

# 32nd Annual PA Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference



**Forensic Treatment:  
What We Know: Myths or Facts**  
December 4 and 5, 2024



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Division of Behavioral  
Healthcare Education

*College of Medicine*

# WELCOME

Greetings to our esteemed colleagues:

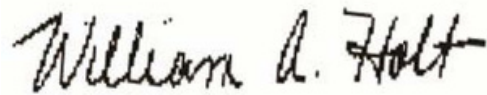
It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 PA Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference. This year, we are offering a plenary session detailing the legal system in the Commonwealth of PA. We continue to investigate aspects of trauma-informed care and working with victims of trafficking and partner violence. We are discussing aspects of neuro- and gender diversity and identifying methods to enhance belonging and inclusion. We are fortunate to offer a first-person perspective demonstrating recovery and transition from gang involvement to dedication and education for empowering youth and young adults.

The awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 11:45 a.m. ET. In being consistent with past years, this virtual event will allow you to earn additional continuing education credits by viewing sessions at your convenience. The conference will be available to registrants until December 31, 2024, and you will be able to watch all workshop offerings. Once you complete the evaluation tool and a validation tool, you will receive your CE credit.

Conference co-chairs,



*Drexel University/BHE Conference Co-chair*



*Conference Co-chair*

# PA FORENSIC RIGHTS AND TREATMENT CONFERENCE

## Who Should Attend

- Clinical and support staff, program managers, advocates and administrators.
- Officials and officers in corrections, probation/parole and prisons/jails.
- Specialized mental health, drug and alcohol program providers.
- Psychologists, counselors, social workers, nurses and educators working in all systems.
- Other constituents interested in this area of behavioral healthcare.

## Educational Objectives

- Identify the strengths and recovery process from a first-person perspective.
- Continue to explore the impact of human trafficking.
- Cite a basic understanding of complexities of the legal system.
- Name successful approaches used with neurodivergent individuals.
- Visualize social determinants of health and decriminalization.

## Conference Planning Committee

Donna N. McNelis, Drexel University/BHE Conference Co-chair  
William A. Holt, Conference Co-chair  
Danny Beauchamp, SE Regional MH Services Coordination Office  
Virginia Mastrine, PA OMHSAS  
Jessica Penn Shires, PA DOC  
Greg Plotica, PA DOC  
Tamara Ramos, PA OMHSAS  
Jason Snyder, RCPA  
Danielle Tedesco, PA DOC  
Anna Auch, Drexel University/BHE  
Karin Gladney, Drexel University/BHE  
Chris Owens, Drexel University/BHE  
Yolanda Ramirez, Drexel University/BHE



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# CREDIT INFORMATION

## APA (Psychology):

Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education is approved by 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 11.5 hours of continuing education.



## LSW/LCSW/LPC/LMFT (PA SBSWE Licensed Social Workers in Pennsylvania):

Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education is a preapproved provider of continuing education for Social Workers and Clinical Social Workers. This program is being offered for up to 11.5 hours of continuing education.



## 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 11.5 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, Behavioral Healthcare Education will award a maximum of 11.5 hours of PCB Approved Hours of Education for participants attending the conference. Our program is certified by the Pennsylvania Certification Board Provider #133.



## 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 11.5 contact hours for attending this program.



## CPRP:

Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education is approved by the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (Provider #O10374) to Practitioners. Drexel University College of Medicine, Behavioral Healthcare Education maintains responsibility for the program and its content. This program is being offered for up to 11.5 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 1.15 CEUs for this conference.



# FACULTY LISTING

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# PLENARY BIOS

## Plenary I:

**Judge Victor Reyes, JD (Ret.)**, served as a district judge from January 1999, through December 2014, in the 10th Judicial District located in Pueblo, Colorado. He has presided over criminal, civil, county court appeals, probate, domestic, restraining order, juvenile, and dependency and neglect matters. Judge Reyes has also participated in nationwide training, curriculum development and writing on all aspects of the law that impact children, their families and victims of domestic violence. He has written presentations on compassionate leadership, engaged justice and implied bias. Judge Reyes has also facilitated international and nationwide trainings with a variety of groups and organizations on issues related to mindfulness, every aspect related to domestic violence, the effects of vicarious trauma on judicial officers and compassionate judicial leadership. He is a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.

