management and supervision of BIPOC juvenile sex offenders will require deep insight and care.

In this workshop, we will discuss theories related to normative psycho-social development, the development of positive racial identity, the etiology of juvenile sex offending, and the effect of trauma and racial trauma on development. Some reflection on the Cultural Formulation Interview of the DSM-V will be made, though the workshop will challenge participants to go beyond "cultural" considerations to address the effect of racism in our practices.

From that knowledge base we will discuss concrete things that those practitioners who provide care for BIPOC Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems can do to improve the cultural competence of their work. This will support the 3 goals of juvenile sex offender management and care: Addressing the harm experienced by our clients; reducing the risks they present to others; and supporting them in their healthy development.

Bio

Robert Seymour Wright is a Social Worker and Sociologist whose 34 year career has spanned the fields of education, child welfare, forensic mental health, trauma, sexual violence, and cultural competence. A "clinician/academic/administrator," he has always integrated his work delivering direct practice clinical service to clients with teaching and supervising interns, and promoting lasting systemic change through social policy advocacy. He also consults, trains, speaks and comments on a wide range of issues. Robert was raised in the Black Baptist tradition but was baptized in the Adventist Church at the age of 13. Like James Baldwin, he began preaching at 14. His pioneering work with colleagues in cultural competence and conducting cultural assessments has received national attention. His extensive pro bono work gave birth to The Peoples' Counselling Clinic, a non-profit mental health clinic, which he serves as the Executive Director. Robert also serves as the acting Executive Director of the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute.

Learning Objectives

1

Participants will understand several principles of healthy youth development including psycho-sexual development and racial identity development.

2

Participants will understand racial identity as a significant factor to be considered in the care and supervision of juvenile sex offenders.

3

Participants will increase their comfort using the language of race, sex and gender.

THE 2024 CONTINUUM CONFERENCE

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Conference Schedule: Monday, May 6, 2024

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| 8:00am- 9:00am | Sign-In/ZOOM Registration Opens |
| 9:00am- 9:15am | Opening Remarks |
| 9:15am- 10:30am | One Size Does Not Fit All: Treatment of ID Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems Kevin Creedon, M.A., LMHC |
| 10:30am- 10:45am | Break |
| 10:45am- 12:00pm | One Size Does Not Fit All: Treatment of ID Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems (continued) Kevin Creedon, M.A., LMHC |
| 12:00pm- 1:00pm | Lunch Break on Your Own |
| 1:00pm- 2:00pm | Ensuring Positive Behavioural Supports for Individual with FASD who Engage in Problematic Sexual Behaviours Christa Outhwaite-Salmon, MSW, RSW & Lauren Ireland, M.A., BCBA |
| 2:00pm- 2:15pm | Today's Research, Tomorrow's Future |
| 2:15pm- 2:30pm | Break |
| 2:30pm- 4:00pm | Women Who Sexually Offend: Latest Findings and Implications for Intervention Franca Cortoni, Ph.D., CPsych |

THE 2024 CONTINUUM CONFERENCE

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Conference Schedule: Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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| 8:00am- 9:00am | Sign-In/ZOOM Registration Opens |
| 9:00am- 9:15am | Opening Remarks |
| 9:15am- 10:30am | Ensuring Effective Treatment for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder Who Cause Sexual Harm Kim Spence, Ph.D. |
| 10:30am- 10:45am | Break |
| 10:45am- 12:00pm | Working with Transgender and Gender Diverse Adults and Adolescents Who Sexually Harm Shan Jumper, Ph.D. |
| 12:00pm- 1:00pm | In-House Lunch (included in registration) |
| 1:00pm- 1:15pm | The Jim Shea Award Presentation |
| 1:15pm- 2:30pm | Working with BIPOC Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems Robert Wright, Social Worker and Sociologist |
| 2:30pm- 2:45pm | Break |
| 2:45pm- 4:00pm | Working with BIPOC Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems Robert Wright, Social Worker and Sociologist |



THE 2024 CONTINUUM CONFERENCE **BREAKING BARRIERS: NURTURING ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING ACROSS DIVERSE POPULATIONS**

Call for Nominations!

