

# **Symposium for a Safer Lake County 2022**

*Healing, Trauma, Crisis – Best Practices for Healing from Trauma and Crisis*

**Friday, May 13, 2022**

**Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center**

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## **Session Descriptions**

### **Opening Session**

#### ***In It Together***

**Lisa Gilmore, LCPC, M.Ed.**

Addressing the complexity of working with trauma across disciplines and intersectional identities, and the significance of understanding and leveraging culturally grounded practices, and realizing/managing the impact of whiteness.

### **Breakout Session I – Social Track**

#### ***There IS an “I” in Environment***

**Lisa Gilmore, LCPC, M.Ed.**

Working with intimate violence survivors through an intersectional (compounded trauma) lens, being attuned to our self as an environment which cultivates safety from a trauma-informed or culturally grounded lens, and tending to our own parallel process.

### **Breakout Session I – Legal Track**

#### ***Providing Culturally Competent PAIP Services***

**Jorge Argueta (Bryles), MA, DBA, CADC, ICDVP, PAIP**

This workshop will discuss victim safety and the abuser's accountability from an intersectionality framework. We will identify the intersections of race, class, trauma, mental health, immigration status, sexual identity, cultural identity, and faith/religion. We will examine various criminogenic needs, risk factors, structural barriers, and social disparities impacting DV recidivism. We will describe the role of PAIP facilitators by identifying culturally grounded practice models to address issues of power and control in relation to Gender-Based Violence.

This workshop will provide you with a brief background of the Partner Abuse Intervention Program. This workshop will also provide information regarding assessments, substance abuse, the difference between anger management and domestic violence, as well as collaboration with the court systems, victim service programs and the child welfare system, DCFS.

## **Breakout Session 2 – Social Track**

### ***Put Your Mask on First, A Call to Action: Caring for the Practitioner, Preventing Compassion Fatigue***

**Dr. Trevaughn Davis-Neal, LCSW**

In our client-focused, productivity-driven world, priority has been placed on the customer, client, student, or patient and their needs. Although it is practical and necessary for organizational leaders to pay attention to their clientele, as their satisfaction and wellbeing are critical to the organization meeting its goals, who is looking out for the well-being and needs of the service provider? Unfortunately, emphasis on the bottom line can cause mission drift which often results in agencies focusing on quantity instead of quality. Concentration on the numbers rarely, if ever, account for the needs of those who are actually doing the frontline work. Caregivers of any population must take the same approach regarding their mental, emotional, and physical care as flight attendants who advise passengers of safety measures prior to takeoff: 'Place the oxygen mask on your face before assisting others with their mask.' Employees and organizational leaders alike must have a vested interest in preventing the onset and ameliorating the effects of compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma symptoms, and burnout.

## **Breakout Session 2 – Legal Track**

### ***Understanding U/T Visas for Immigrant Victims of Crime***

**Jacqueline Herrera Giron, JD, State's Attorney's Office, Chief of Victim Services &  
Keith Zupec, BA, CFI, Chief of Police, Interim, Waukegan Police Department**

This presentation will explain what a U/T Visa is and who qualifies for crime victim-based forms of immigration relief. It will also provide an understanding of which domestic violence and crime victims qualify for U-visa and T-visa. Lastly, it will cover the steps to LEA certification and who can assist domestic violence and crime victims with U/T-visa.

## **Lunch and Panel Presentation**

### ***The impact of Trauma Across Disciplines***

#### **Panelists:**

**Judge Reginald C. Mathews, BS, JD – 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

**Damaris Lorta, MA – A Safe Place, Chief Development Officer**

**Rebecca Weininger, JD, North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic, Director of DV Law Practice**

**Jill Novacek, LCSW, LSOTP, LSOE – CYN Counseling Center, Program Director**

This panel will provide an understanding of the impact of COVID on trauma, intimate partner violence, child abuse, perpetrator behavior and victims' needs and how laws, practices, courts, and community organizations can better address these issues; an understanding of the factors that judges and other professionals consider when recommending or ruling on (a) an Order of Protection, (b) supervised v. unsupervised parenting visits, and (c) parenting time and decision-making allocations; an understanding of the requirements of judges and courts; an understanding by lawyers and judges of the needs of victims of intimate partner violence and child abuse; an understanding of the practices of self-care for professionals (lawyers, social workers, counselors, judges, social

services professionals) who deal with victims of trauma; an understanding of how to provide trauma informed care for victims who have a different background or are marginalized.

### **Breakout Session 3 – Social Track**

#### ***Healing Practitioners and Restoring Organizations through a Trauma Informed Lens***

**Carrie Estrada, LCSW**

Relying on the history of collaboration models within child advocacy centers, rape crisis centers, domestic violence organizations and emergency response sectors, we have vastly improved our outreach and coordination with other systems of care. We have made progress in embracing best practices drawing on the wisdom of feminist and survivor-centered approaches in our service delivery. A missed opportunity in our growth as an inter-disciplinary profession is the outreach, leadership, care and coordination within our organizations. We have an abundance of intellectual resources and seeming scarcity of time to process with, practice with, take risks and ‘handle with care’ our own colleagues. This session provides an overview of Adverse Childhood Experiences and its connection to Trauma Informed practices that can be leveraged inside of organizations. Examples of restorative practices and principles that can be used within organizations will be discussed, inviting audience participation, so that we can promote healing from the inside out.

