Arizona Child & Adolescent Survivor Initiative

2nd Annual ACASI Training
February 10, 2017

Northern Arizona University, North Valley Campus
15451 N. 28th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85053

The NASW-AZ Chapter has approved this training for eight hours of continuing education units. This conference may qualify for continuing legal education credit.

The Family Violence Institute at NAU
Arizona Child & Adolescent Survivor Initiative
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Northern Arizona University
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Friday, February 10, 2017

7:15 - 8:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast

*No grant funds were used to support the refreshments provided by the Family Violence Institute.*

All plenary sessions take place in room 284.

8:00 - 8:15 Welcoming Remarks

*Neil Websdale, PhD, Director,*

*The Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University*

8:15 - 9:00 Why Survivors of Intimate Partner Homicide Need Us to Work Together

*Melissa Rhodes, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Director,*

*Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative (ACASI)*

*The Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University*

Ms. Rhodes will explore the continued need for professionals, systems, and communities to collaborate to provide an effective trauma-informed response to children who lose a parent to intimate partner homicide (IPH) and the adults who care for them.

9:00 - 10:30 Survivor Stories

*Moderator: Melissa Rhodes, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Director, ACASI*

Ms. Rhodes will facilitate a conversation with survivors of IPH that highlights the post-homicide experiences of surviving children and those who care for them. Rhodes will examine community and systemic responses to these tragedies as well as individual factors that supported and/or hindered healing.

10:30 - 10:45 Break

10:45 - 12:00 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Across the Lifespan

*Mary Warren, PhD, Faculty,*

*Infant and Early Childhood Development, Fielding Graduate University*

*Vinny L. Chulani, MD, MSED, FSAHM, Section Chief,*

*Adolescent Medicine and Medical Director, Homeless Youth Outreach Program*

This two-part plenary session will begin with a review of the definition of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), their prevalence, and the existing knowledge of the impact on the developing brain led by Dr. Mary Warren. Her presentation will also include discussion of the health and social consequences of ACEs through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood and include recommendations for providers on how to best approach and assist children and youth impacted by ACEs, including strategies for screening, prevention, and intervention. In the second part of the session, Dr. Vinny Chulani will describe his experiences as a pediatrician and adolescent medicine specialist working with populations disproportionately impacted by ACEs, including gender and ethnic minority, racial and ethnic minority, and homeless and runaway youth.

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch on Your Own

*Perfetto de Cafe is on-site and will offer pre-ordered lunch selections.*

*Attendees are responsible for their lunch costs.*
1:00 - 3:45 Room 284
Therapeutic Work with Child Survivors and Their Caregivers: Clinical Practice Considerations and Resources
Melissa Rhodes, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Director, Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative
Andrea White, MEd, MC, LAC, Associate Director, Southwest Human Development
Rhodes and White will discuss critical components of clinical services to child survivors of parental IPH and their caregivers, including core elements of evidence-based therapy modalities/interventions and insights and lessons learned from clinical practice. The presenters will also facilitate practice activities and discussion to address participants’ clinical questions and elicit information and resource sharing for supporting traumatized bereaved children and families.

1:00 - 2:15 Room 147
The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Children
Kathleen Ferraro, PhD, Director of Training & Curriculum, Family Violence Institute
This presentation provides an overview of the research on the impact of intimate partner violence on children. Dr. Ferraro will cover data on rates, the co-occurrence of intimate partner violence and child maltreatment, intergenerational transmission, and variations in types of family violence and corresponding consequences. This session will also explore recent neurobiological research on the impact of trauma on brain development, as well as protective factors contributing to resilience. Finally, Dr. Ferraro will discuss social policies and best practices for protecting and supporting children who are exposed to intimate partner violence in their families.

2:30 - 3:45 Room 147
What Happens Before An Intimate Partner Homicide?
Neil Websdale, PhD, Director, The Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University
Dr. Websdale will draw upon 20 years of experience reviewing and writing about intimate partner homicide to examine what happens before these tragedies. Dr. Websdale will explore the interpersonal, familial and multi-agency/multi-stakeholder dynamics that may impact children during the lead up to an IPH.

