

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Seminar

Friday, April 19th

Agenda

- 0800-0810: Jason Tanner welcome to the college, introduction of the day's events
- 0815-0915: Classrooms for service learning projects
- 0915-0945: Tonya Smith- defining child sexual abuse, GA laws
- 0950-1100: Angela Williams- behaviors, indicators, recognizing signs of abuse
- 1110-1200: Kim McCoy- responding to victims in the criminal justice system
- 1200-1300: Lunch
- 1300-1400: Tom Bastis/Sara Thomas- child sexual exploitation defined, laws, sex/human trafficking, behaviors, indicators
- 1410-1450: Tom Scales- intervention, prevention
- 1500-1530: Amy Economopoulos- advocacy, therapeutic aspect of dealing with victims, forensic interviews
- 1530-1600: Tiffany Sawyer- Georgia's Sexual Abuse Prevention Initiative: how to get involved on a local level

PRESENTERS



Amy Economopoulos serves as the Executive Director of the Anna Crawford Children's Center, the Child Advocacy Center in Cherokee County. Ms. Economopoulos has been with the agency for over 13 years. Ms. Economopoulos has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Berry College and a Master's degree in Professional Counseling from Georgia State University. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor with the State of Georgia and a National Certified Counselor. She is responsible for supervising ongoing operations of the agency, maintaining a strong funding base, and representing the agency in the community. In addition, Ms. Economopoulos conducts forensic interviews and extended forensic evaluations with alleged victims of abuse, provides expert testimony, and facilitates multidisciplinary team case review meetings. Ms. Economopoulos is a member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children and provides training on a state and national level in the area of forensic interviewing, having conducted over 1,500 interviews. Ms. Economopoulos has been affiliated with child advocacy centers throughout Georgia since 1997 and serves on the Advisory Council for Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia.



Lieutenant Tanya Smith is the commander of the Administrative Operations Division and the Public Information Officer for the Holly Springs Police Department. Lt. Smith has served in law enforcement for 18 years, with the majority of her service in Criminal Investigations Division with a specialty in Crimes Against Children investigations. Lt. Smith received certification in forensic interviews of child victims from the American Professional Society on

the Abuse of Children and Finding Words Georgia. Along with over ten years' experience and investigating hundreds of crimes against children cases, Lt. Smith has had over 300 hours of specialized training in the field of child abuse. Lt. Smith was recognized as an expert in the field of child abuse in 2006 by Cobb County Superior Court. In addition to her training and experience in criminal investigations, Lt. Smith is also a graduate of the Professional Management Program at Columbus State University and is set to graduate magna cum laude from Kennesaw State University in July of 2013 with Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, Forensic Behavioral Science.



Tiffany Sawyer is the Director of Prevention Services at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, a child advocacy center whose mission is to facilitate the healing of children and families who have experienced child sexual abuse. She joined the staff of the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy in 2006. In her capacity at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, Mrs. Sawyer is responsible for the

statewide planning, coordination, implementation, and evaluation of the Center's statewide sexual abuse prevention initiative with the goal of training adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Prior to her work in Georgia she worked for three years as the Associate Director of Programs at Darkness to Light, a national non-profit for the prevention of child sexual abuse by putting the responsibility for prevention squarely on adult shoulders. While at Darkness to Light, she assisted in the creation of the Stewards of Children training curriculum and helped to launch the program on national and international levels. She serves on the Children's Impact Board for the United Way of Metro Atlanta and is the Co-chair for the Governor's Office for Children and Families' Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Prevention Taskforce. Mrs. Sawyer earned her bachelor degree in French Education from the College of Charleston and taught high school French before getting involved in child advocacy. Tiffany has conducted over 400 trainings and presentations both nationally and internationally throughout her career. Some conferences include Governor's Second International Conference on Children, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, Children's Act Grantee's Conference, Washington, D.C., Genesee County CASA for Children Conference, Child Sexual Abuse: New Perspectives on an Old Problem, Batavia, NY, and Georgia Grantmakers Alliance, Atlanta, GA.



Angela Williams: Founder, CEO of VOICE Today, Inc.