### **Breakout Session 3 – Legal Track**

#### ***Legal Updates, Protecting Victims of Violence***

**Michael Strauss, Esq.**

Recent changes in Illinois statutes that protect /affect domestic violence victims and affect family law cases, upcoming statutes (bills) that are currently being discussed in the Illinois legislature, and laws that are needed to protect domestic violence victims and families affected by domestic violence.

### **Closing Session**

#### ***Good Work and Trauma: Strategies for Effective Engagement and Collaboration Across Disciplines***

**Dr. Jon Oelke**

This session’s presenter will address models for inter-disciplinary collaboration through practical examples of behavioral health, substance use, criminal justice and health care networks. Given the complexity and diversity of our communities, clientele and workforces, our relationships and interactions as practitioners and coworkers impact our daily experiences. Improvisation is often thought of as an unscripted comedic performance. While this is one use case, there are actually a number of rules of improvisation that help guide communication between performers. These rules translate to best practices of interpersonal communication. These rules can be learned and dispersed within any organization to improve communication and organizational culture.

## Speaker Biographies

**Judge Reginald C. Mathews, BS, JD** the youngest of five children, Reggie Mathews' story has humble beginnings. Raised in subsidized housing, a single parent household, and so many pressures of life weighing on him. Reggie was determined that he would make something of himself. He worked hard and dreamed of providing for himself and making his family proud. Reggie attended Western Illinois University where he regularly appeared on the Dean's List and graduated Cum Laude. After college, Reggie took a position as a Probation Officer with the Lake County Adult Probation Department. After graduating law school, Reggie was hired as an Assistant State's Attorney, where he stayed for 17 years. Reggie protected the community in cases ranging from homicide, aggravated battery, domestic violence, and sexual assault. He worked on cases that impacted adults and children. In 2012, Reggie was appointed as Lake County's first African American State's Attorney supervisor as Chief of Gangs and Narcotics. In 2018, Reggie was appointed as an Associate Judge by the Lake County Circuit Court Judges. Two years later, Reggie was unanimously appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the office of Circuit Court Judge. Judge Mathews is very active in our community. As Co-Chair of the 19th Circuit's Community Outreach Committee, Judge Mathews is responsible for ensuring that the Court plays a respective role in connecting with the community. Outside of Court, Judge Mathews enjoys supporting our community's charity, community, and volunteer events.

**Jacqueline E. Herrera-Girón, JD** currently serves as Chief of Victim Services at the Lake County State's Attorney Office where she spearheads the efforts to ensure victims' rights are enforced and that victims are assisted holistically. She obtained her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Northern Illinois University and obtained her law degree from John Marshall Law School. Her career reflects an undeniable dedication to helping people navigate the legal system and assisting those in need. As a first-generation immigrant she chose to help others by diving into immigration and public interest law and has served people in need for over 17 years. Some of her past positions include Supervising Attorney for Prairie State Legal Services, Executive Director of the Father Gary Center and prior to that she worked with the Lake County Public Defender's Office. She was the Policy and Training Assistant at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights where she co-wrote legislation and advocated for the creation of immigrant-friendly laws while also teaching non-lawyers immigration law to assist in filing of petitions as DOJ accredited representatives.

Jacqueline is dedicated to her community and serves on several leadership boards; she is a foster mom and the first Latina President of the Waukegan Park District. She has been awarded and recognized by the Lake County Bar Association for her public service work. She taught immigration law as an adjunct professor at the John Marshall Law School.

**Michael Strauss, Esq.** joined the Law Office of Gary L. Schlesinger in March, 2006, and he became a partner on September 1, 2010, when Schlesinger & Strauss, LLC, was formed. Michael has practiced only family law since being admitted to the Illinois Bar. He has handled family law cases in seven counties in the state of Illinois. Michael also serves as a mediator and as a Child Representative or Guardian Ad Litem. Michael has served as an elected board member of A Safe Place – an organization dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence in Northern Illinois – and was recently elected vice president of the organization.

Michael has presented at the Lake County Family Law annual conference as well as to yearly speak at the annual Illinois College of Law Student/Alumni conference on issues of family law and small law firm practice. Michael is co-editor of the Lake County legal publication, The Docket. Michael was elected to the Illinois State Bar Association Assembly and was appointed by the Illinois State Bar Association to the Family Law Section Counsel and the Child Law Section Counsel. Michael is co-authors of the Illinois maintenance statute and has testified two times in 2018 before the House of Representative Committee in Springfield. Attorney Michael Strauss is a member of the American Academy for Certified Financial Litigators Advisory Board. Attorney Strauss was named a Rising Star in the area of Family Law by Super Lawyers Magazine in 2014 – 2017, and he was awarded the distinction of Super Lawyers in 2018 – 2022. Chicago Daily Law Bulletin/Chicago Lawyer Magazine recognized Michael as one of the most talented up and coming young lawyers in Illinois. Michael is one of only two attorneys selected in Lake County, IL by the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin 40 Under Forty.

