29th Annual
Virtual Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference

“THE POWER OF OPPORTUNITY”
Creating Growth Through Effective Mental Health Supports

December 1 and 2, 2021

Behavioral Healthcare Education
Hi all.

Well, here we are, with another virtual event. It is 2021 and yes, the PA Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference is still virtual. When the conference planning committee met to begin the process of developing the agenda, the pesky COVID-19 Delta variant was a member of the planning committee. With that said, we have assembled a spectacular online educational program.

Our plenary sessions detail the Stepping Up project, which is a national program designed to reduce the numbers of people with mental illness in jails. We will also hear about the Council of State Government’s renewed research to practice initiative with its aim to demonstrate improved outcomes for persons involved in criminal justice settings. The concept of positive community norms will offer methods to reconceptualize our messages and style of communication. Additionally, we will hear about two divergent but in some way similar topics, white collar crime and gangs. The similarities are that in both groups there is powerful group contagion that condones and increases illegal behavior. The differences usually are usually in the socioeconomic arena. The workshop will offer skill-building sessions to use in your own settings.

Our awards ceremony will be just before lunch on Wednesday and will highlight colleagues who have achieved excellence in working with challenging populations.

The advantage of this virtual event is that you can earn additional continuing education credits by viewing sessions at your convenience. The conference will be available to registrants until December 31, 2021, and you will be able to see all of the workshop offerings. Once you complete the evaluation tool and a validation tool, you will receive your CE credit. Come and join the 2021 Conference Planning Committee as we present this outstanding program.

Conference Co-chairs,

William A. Holt

Connie Weiler PhD
**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**

- Clinical and Support Staff, Program Managers, Advocates, and Administrators
- Corrections, Probation/Parole, Prisons/Jails
- Specialized Mental Health Facilities, Specialized Drug and Alcohol Facilities
- Psychologists, Counselors, Social Workers, Nurses and Educators working in all systems

**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

- Describe the benefits of the Stepping Up Initiative.
- Cite the usefulness of positive norms for programs and communities.
- Identify treatment approaches for persons involved with forensic settings.
- Recognize that critical decision making can be influenced by numerous factors.

**CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- Donna N. McNelis  
  *Drexel University/BHE*  
  *Conference Co-chair*
- James Fouts  
  *Forensic System Solutions*
- Yolanda Ramirez  
  *Drexel University/BHE*
- William A. Holt  
  *Conference Co-chair*
- Virginia Mastrine  
  *PA OMHSAS*
- Joseph Scotti  
  *PA DOC*
- Anna Auch  
  *Drexel University/BHE*
- Chris Owens  
  *Drexel University/BHE*
- Jessica Penn Shires  
  *PA OMHSAS*
- Tory Bright  
  *PMHCC*
- Greg Plotica  
  *PA DOC*
- Danielle Tedesco  
  *PMHCC*
**APA (Psychology):** Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education maintains responsibility for the program and its content. This program is being offered for up to 10 hours of continuing education.

**PSNA (Nursing):** Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Participants will be awarded a maximum of 10 contact hours for attending this program.

**LSW/LCSW/LPC/LMFT (PA SBSWE Licensed Social Workers in Pennsylvania):** Drexel University College of Medicine is a preapproved provider of continuing education for Social Workers and Clinical Social Workers. This program is being offered for up to 10 hours of continuing education.

**CEU (IACET):** Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education has been accredited as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), 1760 Old Meadow Road, Suite 500, McLean, VA 22102. In obtaining this approval, Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education has demonstrated that it complies with the ANSI/IACET Standard which is widely recognized as the Standard of good practice internationally. As a result of their Authorized Provider accreditation status, Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education is authorized to offer IACET CEUs for its programs that qualify under the ANSI/IACET Standard. Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education, is authorized by IACET to offer 1.0 CEUs for this conference.

**PA Educators Act 48:** Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education is recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to offer continuing education credits under Act 48 guidelines. Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education adheres to Act 48 Continuing Education Guidelines. PA educators will receive a maximum of 10 hours of credit for attending this complete program.

**PCB PA Certified addiction counselor (CAC) Certified Co-Occurring Disorders Professional (CCDP) and CCDP-D (Diplomate):** Drexel University College of Medicine will award a maximum of 10 hours of PCB Approved Hours of Education for participants attending the conference. Our program is certified by the Pennsylvania Certification Board Provider #133.