3:45 - 4:00 Break

4:00 - 5:00 Room 144
Bridging the Divide: Supporting Grieving Children and their Families
Lisa Schmitt, Executive Director, New Song Center for Grieving Children, Hospice of the Valley
From her experience and expertise as the Executive Director of New Song Center for Grieving Children, a program of Hospice of the Valley, Schmitt will provide information on the impact of grief and loss on children and families, the developmental stages of a child’s understanding of death, the primary needs of and unique issues among grieving children, including red flags for high risk children, and the programs and services offered by the New Song Center.

4:00 - 5:00 Room 146
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Vinny L. Chulani, MD, MSED, FSAHM, is Section Chief of Adolescent Medicine at Phoenix Children's Hospital and Medical Director of Phoenix Children's Hospital's Homeless Youth Outreach Program. He also holds the academic title of Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the University of Arizona - Phoenix Department of Child Health. He received his medical degree from Ateneo de Davao University and completed his pediatric residency training at Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York. He completed his clinical fellowship in adolescent medicine at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and an academic fellowship in Youth Violence Prevention with the California Wellness Foundation-Violence Prevention Initiative. Dr. Chulani joined Phoenix Children's in 2015 after 12 years of service in various leading roles with Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando, FL. In addition to serving as Director of the Division of Adolescent Medicine, he led the In the Zone Community Pediatrics Program from 2008-2014 – a community-academic partnership providing pediatric residents with innovative educational experiences in community settings with a focus on advocacy, service-learning, and community and public health. He holds vast experience in health outreach and care, having also served as Medical Director of Teen Xpress, a mobile school based health program providing free medical, mental health, and case management services to uninsured middle and high school students in the State’s neediest schools. Dr. Chulani’s contribution to promoting access to care and health equity for medically underserved adolescents has been recognized through numerous awards, including the American Academy of Pediatrics- Promising Practices Award for Promoting Adolescents’ Strengths and the American Academy of Pediatrics Special Achievement Award. He has lectured nationally and internationally on a host of topics related to Community Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.

Kathleen Ferraro, PhD, is the Director of Training and Curriculum at the Family Violence Institute and Professor of Sociology at NAU. She has worked in the field of family violence since 1976 as an educator, trainer, researcher, volunteer, shelter and domestic violence coalition board member, and as an expert witness in over 140 criminal and civil cases involving domestic violence. She has published widely on this topic in leading academic journals, including Social Problems, Journal of Marriage and Family, Hypatia, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography and Violence Against Women. Her book, Neither Angels nor Demons: Women, Crime, and Victimization (Northeastern University Press), 2006, was a Choice Outstanding Book selection in 2007. She is the former Director of the Women and Gender Studies Program at Arizona State University (1998-1999; 2000-2003), Past-President of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (2004), and the former chair of the Department of Sociology & Social Work at NAU (2011-2016). She was the founding chair (2009-2016) and is a current member of the Coconino County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. In Phoenix, she helped establish a drop-in center for women involved in prostitution (Women’s Street Support Center) and women leaving prison (Women Living Free). In 2013, she received the Lee Founders Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems for significant lifetime achievements in the humanist tradition of sociology. Dr. Ferraro earned her BA in sociology from Case Western Reserve University and her MA and PhD in sociology from Arizona State University.

Melissa Rhodes, MSW, LCSW, is the Clinical Director of the Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative at the Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University. She has served as faculty for Northern Arizona University’s Bachelor of Social Work program and has provided clinical services to children, adolescents, and their families for over 15 years. Prior clinical social work includes individual and family therapy with child, adolescent and adult clients in private practice, schools, and community mental health settings, including over a decade of work with Hopi and Navajo youth and families. She has been involved with Coconino County Victim Witness Services, is a member of the Coconino County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, and for several years, facilitated children’s divorce groups for the Coconino County Integrated Family Court. Melissa has a long-standing interest in helping children and families heal from trauma and loss.