## Plenary II:

**Melissa Howley, MS**, is a victim advocate with over 20 years of experience, providing direct victim services for various government and law enforcement agencies. She is frequently called upon to offer guidance, training and operational assistance within the field of victim services, specifically as it relates her expertise in the area of sex trafficking. Her work with sex trafficking victims began in 2003 with a federal case involving 125 minor and adult sex trafficking victims who were identified, located and provided with victim services. Over the next two decades of working with sex trafficking victims, she discovered a significant overlap between victimization and criminal convictions within this population. She worked diligently to ensure a strong service-based component was embedded within the criminal justice response to sex trafficking, by creating strong partnerships with service providers and bridging the gap between law enforcement and those providers. Currently, Melissa works at SCI-Camp Hill as a Psychological Service Associate and facilitates a Men's Trauma Recovery and Empowerment group for incarcerated men with a history of trauma, including trafficking victimization. She also provides training to the PA Department of Corrections, PA State Parole and Bureau of Community Corrections, to encourage more comprehensive support services and coordination of care for incarcerated trafficking victims and reentrants.

## Plenary III:

**Michael DeLeon, CADC**, is a voice rarely heard by jail and prison inmates, especially while incarcerated. He has a personal message to share after spending over 20 years in addiction, gang involvement and criminal activity, 12 years behind the walls of New Jersey State Prisons and its halfway house system, and five years probation. Since Michael's release from prison, he has earned three associate degrees and a baccalaureate degree in business, with a minor in criminal justice and a CADC Educational Certificate. Michael is now in the process of obtaining his master's degree in addictions counseling as well as pursuing his LCADC. With his presentations, Michael aims to deliver a dynamic and compelling message of overcoming the barriers of re-entry and tackling the societal stigma of being an ex-offender. Micheal is the founder of Steered Straight, a program focused on youth and young adults.

## PLENARY BIOS CONTINUED

### Plenary IV:

**David DeMatteo, JD, PhD, ABPP (Forensic)**, is a professor of psychology and professor of law at Drexel University, and director of Drexel's JD/PhD Program in Law & Psychology. He has published 100+ peer-reviewed articles, 50+ book chapters and 12 books in his areas of interest, which include mental health law, psychopathic personality, forensic mental health assessment and diversion of justice-involved individuals. He is a former president of the American Psychology-Law Society and the American Board of Forensic Psychology. He consults with city agencies, state agencies, policymakers, correctional facilities and law enforcement. Dr. DeMatteo is a licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania, where he provides forensic mental health assessments and consultation, and he is board certified in forensic psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology. He has testified as an expert witness in several state and federal courts. He is chair of the Committee to Revise the American Psychological Association's *Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology*, and he is the editor-in-chief of *Law and Human Behavior*.

### Plenary V:

**Elicia Stein, PsyD**, is a regional licensed psychologist manager with the PA Dept. of Corrections. In addition to working for the state correctional system, she has years of forensic experience working with county and federal institutions, including the Dept. of Homeland Security and ICE Health Service Corps. She currently serves on the Governor's Behavioral Health Task Force and is a member of the DOC's State Psychological Ethics Committee and Staff Wellness Committee. She has a master's and doctorate in clinical psychology from Chestnut Hill College.

**Cynthia Wright, DEd**, is a regional licensed psychologist manager for the PA Dept. of Corrections. In this role, Dr. Wright provides consultative clinical support services to institutional psychology departments, develops departmental policies and conducts quarterly and annual audits of services. Dr. Wright is also a Nationally Certified School Psychologist and has written several journal articles on a variety of topics.

# SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

## Wednesday, December 4, 2024

*All times are in Eastern Time.*

<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>
8:45 a.m.	Welcome & Overview	Donna N. McNelis, PhD
9-9:30 a.m.	Welcome from OMHSAS	Deputy Secretary Jennifer Smith
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Plenary I: Enhancing Resilience Through Mindfulness	Judge Victor Reyes, JD (Ret.)
10:30-10:45 a.m.	Break	
10:45-11:45 a.m.	Plenary II: Sex Trafficking – Victim Offender Overlap	Melissa Howley, MS
11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.	Awards and Lunch	
1-2:30 p.m.	Concurrent Workshop Sessions I	
2:30-2:45 p.m.	Break	
2:45-4:15 p.m.	Concurrent Workshop Sessions II	



# SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

**Thursday, December 5, 2024**

*All times are in Eastern Time.*

<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>
8:45-8:50 a.m.	Welcome	Bill Holt
8:50-9:15 a.m.	Welcome from DOC	Laurel R. Harry, DCJ, Secretary of Corrections
9:15-10:15 a.m.	Plenary III: From Prison to Purpose	Michael DeLeon, CADC
10:15-10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Plenary IV: A Legal Primer for Mental Health Professionals	David DeMatteo, JD, PhD, ABPP (Forensic)
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Plenary V: Progress, Successes and Challenges With Managing Neurodivergent & Cognitively Impaired Individuals in the DOC	Elicia Stein, PsyD; Cynthia Wright, DEd
12:30-1:15 p.m.	Lunch	
1:15-2:45 p.m.	Concurrent Workshop Sessions III	
2:45-3 p.m.	Break	
3-4:30 p.m.	Concurrent Workshop Sessions IV	
4:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks, Evaluations, CE Validation Form	

# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024**

*All times are in Eastern Time.*

**1-2:30 p.m.**

## **CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS I**

### **W01 - Challenges of Implementing Care in the Absence of Designated Surrogate: When Will a Friend be Enough?**

The standard for receiving medical treatment requires signed consent for care. Unfortunately, people without family face delays in treatment that may alter their outcome. In 2006, the State of Pennsylvania developed Act 169, a statute that outlines the hierarchical authority for medical decision making and recognizes the relationship of a friend may represent "a family of choice." Procedures to qualify appropriateness should be clear, allow ease of implementation and support effective service delivery.

Alfreda Lewis-Johnson, MSW, LSW, ACHP-SW, APHSW-C, LLM

### **W02 - Trauma-Informed Forensic Evaluation: Bridging the Gap Between Justice and Compassion**

This presentation provides an in-depth exploration of trauma-informed forensic evaluation, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and addressing trauma's impact on individuals during legal assessments. Participants will learn to apply trauma-informed principles, such as creating a safe environment, using sensitive questioning techniques and maintaining cultural awareness to enhance the accuracy and fairness of evaluations. Ethical considerations, including confidentiality and bias, will also be discussed, equipping professionals with the tools needed to conduct compassionate and effective forensic evaluations.

Rachael E. DuBose, MSED, LPCC-S, CCTP

**2:30-2:45 p.m.**

**BREAK**

# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUED

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024**

*All times are in Eastern Time.*

**2:45-4:15 p.m.      CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS II**

## **W11 - Lessons Learned From Incarcerated Domestic Violence Survivors: How Practitioners Can Support the Victims**

From the perspective of facilitating a domestic violence survivor's group at the Women's Correctional Facility in Pueblo, Colorado, this session will detail considerations for staff. Although the members of the group change over the years, there are constant themes that emerge. These themes can assist criminal justice professionals to gain a better understanding of why people act or think in a certain way and how to support individuals both in and out of facilities.

Judge Victor Reyes, JD (Ret.)

## **W12 - Truly Decriminalizing Behavioral Health by Targeting Social Determinants of Health: A Proposal for Conceptual Intercepts - 1 and 6 to the Sequential Intercept Model**

This workshop focuses on the impact of social determinants of health (SDOH) deficits on the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice involvement. It proposes two "conceptual" intercepts (CI) be added to the Sequential Intercept Model. Both concern vital policy priorities in decriminalizing behavioral health issues. CI -1 focuses on addressing SDOH deficits that are associated with BH/CJ involvement. CI - 6 focuses on reducing collateral consequences of criminal records that exacerbate SDOH deficits (e.g., via pardons, expungement, etc.).

Jaymes Fairfax-Columbo, JD, PhD; Brittney Bryant, DSS; Stephanie Fulmer, PsyD

## **W13 - Cultivating Compassionate Leadership**

Recognition and appreciation is known to enhance motivation and increase retention in the workplace. This session aims to introduce participants to the transformative power of love languages in fostering positive workplace dynamics, particularly relevant for corrections professionals. Furthermore, the seminar will delve into techniques tailored for stress reduction and self-care, essential for professionals working in demanding environments. By incorporating evidence-based practices and lighthearted approaches, participants will gain practical insights and tools to enhance overall well-being, cooperation and productivity.