**CPRP:** Drexel University College of Medicine/BHE is approved by the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (Provider #010374) to Practitioners. Drexel University College of Medicine/BHE maintains responsibility for the program and its content. This program is being offered for up to 10 hours of continuing education.
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Plenary I: Strengthening Responses to People with Behavioral Health Needs and Reducing Justice Involvement Through Stepping Up

Gretchen Frank, JD
A Senior Policy Analyst, Behavioral Health Division, The Council of State Governments Justice Center provides technical assistance to Pennsylvania counties participating in the Stepping Up Initiative through the Pennsylvania Stepping Up Technical Assistance Center. Before joining the CSG Justice Center, Gretchen was a policy analyst for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where she worked to ensure that the city and state were enacting equitable policies focused on the mental health and well-being of the city’s children and families. She previously worked as a child welfare attorney for the New York City Administration for Children’s Services. She received her BS from Cornell University and her JD from the University at Buffalo Law School.

Susanne (Susie) Fink, MHS
Has worked in the substance abuse/mental health field for the past 21 years. She has clinical experience working with adults to adolescents in an array of settings. While living in Maine, Susie had the privilege to work with a Native American tribe (The Maliseet’s) as the Program Director for the Domestic & Sexual Violence Center. This experience allowed her to interact closely with the town Police Department as well as the County Sheriff’s Office. Currently she is the Mental Health Diversion Specialist in the Chester County MH/IDD Office. In this position she coordinates the CIT training for Chester County, DCORT Coordinator, Stepping Up Initiative Coordinator and is also a trainer in Youth Mental Health First Aid & QPR.

Ashley Yinger, PhD
Is the Criminal Justice Programming Administrator at the Dauphin County District Attorney’s office. Within that role, she serves as the Stepping Up coordinator. In 2016, Dauphin County worked with the Council of State Government to receive technical assistance which resulted in recommendations to address individuals with SMI in the local prison. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for law enforcement and a Co-Responder program model, working side by side with law enforcement are two of the recommendations that Dr. Yinger implemented and is overseeing, among a few other diversionary initiatives within the county. Prior to Dauphin County, she was the Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention Administrator in Franklin and Fulton counties.

Plenary II: The Criminal Mind and the Gangster

Todd D. Negola, PsyD
A clinical/forensic psychologist working for the federal government (Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Department of Veterans Affairs) for the past 25 years. He conducts training internationally and consults regularly with federal, state and local law enforcement as well as public and private educational institutions, community programs and mental health personnel. He has published research

Plenary III: Ethics, Authenticity & Integrity

Rashmi Airan, Consultant
A keynote speaker and consultant determined to create organizational cultures focused on integrity, authenticity, and accountability. Rashmi instills audiences with the energy and understanding to create the safe space that will allow us to engage in courageous conversations in all aspects of our lives. She will create a strategy for any organization to address reputational risk issues as they arise. Rashmi utilizes her personal experiences with prison to share her human performance methodology, technique and mindset that will catalyze leadership, growth and stability in all organizations.
Plenary IV: Growing Forward: Clinical and Operational Enhancements from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections’ Psychology Office

Lucas D. Malishchak, DBA
Director of the Psychology Office for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. In this leadership role, Lucas and his team are responsible for developing, managing, and supervising the administrative and clinical oversight of the mental health care system of Pennsylvania’s 24 State Correctional Institutions. This oversight includes an infrastructure of approximately 335 qualified mental health professionals that support the health and psychological well-being of nearly 38,000 incarcerated individuals. In 2016, Lucas accepted a formal invitation to join the teaching faculty of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), a division of the United States Department of Justice, in Aurora, Colorado, as national subject matter expert in the delivery of mental health care services within Restrictive Housing settings. Since 2017, Lucas and his team within the Psychology Office have led efforts within the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to continue to improve the quality of Psychological Services delivered to incarcerated individuals and to enhance the safety and well-being of these individuals and DOC staff.

