

# ANNUAL WJCIA WISCONSIN JUVENILE COURT INTAKE ASSOCIATION TRAINING CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS BRAD GINGRAS | GAELIN ELMORE

SEPTEMBER  
20 | 21 | 22 2023

KALAHARI RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER  
IN WISCONSIN DELLS, WI

Online Registration ONLY  
at [www.wjcia.org](http://www.wjcia.org)

Full Conference Cost \$200

One Day Registration \$100

## HOTEL INFORMATION

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center | Wisconsin Dells, WI

Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for their hotel stay.

**HOTEL RATES** Single = \$90.00  
Double, Triple, Quad = \$139.00

## HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS

Book Here → <https://book.passkey.com/e/50525062>

Ask for Block of rooms under WJCIA; Available through August 20th at state rate

RESERVATIONS: 877-525-2427 | HOTEL PHONE: 608-254-5433

## Vendor Space Is Available

Exhibit space is available, at a moderate cost, to:

- Educational Institutions
- Public Agencies
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Government/Federal Agencies and vendors

The WJCIA website will link you to the vendor application at Constant Contact. Payment by vendors will be completed online only.

## CONFERENCE CANCELLATIONS & CHANGES:

A \$50 cancellation fee will be withheld from all refunds if canceling 2 weeks prior to the event.  
Anytime prior to the 2 weeks, there will be a \$30 handling/membership fee withheld.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

### Keynote: Unmasked! Understanding How Today's Youth are Navigating this Wild World

*Brad Gingras*

Today's youth are experiencing a world drastically different from what most adults have been raised in. Technology advances seemingly in the blink of an eye. We can conduct most of our lives without needing to leave the home. What tool are we going to communicate with today? These changes along with many more influences are defining GenZ and Generation Alpha. This session will explore how the influences impacting today's youth result in different habits, characteristics and more.

### Conducting Difficult Conversation

*Brad Gingras*

Stressful, frustrating, anxiety producing, but inevitable and necessary. Difficult conversations for many is the hardest part of the job, whether as a leader or mentor for youth. There are right ways and very wrong ways to do it. This engaging session will provide and discuss approaches, strategies, preparing for the conversation, scenarios and more.

### Ethics and Boundaries: Navigating Systems and Helping Families in Challenging Times

*Janet Holter*

This session will focus on the multiple considerations and challenges present in contemporary practice, with specific emphasis on the ethical issues related to working in resource restricted environments and helping families significantly impacted by current societal conditions.

### Diversion Programs Proven to Work

*Bryan Wright*

New diversionary programs are being offered throughout Wisconsin and the Nation addressing issues from sexting to vaping even truancy. Dynamic Family Solutions has designed and developed new 2nd chance educational alternative programming that is proving to be highly effective, engaging and working to relate with youth in a way that is making a lasting change within their lives and the communities.

### Sex Offender with Intellectual Disabilities: A Brief Introduction

*Amanda Fenrich*

This presentation will provide an overview of sex offender treatment, how Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) applies to sexual offenders, specifically those with intellectual disabilities, and common diagnosis for clients needing adapted treatment. Additionally, this presentation will highlight how sexual offenders differ from other clients, case studies, and include tips and recommendations for working with this population.

### Basic Drugs and Collaboration during Drug Investigations

*Benjamin Miller*

Using the Drug Recognition program model, a brief overview of illegal drugs and what they do to your body will be provided. This will include how the drugs affect your brain and what causes a person to become impaired. The clinical and physical signs of impairment will be discussed. There will be also discussion on how law enforcement and human services can work together.



## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

### Protecting Our Youth in a Digital World

*Dawn Heath-Fiedler*

The greatest risk facing our youth online is ACCESS. Social media is the new "mall" and is widely used by predators to groom and exploit those who are vulnerable. As a result, education and awareness and teaching our youth and our local community is increasingly helpful in recognizing the unique role our youth can play in preventing and disrupting this crime among their peers. Traffickers are capitalizing on the lack of awareness around this issue within our youth and the adults not recognizing the key indicators.