Karin G. Gladney, PhD, CAADC

# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUED

**Thursday, December 5, 2024**

*All times are in Eastern Time.*

**1:15-2:45 p.m.            CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS III**

**T21 - Overcoming Barriers and Enhancing Effectiveness in Forensic Diversion**

This presentation will explore the critical importance of establishing effective forensic diversion programs and their impact on their respective communities. We will examine the advantages and challenges associated with adopting Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs and evaluate how specialized training for law enforcement improves response to mental health incidents. Attendees will develop insights into navigating difficulties, refining training practices and grasping the broader implications for community support and safety through diversion.

Kristy Belschwinder, MS

**T22 - Thriving as a Human Being: Tools to Better Connect with Ourselves and Serving Our Communities**

Working with forensic populations can be challenging to all levels of staff. As we tend to the needs of others, we ourselves may at times be in distress, experiencing burnt out and overwhelmed by life and work. This session will allow us to reflect on the way we want to show up in the world, both for ourselves and others. We will reflect holistically on our lives so that we may be of better service to our communities.

Judge Victor Reyes, JD (Ret.)

**T23 - Embracing the Challenges of Diversity: LGBTQIA2S+ Individuals and Their Unique Perspectives**

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or gender expansive, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual and two-spirit individuals experience stigma and discrimination. This population experiences poorer mental health outcomes compared with heterosexual and cis-gender people. Despite elevated rates of poor mental health, many folx underutilize mental health services and often experience inadequate support. Families and mental health support providers must understand individual lives, make personal connections, support their autonomy and encourage agency.

Erin Naggy, OTD, OTR/L Occupational Therapist

**2:45-3 p.m.            BREAK**

# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUED

**Thursday, December 5, 2024**

*All times are in Eastern Time.*

**3-4:30 p.m.                      CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS IV**

## **T24 - Let's be Honest About Personality Disorders**

Can we be apprehensive about people who struggle with personality disorders? How can we work through our own uneasiness about these clients? Let's be honest, there are some strongly held beliefs concerning people who struggle with personality disorders. We are going to explore three of those false beliefs in a more realistic light. Our hopes are to enlighten you about the truths surrounding people who are diagnosed with these disorders.

Wendy Hoerner, MSW, LCSW; Hannah Shepley, MS

## **T25 - Ethical Leadership in Forensic Treatment: Navigating Myths and Facts Through the Lens of Brokenness**

This workshop challenges common myths in forensic mental health by integrating ethical leadership with an anti-oppressive, intersectional framework. Participants will reframe their approach to treatment, exploring the potential for growth in both clients and practice. The session offers practical strategies for fostering inclusive, client-centered and evidence-based practices.

Monique Phifer, MSW, LISW-S

## **T26 - Mobile Competency Restoration**

Merakey's Mobile Competency Restoration Team provides services for individuals residing in a county jail and/or community setting (LTSR, mission, etc.). The goal of this service is to enhance the level of justice for these individuals by reducing the time spent waiting to access competency restoration services. This leads to faster restoration of competency when possible and maintaining competency throughout legal proceedings and processes, permitting faster disposition of legal issues. Another goal is to reserve transfers to state hospital forensic units to only those who are unable or would not benefit from this program, determined by the court system.

Lauren Hickman, MS; Lisa Sands, MS

The service utilizes the PA Department of Human Services (DHS) *Competency to Proceed Training Resources (CompKit)* curriculum as the basis for restoration services.

# REGISTRATION AND FEES

## Registration Information:

Registration is now open.

There are two ways to register:

- Credit Card Payments: [Visit our secure registration portal](#)
- If unable to register online with a payment, contact us at [bheweb@drexel.edu](mailto:bheweb@drexel.edu).

All communication from BHE will be electronic and your continuing education certificate will be emailed to you within three weeks after the receipt of your validation form. 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, 2024.

## Conference Fees:

Full Two-Day Conference – December 4 and 5, 2024: \$125

One-Day Conference: \$75

*You will have the opportunity on the registration screen to choose the full two-day conference or one of the individual conference days.*

Refunds will be made up to five (5) days prior to the conference minus a \$25 administrative fee. All refund requests must be emailed to us at [bheweb@drexel.edu](mailto:bheweb@drexel.edu). Substitute attendees are permitted with approval from the BHE team prior to the conference.

NOTE: If you do not cancel and do not attend, you are still responsible for payment.

For more information, and any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [bheweb@drexel.edu](mailto:bheweb@drexel.edu) or call us at 877-243-3033. You can also visit the [BHE conferences website](#) for updates and announcements.



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