Plenary V: Reducing System Involvement among People with Serious Mental Illnesses: Using Research to Advance Policy and Practice

Sarah Desmaris, PhD
A Senior Vice President with Policy Research Associates [PRA] is responsible for developing and providing oversight on research projects and administrative and management duties that support a variety of other projects. She works on issues at the intersection of public health, community safety, and social justice. Her current research is focused on evidence-based practices for reducing detention rates, especially among people with behavioral health needs. She provides technical assistance and consultation to behavioral health, criminal justice, and intelligence agencies throughout the United States and abroad on problems and solutions for implementation, policy, and practice. Dr. Desmarais has authored more than 120 peer-reviewed publications in journals including the American Journal of Public Health, Criminal Justice and Behavior, and Law and Human Behavior. She has served as principal investigator and co-investigator on grants and contracts from foundations and government agencies including the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Justice, and the National Science Foundation. Her work has been featured in national media outlets such as the Washington Post and HBO’s Last Week Tonight with John Oliver.

Plenary VI: Positive Community Norms: Uncovering the Positive to Increase Health

Sara Thompson, Trainer
A Senior Trainer with The Montana Institute who specializes in training and technical assistance with Positive Community Norms communications. Sara was introduced to Dr. Jeff Linkenbach’s work with the Science of the Positive and Positive Community Norms (PCN) frameworks in 2006; these transformative new approaches challenged her perceptions, reignited her passion for prevention leadership, and renewed her energy for her work. Through The Montana Institute, she offers consultation, training, tool development, and technical support to communities who are applying the Science of the Positive process and Positive Community Norms approach to prevention and is a featured trainer and faculty member of the annual Montana Summer Institute in Big Sky. Sara is privileged to collaborate with some of the most experienced prevention specialists, innovative thought leaders and cutting-edge social science researchers in the country.
### Wednesday December 1, 2021

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<td>9:00 – 9:15</td>
<td><strong>WELCOME AND OVERVIEW</strong> – Donna N. McNelis, PhD (Conference Co-chair)</td>
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<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION I:</strong> Strengthening Responses to People with Behavioral Health Needs and Reducing Justice Involvement Through Stepping Up - Gretchen Frank, JD; Susanne Fink, MHS (Chester County, PA); Ashley Yinger, PhD (Dauphin County, PA)</td>
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<td>10:15 – 10:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:30</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION II:</strong> The Criminal Mind and the Gangster – Todd D. Negola, PsyD</td>
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<td>11:30 – 12:00</td>
<td><strong>AWARD CEREMONY</strong></td>
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<td>12:00 – 1:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:00 – 2:00</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION III:</strong> Ethics, Authenticity &amp; Integrity – Rashmi Airan</td>
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<td>2:00 – 2:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>2:15 – 3:15</td>
<td><strong>CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS I:</strong> W01 – W03</td>
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<td>3:15 – 3:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>3:30 – 4:30</td>
<td><strong>CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS II:</strong> W11 – W13</td>
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### Thursday December 2, 2021

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<th>Time</th>
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| 9:00 – 9:15 | **WELCOME AND OVERVIEW** – Bill Holt, MSS, CCCJS (Conference Co-Chair)  
**WELCOME FROM OMHSAS** – Kristen Houser, Deputy Secretary OMHSAS |
| 9:15 – 10:15 | **PLENARY SESSION IV:** Growing Forward: Clinical and Operational Enhancements from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections’ Psychology Office – Lucas D. Malishchak, DBA |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Break |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | **PLENARY SESSION V:** Reducing System Involvement among People with Serious Mental Illnesses: Using Research to Advance Policy and Practice – Sarah Desmaris, PhD |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | **PLENARY SESSION VI:** Positive Community Norms: Uncovering the Positive to Increase Health – Sara Thompson |
| 12:30 – 1:30 | Lunch |
| 1:30 – 2:30 | **CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS III:** T21 – T23 |
| 2:30 – 2:45 | Break |
| 2:45 – 3:45 | **CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS IV:** T24 – T26 |
| 3:45 | Closing |
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2021

2:15 – 3:15 - CONCURRENT SESSIONS I

W01 What I Learned By Almost Dying

Allen Lycka, MD, FRCP, ABD, FAAD
Edmonton, Alberta, CA

In February 2003 this presenter was walking with his wife and youngest daughter at the when his wife noticed his foot was making an audible “flap” with each step he took. In the prime of his life, he was perplexed by this sudden development. Going through a full range of tests, the dozens of doctors he sought out were equally perplexed. One leading neurologist delivered the devastating blow that he had ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) and he would only live six more months. After going through depression, anger, rage, and denial—he began a search for another answer. Indeed, he found an answer to his dilemma and continued to work and rededicated his life to appreciate living fully and being of service to others. During this session, the audience will hear the 13 “Golden Pearls” he learned from his journey, plus there will be activities to integrate them into their lives.