### Motivational Interviewing (MI): Utilizing the Spirit and Skills of MI to Improve the YASI Experience for the Teen AND the Helper

*Laura Saunders & Lauren Hollie*

In this highly interactive session, participants will have multiple opportunities to assess the utility of various MI skills for enhancing the quality of the recommendations and case planning completed within the YASI. Building on strengths, we'll present a MI enhanced YASI assessment. After participating in didactics, large and small group discussions and introspection, individuals will leave with a clear sense of how MI could fit into their individual practice.

### Essential Components of Sex Offender Treatment: How to Focus on Risk Relevant Variables and Collaborate Across Agencies

*Valerie Gonsalves*

Effective clinical intervention with individuals who have engaged in sexually abusive behavior has the common goal of reducing recidivism. Research has demonstrated that treatment can help to lower an individual's likelihood of recidivation if the therapist adheres to certain principles. Participants will learn about risk assessment with individuals who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviors, and how risk assessment drives treatment.

### Understanding Truancy Laws and Best Practices

*Julie Incitti and Alana Peck*

While referrals for truancy have spiked in Wisconsin in the years following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, current research has found referring youth to the YJ system for habitual absences may hurt more than it helps. The most effective truancy reduction strategies include activities implemented across a continuum of supports and active community collaboration.

### Putting Families First: Initiatives, Innovation, and the Future

*Dana Johnson and Ragen Shapiro*

Spinning your wheels in interventions and work with youth involved in the youth justice system? Stuck in trying to connect the dots of youth justice and the Family First 'Putting Families First' efforts by the Department of Children and Families? We will take a dive into the new landscape of youth justice that focuses on family-centered practice rather than child-centered; explore how to engage families in a different way and learn to service youth in the context of their family. We will explore concepts that connect delinquency and diversion as critical pieces to serving families to make a difference once again.

### Creating a Restorative Safe Place for Youth with Language and Learning Disabilities

*Dr. Shameka Stewart*

Restorative justice approaches are designed with the expectation that the youth involved will recognize and attend to the harmful impact of a crime and then appreciate and identify their accountability for their actions. However, this expectation becomes flawed when utilized with youth who may have an IEP or experiencing language and learning disabilities. This workshop will guide participants through the understanding of how to design and implement restorative safe spaces for youth that may have difficulty comprehending and appreciating the typical restorative justice approach.

### Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings

*Eileen Hirsch and Diana Rondini*

The presentation will begin with a review of access to juvenile court records. The presenters will then inform the attendees of the collateral consequences in the areas of education, employment and licensing, military, housing and public benefits, sex offender registration, and immigration consequences. Attendees will work through a fact pattern as it relates to a child referred to the juvenile justice system and the various consequences based upon the stated areas.

### Preventing Criminalization of Challenging Behavior in Schools

*Deb Ramacher and Hugh Davis*

Behavior that in the past may have landed a student in detention is now landing them in court, facing charges of everything from truancy to disorderly conduct to assault. In many cases, the students most at risk for experiencing this ineffective and punitive treatment are students with disabilities and mental health needs. In this presentation, we will take a look at how we got here and what we can do to get back to the business of teaching and nurturing the children and youth in our communities.

### Mental Health in the School: A Mental Health Coordinator's Role

*Megan Fritz*

Youth mental health needs are on the rise, and families, schools, and communities are struggling to meet the need. Many schools in Wisconsin are utilizing grant funding to establish a new position within their districts: Mental Health Coordinators/Navigators. Join this session to see how a school in Wisconsin is focusing on mindfulness, community support, systematic support for staff and students, and a move toward creating a trauma-sensitive school.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

### The Belonging Difference: A Key to Unlocking Potential

*Gaelin Elmore*

Belonging is an innate and fundamental need that we all have. It influences many of our decisions throughout any given day, whether we realize it or not. Research and experts have shown the exponential impact of genuine and authentic experiences of belonging. It can increase motivation, problem-solving, emotional, mental, and physical health, and resiliency, to name a few. Unfortunately, we also know that if a youth has experienced childhood adversity of any sort, their relationship with family, school, or community is often destroyed in the process; and sometimes all three. Backed by research and lived experience, this workshop is about how you can begin to erase the belonging gap, and how belonging is the difference in the lives of the youth you serve.