Angela Williams is the founder and CEO of VOICE Today. She received a bachelor of arts in journalism from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga. Angela is a trained facilitator for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs, the author of [“From Sorrows To Sapphires,”](#) [co-author of “Pathway to Healing”](#) and [“Tough Talk To Tender Hearts.”](#) She is a tireless child advocate, and an international speaker on child sexual abuse prevention and healing. As a survivor of 14 years of sexual abuse as a child, she is passionate about breaking the silence of child sexual abuse and saving the next generation of children. She received the 2011 Woman of Influence Award by the Life Changers International Club and honored as the 2013 Honorary Unsung Heroine on behalf of Saving Our Children & Families (SOCAF). She has appeared on CNN’s Headlines News, In Session TV, NPR, AFR and many other local and national media outlets.



Tom Scales – Executive Director and Co-Founder *Tom Scales is the Executive Director of VOICE Today, Inc. The mission of VOICE is to break the silence and the cycle of child sexual abuse through awareness, prevention and healing.*

He is a certified trainer in workshops that educate adults on the dangers of child sexual abuse and safe practices to protect children. He has written workshops to highlight the impact of divorce, grooming, boundaries and workplace challenges in the life of a survivor. Tom is a survivor of child sexual abuse and the author of “Terrible Things Happened to Me: A True Story of Violence and Victory.” He was the recipient of the 2012 Unsung Hero Award, presented by Save Our Children and Families. Tom is also a recipient of the 2012 Georgia Author of the Year Award In the category for Inspirational Books presented by the Georgia Writers Association.



Kim McCoy--Director of the Victim Witness Unit for the District Attorney’s Office in Cobb County since April, 1999. From Nov, 1997 to April 1999, employed for DA’s Office as Domestic Violence Training Coordinator. Prior to employment with Cobb County, employed with

the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit (Cherokee County) as the Director of Victim Witness for five years.

Board member for YWCA of Northwest Georgia - current; Member of the Prosecuting Attorney's Council, Victim Services Committee; Cobb County SANE/SART Committee, the Cobb County Domestic Violence Task Force, and the Cobb Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention. Board member - Georgia's Sex Offender Registry Review Board (2007-2012);

Part-time professor for Department of Human Services at Kennesaw State University – primary course – Dynamics of Family Violence.

Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Kennesaw State University and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology from The Women’s College of Brenau University.



Thomas A. Bastis is a detective with the Cobb County Police Department. Det. Bastis began his career with the United States Coast Guard, enlisting in 1993. Det. Bastis spent 6 years with the USCG, where he realized law enforcement was the career path he wanted to take. Det. Bastis began his law enforcement career when he

joined the Atlanta Police Department 1999. Det. Bastis was a member of the Auto Theft Task Force. In 2003, Det. Bastis joined the Cobb County Police Department. As a Cobb County Police Officer, Det. Bastis worked as a Field Training Officer. In 2008, Det. Bastis was selected to be a part of the Crimes against Children Unit. As a member of that unit, Det. Bastis was formally trained to forensically interview children who may be victims of abuse (physical, sexual, etc.) and neglect. While at CAC, Det. Bastis became an expert with CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) victims, families and resources. Det. Bastis works closely with various entities, including DFCS, advocacy centers, District Attorney's, the FBI and Georgia Care Connection, as well as others. Det. Bastis currently participates in monthly meetings with the FBI in Atlanta, to share CSEC information in the metro Atlanta area. In 2012, Det. Bastis was deputized as a task force member of the FBI Child Exploitation Unit, allowing him to conduct CSEC investigations with other agents in various metro Atlanta jurisdictions. The FBI Child Exploitation Unit investigates victims of CSEC and assists them out of the lifestyle, and to catch the perpetrators involved (the pimps, "johns", etc.). Det. Bastis was recently nominated and selected to work on a protocol with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, regarding the proper interview tactics to use with CSEC victims.

Throughout 2013, Det. Bastis will continue his training with the FBI and with Cobb County Police Department, as well as train/share his expertise with various other law enforcement jurisdictions and government and child welfare agencies.



Sara R. Thomas is a Special Agent III with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit. She has been in law enforcement for approximately six years. Agent Thomas was assigned to the Athens Regional Field Office in 2007 where she worked a variety of investigations involving a range of felony violations. On July 1, 2011, Agent Thomas was selected to begin working in the newly

formed Human Trafficking Unit. Prior to employment with the GBI, Agent Thomas held an internship in the field of forensic anthropology and worked at a law firm in Sandy Springs, Georgia. Agent Thomas graduated with honors from Elon University with a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and Biology. Agent Thomas is currently in the process of obtaining her Master's Degree in Psychology from the American Military University.