W02 The Importance of Healthy Coping Skills in the Work Environment

Tricia M. Mikolon, PhD, CRC, LPC, BC-TMH
Amy Talipski, MS, CRC, LPC
Williamsburg, KY
Scranton, PA

Work environments impact the wellbeing of those who are employed there. Wellness is an imperative in our contemporary employed lives. Using healthy coping skills including setting necessary boundaries, self-care, and use of positive support can assist in managing work-related stressors. These active steps to manage stress were found to be protective factors in managing work-life balance. Healthy coping skills to assist employees in managing their workplace stress in a proactive manner will be discussed in this presentation.

W03 The Pessimist’s Guide to Helping: “Why Do We Even Bother?”

Chris Owens, MA, LPC, CCTP
Philadelphia, PA

Let’s face it - what we do doesn’t work nearly as well as we would like. Since nothing (and no one) ever seems to change for the better, what’s the point? The first part of this discussion-oriented workshop will explore multiple variables that lead to our field’s generally low “success” rates, as well as the disdain that helpers often have towards the system as a whole. This session will address why helpers chose to enter the field and discuss the need for therapeutic spirit that helpers must have in order to continue to make the effort to help others. After this frank conversation, the closing section will aim to inspire by focusing on the empowering and optimistic reasons that answer the pessimistic question, “Why do we even bother?”

3:15 – 3:30 - BREAK
**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS**

**3:30 – 4:30 - CONCURRENT SESSIONS II**

**W11** The Quiet Hero: Emotional Intelligence (EI) – A Review of Concepts and Current Practices to Teach EI in Incarcerated-Based Programs

Wendy Hoerner, MSW, LSW  
Camp Hill, PA

Danielle M. Tedesco, MA in A.T., LPC ATR-BC  
Camp Hill, PA

The underpinnings of effective therapy include Emotional Intelligence (EI) which is critical to better decision making. Knowing one’s emotions will help when assisting others with developing insights into their emotions. It is imperative to teach those who struggle with this skill for it is the foundation for developing empathy. This session provides an academic review on core concepts of emotional intelligence and offers examples, through case vignettes, of current programs utilized with the justice-involved while incarcerated at state facilities.

**W12** Autism and Forensic Interviewing

Kate Hooven, MS  
Philadelphia, PA

This presenter is the Justice Project Coordinator for the Autism Services, Education, Resources, & Training (ASERT) Collaborative who is also a former Juvenile Probation Officer and mother of a 20-year-old son with autism. This session will review the various characteristics of autism and how individuals with autism are susceptible to victimization. Session attendees will gain an understanding of the various communication strategies that will enable a forensic interviewer to gather necessary information. Various resources that can be used by professionals will also be shared.

**W13** Demystifying the Psychopath: Unraveling Fact from Fiction

Lindsay Martin, PhD, LPC, NCC  
Philadelphia, PA

Anti-social, sociopathic, and psychopathic individuals appear in writings dating back thousands of years. Their behaviors produce great burdens throughout society. While 50-80% of the prison population is diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder, psychopathic individuals comprise a much smaller group. Armed with decades of research and clinical anecdotes, psychopaths are viewed as particularly dangerous, have extremely high recidivism rates, and are viewed as untreatable. In this course, we will review long-held narratives about the psychopath and consider the possibility these individuals may indeed be amenable to change.
THURSDAY DECEMBER 2, 2021

1:30 – 2:30 – CONCURRENT SESSIONS III

**T21 LGBTQ Older Adults in the Criminal Justice System**

Miranda L. Galbreath, MA, MA, LPC
Albion, PA

Awareness is growing about the unique needs of incarcerated older adults and incarcerated LGBTQ folks. However, little is understood about the unique experiences and needs of a particularly vulnerable population: LGBTQ older adults who are involved with the criminal justice system. This presentation seeks to begin to bridge our knowledge gap regarding this overlooked population which often struggles with high rates of medical, mental health and trauma issues.