Lisa Schmitt, Executive Director of New Song Center for Grieving Children, joined the Hospice of the Valley staff in 2001 after serving three years on the New Song board of directors as vice president. She has 20 years of experience in public relations, marketing and advertising. Asking “What if?” and “What’s next?” are her favorite questions to pose to her colleagues as they continually strive to meet the needs of grieving children and families in our community. She loves designing and sewing classical ballet costumes, hiking the mountain trails around Phoenix, gourmet cooking, and reading.

Audrey Siegfried passionately supports nonprofits as a consultant and trainer specializing in human capital, capacity building, project management, mentoring, and youth development. Formerly the training manager with Mentor Colorado, Audrey led statewide quality mentoring initiatives for over 60 mentoring agencies. Prior to moving to Colorado in August 2014, Audrey worked for twelve years with volunteers, youth, and families in Washington, DC in various capacities of nonprofit management and youth development with low-income, high-risk youth. Additionally, Audrey served as a founding member and advisor for the DC Mentoring Collaborative from 2010-14. Audrey has trained people from across the country including presentations at the National Mentoring Summits 2013-16, Colorado Mentoring Summits 2015-16, Colorado Conference on Volunteerism 2015, and iMentor Partnership Conference 2014. She has served on numerous local, state, and national committees for youth mentoring, including her current role as a facilitator for the National Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series, and has been an active mentor through a college success program for over four years. Audrey holds a BA in English and minor in American Studies from the George Washington University and is currently pursuing her Masters in Business Administration from the University of Colorado Denver.
Mary Warren, PhD, Infant Mental Health Mentor for Policy (IMH-E®/IV-P), co-coordinated the Best For Babies program in Maricopa County for Prevent Child Abuse Arizona; is an active Baby CASA; and is an ACE trainer and on the Executive Committee of the Arizona ACE Consortium. As the Secretary for the international Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health, she represents the Infant Toddler Mental Health Coalition of Arizona. She was founding faculty for the Master of Applied Studies in Infant Family Practice at Arizona State University (2008-2011) and teaches in the online Infant and Early Childhood Development PhD program of Fielding Graduate University (2013 to present). The US Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families named her the 2012 Commissioner’s Award recipient in Arizona for her work in prevention and treatment of child maltreatment.

Neil Websdale, PhD, is Director of the Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University and Director of the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative (NDVFRI). He has published work on domestic violence, the history of crime, policing, social change, and public policy. Dr. Websdale's five books include: Rural Woman Battering and the Justice System: An Ethnography (Sage), 1998, which won the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Outstanding Book Award in 1999; Understanding Domestic Homicide (Northeastern University Press), 1999; Making Trouble: Cultural Constructions of Crime, Deviance, and Control (Aldine Books, co-edited with Jeff Ferrell), 1999; Policing the Poor: From Slave Plantation to Public Housing (Northeastern University Press), 2001, winner of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Outstanding Book Award in 2002 and the Gustavus-Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights Award in 2002. His latest book, Familicidal Hearts: The Emotional Styles of 211 Killers was published by Oxford University Press in 2010. Dr. Websdale is currently working on a new book, tentatively titled, The Tale the River Told: The Murder of Susan Casey. His social policy work involves helping establish networks of domestic violence fatality review teams across the United States and elsewhere. His extensive fatality review work has contributed to NDVFRI receiving the prestigious 2015 Mary Byron Foundation Celebrating Solutions Award. He has also worked on issues related to community policing, full faith and credit, and risk assessment and management in domestic violence cases. Dr. Websdale trained as a sociologist at the University of London, England and currently lives and works in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Andrea White, MEd, MC, LAC, is an Associate Director of multiple child welfare programs at Southwest Human Development. She has 18 years of experience working in the child welfare field in group home and community settings. Much of her child welfare experience has centered on family preservation, stabilization, and family reunification. Andrea is also a child and family counselor with specialized training in infant/early childhood mental health and trauma. She currently provides counseling for children and their caregivers served by the Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative. Andrea has a passion for helping children and families impacted by trauma.
This project is supported by Grant No. 2015-VA-GX-0032 from the US Department of Justice - Office for Victims of Crime. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US DOJ or the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

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