The Jim Shea Memorial Award for Outstanding Service:

Submission Deadline: Friday, April 12, 2024

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.

This award is made once a year to someone from the Continuum's membership who has made a significant contribution to the development and provision of services to youth who have sexually offended. 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 in this field of practice, and who have engaged in practice that is respectful, collaborative and effective.

Each year the Continuum Committee invites members of the Continuum to nominate someone who meets the following criteria:

- Nominees should have been involved in working for a significant period of time with youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour, their families and those affected by their offending behaviour.
- Their practice should have had an impact on the youth and/or service providers in Ontario.
- Their contribution to this field of practice, in whichever role they occupy, should be remarkable for its longevity, impact, novelty or scope.
- They have practiced in a way that has fostered appropriate attention to the issues and an appropriate regard for the youth we collectively serve.
- They have yet to receive recognition for their efforts that is clearly deserved.

Please forward your nominations with a brief summary outlining how your nominee meets the above criteria. Nominations should be submitted no later than 5:00p.m. on Friday, April 12, 2024.

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Nomination Form: (deadline: April 12, 2024)

Nominee Information:

Name of Nominee:

Affiliated Organization(s):

Credentials:

Years of Service:

How has the Nominee made a significant contribution to the development and provision of services to youth who have sexually offended?

Please email the nomination form to Patty Barnes: patty.barnes@mackenziehealth.ca

Thank you for your nomination!

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Registration Fees:

| IN-PERSON REGISTRATION | | VIRTUAL REGISTRATION | |
|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| General Admission | \$315 | General Admission | \$250 |
| Early Bird (to April 1st) | \$295 | Early Bird (to April 1st) | \$225 |
| Student/Group | \$295 | Student/Group | \$225 |

Important Notes:

- Student Fee - a photocopy of current Student I.D. must accompany registration. Email to: patty.barnes@mackenziehealth.ca.
- Group Fees - Applicable to three (3) or more from the same Agency/Organization. All individuals must register at the same time to receive the group discount.
- The Contact Person (CP) for the group should be listed below if different than the Primary Attendee.
- Participants who register online will receive an automatic registration confirmation by email following their payment submission. For those who submit their registration by fax or mail, confirmations will be generated and emailed from Eventbrite/Mackenzie Health prior to the conference.
- NOTE: We welcome an open and free exchange of ideas and perspectives at this year's Continuum Conference. Please note that we do not endorse nor repudiate the views and opinions of any of the guest speakers/presenters. Further, the target audience of the Continuum Conference is: mental health professionals, social workers, probation officers, residential staff, child welfare staff, judiciary, therapists and child and youth workers.
- The Continuum reserves the right to cancel workshops due, but not limited to, under enrollment, work stoppages, instructor illness or inclement weather.
- If cancelled, the Continuum is responsible for refunding only the registration fee paid less 10% service charge and is not responsible for any other expenses such as travel or hospitality.
- All refund requests must be made no later than April 8, 2024.
- A cancellation fee of \$20.00 will apply.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

- If you are paying via credit card, please register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-2024-continuum-conference-tickets-861072680567?aff=oddtcreator>
- If you are paying via cheque, please contact Patty Barnes at: patty.barnes@mackenziehealth.ca to arrange payment and confirm attendees.

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Hotel Bookings:

The Continuum Conference has a special group rate for the Novotel, North York. The instructions to secure this rate are below:

- Call hotel reservation directly at 416-733-2929 extension 1 and mention group name "Continuum Conference" or Block ID#1730110, to avail the special group rate
- By email: reservations@novotelnorthyork.com
- Reserve before 04-05-2024

The Continuum Conference Organizing Committee:

The Continuum Conference would not be possible without the people and organizations who support it. We would like to acknowledge the 2024 Continuum Conference organizing committee and their respective agencies:

Patty Barnes, Member
Mackenzie Health



Tiffany Charbonneau, Member
Mackenzie Health



Letitia Chow, Member
Lumenus Community Services



Karen Tinning, Member
Youth Justice



Youth Justice Division, Ministry of
Children, Community and Social Services

Kerrie Trotter, Member
EveryMind Mental Health Services