**T22 Is It Psychiatric or Behavioral? Implications for Understanding and Treating Mental and Behavioral Health Disorders in Corrections**

Joseph R. Scotti, PhD, BCBA-D
Waynesburg, PA

When addressing the mental and behavioral health problems of incarcerated persons, we seek the source of those problems. Typically, we first consider that psychiatric disorders have a biological cause; therefore, they should respond to psychiatric medication. When medications fail, we consider a “behavioral” cause; however, this typically means viewing the behavior as “volitional” or “intentional.” This tension between “biological causes” and “intentional acts” is a false dichotomy. A more fruitful approach is a multidimensional model of genetic and biological variables that contribute to psychiatric symptoms, with an understanding of the complex learning histories of individuals and how present circumstances set the occasion for difficult, complex, and even self-destructive behavior.

**T23 The Social Impacts of Mental Illness and Their Relationship to Criminogenic Risk Factors**

Jim Fouts, LSW

Mental Illness can impact people in many ways. Social Impacts can include substance abuse, housing issues, family conflicts, poverty, job/school difficulties, and a lack of positive leisure activities. Research states only about a 4% chance of mental illness directly causing a person to become involved with the criminal justice System. Social impacts can indirectly cause an increase in criminogenic risk factors. We will look at these impacts and discuss ways to assess for indirect risks.

2:30-2:45 - Break
T24 Incompetent to Stand Trial: A Mobile Competency Restoration Team and Their Effort to Support Counties in Pennsylvania

Amber Chembars Meyerl, MSEd, LBS, LPC
Baden PA
Rebecca Trout, MS
Baden PA
Lori Grimes-Harvey, MEd, MBA, MHA
Baden PA

If an individual is charged with a crime but lacks a factual and/or rational understanding of their circumstance, and/or an ability to aid in their own defense, a judge may deem an individual “Incompetent to Stand Trial.” Competency restoration is of significant concern to the forensic community. Rapid access to restoration programming that is person-centered, efficient, and offered on an outpatient basis has transformed the way individuals receive support in nine counties across Pennsylvania.

T25 Dimensions of Burnout Among Treatment Teams Working with Sex Offenders

Ellen Foraker, MA, LPC
Norristown, PA
Brianna Pettet, MS
Norristown, PA

Are you experiencing feelings of cynicism, detachment from your job, and a sense of ineffectiveness? Those feelings could be related to burnout. In this presentation, seasoned clinicians will address the expected and unexpected reasons for burnout among professional working with the sexual offender population. You will receive realistic and practical tools that can be utilized immediately to combat burnout from professionals working in the field.

T26 RE-LINK: A Re-Entry Case Management Intervention for Young Adults

Odessa Summers, MSW (candidate)
Malik Marrow, BSW

Action Wellness’ RE-LINK Program provides intensive, harm reduction-focused case management and navigation assistance for young adults leaving incarceration for up to 24 months. Program staff link participants to an array of public health, social service, and primary care providers during the course of the five-year project. As a result, participants demonstrated statistically significant positive changes across four of five core measures, and have a reduced recidivism rate after receiving the program intervention.
Registration Information

Registration is now open online

Please go to the website at www.drexelmed.edu/bhe and click on the Conference tab or Use this link to the registration portal for the 29th Annual [Virtual] Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference: 29th Forensic Registration

There are two ways to register:
1. Online with credit card payments through our secure website
2. If you are unable to register online with a payment, please contact us at bheweb@drexel.edu for more information.

All communication from BHE will be electronic and your continuing education certificate will be emailed to you within 3 weeks of the conference. This will give you an opportunity to accumulate more credits by viewing additional concurrent sessions after the conference. The sessions will be available for your viewing until December 31, 2021.

Conference Fees
Full 2-Day Conference – December 1 & 2, 2021 - $100 One Day Conference - $50

You will have the opportunity on the registration screen to choose whether you wish to attend the full conference or choose one of the individual conference days. Refunds will be made up until five (5) days prior to the conference minus a $25 administrative fee. All refund requests must be emailed to us in writing at bheweb@drexel.edu. Substitute attendees are permitted with approval from the Registrar prior to the conference. Note: If you do not cancel and do not attend, you are still responsible for payment.

For more information or if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at bheweb@drexel.edu or Call us at 215-831-4055.

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