THE WISCONSIN JUVENILE COURT INTAKE ASSOCIATION (WJCIA) is a professional Association for intake workers, juvenile justice and child protection professionals. In December 1980, the Association was created and saw a need for training and sharing of information. WJCIA held its first conference in July 1981, offering training at basic and advanced levels. The Association has continued to offer relevant training. WJCIA has also developed an informative newsletter, "Prima Facie", in an effort to keep members up-to-date on issues regarding children and families. The Association has been active in developing positions on key legislative issues so that input can be provided on matters, which affect juvenile intake workers and other family services staff. WJCIA strives to develop effective resolutions for the common problems of intake workers, juvenile justice and other child protection professionals. WJCIA maintains a web site at [www.wjcia.org](http://www.wjcia.org).



### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

3:00 pm	Final 2022 –2023 WJCIA Board Meeting
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### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

7:30 am - 9:00 am	Registration - NEW - BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN (Starbucks will be available in the hallway for you to purchase)		
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Announcements by WJCIA President & Presentation of Recognition Award		
9:30 am - 10:30 am	<b>OPENING SESSION - Unmasked! Understanding How Today's Youth are Navigating this Wild World</b> - Brad Gingras		
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Break		
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	<b>GENERAL SESSION - Unmasked! Understanding How Today's Youth are Navigating this Wild World</b> - Brad Gingras		
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Complimentary lunch for all attendees/Annual Business Meeting of WJCIA		
1:00 pm - 2:45 pm	<b>Ethics and Boundaries: Navigating Systems and Helping Families in Challenging Times</b> - Janet Holter	<b>Diversion Programs Proven to Work</b> - Bryan Wright	<b>Conducting Difficult Conversations</b> - Brad Gingras
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Break		
3:00 pm - 4:30/5 pm	<b>Ethics and Boundaries: Navigating Systems and Helping Families in Challenging Times</b> - Janet Holter	<b>Sex Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities: A Brief Introduction</b> - Amanda Fenrich	<b>Basic Drugs and Collaboration during Drug Investigations</b> - Benjamin Miller
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Hospitality 5-7 PM		

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Registration - NEW - BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN (Starbucks will be available in the hallway for you to purchase)		
8:30 am - 10:15 am	<b>Protecting Our Youth in a Digital World</b> - Dawn Heath-Fiedler	<b>Motivational Interviewing (MI): Utilizing the Spirit and Skills of MI to Improve the YASI Experience for the Teen AND the Helper</b> - Laura Saunders & Lauren Hollie	<b>Essential Components of Sex Offender Treatment: How to Focus on Risk Relevant Variables and Collaborate Across Agencies</b> - Valerie Gonsalves
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Break		
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Basic Drugs and Collaboration During Drug Investigations (Repeat)</b> - Benjamin Miller	<b>Understanding Truancy Laws and Best Practices</b> - Julie Incitti & Alana Peck	<b>Essential Components of Sex Offender Treatment: How to Focus on Risk Relevant Variables and Collaborate Across Agencies (Cont.)</b> - Valerie Gonsalves
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Complimentary lunch for all attendees		
1:00 pm - 2:45 pm	<b>Putting Families First: Initiatives, Innovation, and the Future</b> - Dana Johnson & Ragen Shapiro	<b>Creating a Restorative Safe Place for Youth with Language and Learning Disabilities</b> - Dr. Shameka Stewart	<b>Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings</b> - Eileen Hirsch & Diane Rondini
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Break		
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	<b>Preventing Criminalization of Challenging Behavior in Schools</b> - Deb Ramacher & Hugh Davis	<b>Mental Health in the School: A Mental Health Coordinator's Role</b> - Megan Fritz	<b>Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings (Cont.)</b> - Eileen Hirsch & Diane Rondini
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Hospitality and Corn Hole Tournament		

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Registration - NEW - BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN (Starbucks will be available in the hallway for you to purchase)
8:30 am - 10:00 am	<b>The Belonging Difference: A Key to Unlocking Potential</b> - Gaelin Elmore
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am - 11:45 am	<b>The Belonging Difference: A Key to Unlocking Potential</b> - Gaelin Elmore