**Rebecca Weininger, JD** graduated cum laude from Northwestern University School of Law and is a graduate of Vassar College with a B.A. in English and Hispanic Studies. She is the Director of Domestic Violence Law Practice has been a litigator in federal and state trial and appellate courts for almost 20 years. She has represented survivors of domestic violence including undocumented immigrants and political asylum seekers from Central America. Rebecca has also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Robert L. Eastaugh of the Alaskan Supreme Court. She is active in the local and greater community and is the Chair of the Education Subcommittee for the Anti-Defamation League and sits on a several of committees for North Shore School District 112 and her synagogue.

**Jill Novacek, LCSW, LSOTP, LSOE** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who graduated from the University of Illinois with her MSW. She has been in the field for over 20 years with experience working with children, adolescents, adults, and families with a variety of counseling needs, including sexual behavior problems. She has experience with youth and adults involved in the justice and child welfare systems and provided crisis intervention. She holds specialized licenses for the evaluation and treatment of sexual behavior problems as well as a child welfare license. She is certified in a number of trauma treatments and an affiliate member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. She is the Program Director at CYN Counseling Center.

**Dr. Jorge Argueta** has a Doctorate Degree in Business Administration (DBA) from Argosy University School of Business with a concentration in Business Management and Business Research, a Master in Arts Degree (MA) in Psychology with concentrations in Industrial and Organizational Psychology and Clinical Psychology from National Louis University, and a Baccalaureate Arts Degree (BA) in Physiological Psychology with minors in Criminal Justice and Spanish Literature from Olivet Nazarene University. Dr. Argueta has worked in the field of Criminal Justice, Substance Abuse, and DV since 1996.

Dr. Argueta is the President and Director of a Mental Health Clinic in Chicago that offers programs for offenders of domestic violence, DUI treatment, Substance Abuse Treatment, Anger Management, and Parenting Workshops. Dr. Argueta was the acting Chair of the Humanities, Behavioral, and Social Science Departments of St. Augustine College for 8 years. During his tenure, he participated in the faculty advisory committee for the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Brain Research Committee at the Erickson Institute. Dr. Argueta is a member of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee for the Cook County State's Attorney, he is the Treasurer of the Northwest Suburban Alliance on Domestic Violence, and a member of two committees of the Illinois Department of Human Services. In addition to his Doctoral studies, he provides trainings and lectures for various training institutions and is a correspondent for two Spanish radio stations. He serves as an adjunct Faculty member at National Louis University, College of DuPage, Harper College, and as an Industry Advisory Council Member and Subject Matter Expert at National Louis University's Social Work program.

**Carrie Estrada, LCSW** (she/her) is the Executive Director at Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault (NWCASA) serving North and Northwest Cook County and McHenry County. She found her passion early in her career and for over twenty years has dedicated her life to working with Survivors of trauma. As a leader of NWCASA, Carrie acknowledges her responsibility to a team who is doing direct service trauma work every day. She is a fierce advocate for justice but recognizes that the best community services are provided when the team is healthy and functioning. She lives by this philosophy creating a safe working environment for staff that allows for the vulnerability of shared ideas & innovative growth.

Carrie understands the need for an engaged community response to combat sexual violence. She believes in the mobilization of legislators willing to address this epidemic of violence and community members understanding & speaking out against rape culture. She intentional works to keep the intersectionality of how gender, color, sexual orientation, ableism, and level of privilege play a role in violence, recovery, and treatment. She grew up in this community and chooses to raise her family here. She is fully committed to helping build the community we deserve.

**Dr. Trevaughn Davis-Neal, LCSW** earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree from Governors State University and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Illinois Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work, where she also received certification in Evidence-Based Mental Health Practice with Children. In 2015, Trevaughn graduated from Indiana's Department of Child Services and Indiana University's Child Welfare Innovations Management program and was recognized as a leader in child welfare in the state of Indiana. A graduate of Indiana University and Purdue University's Nonprofit Executive Leadership program, Trevaughn received her doctorate degree from Tulane University's School of Social Work.

With over 12 years of experience as a psychotherapist, clinical supervisor, and educator, Trevaughn is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), licensed in both Indiana and Illinois. In addition to being CEO of Nzinga Mind and Heart, she also teaches at Governors State University and National Louis University. Honored as one of the most influential women in Northwest Indiana by Mom to Mom magazine, Trevaughn was featured in their March 2017 issue. In July 2017, Trevaughn was recognized as "A Professional to Watch" by NW Indiana Times' IN Business magazine, and was the recipient of the 2017 "Rising Star" Alumnae Award from the University of Illinois Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work. Trevaughn is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., ACES Social Work Sorority Inc., and volunteers as an advisory board member for several non-profit organizations. In her free time, Trevaughn enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, reading, and listening to music.

**Jon Oelke, MA, PsyD** earned his Doctorate Degree in Business Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Jon has performed and coached improvisation for over 13 years. In August of 2012, Jon founded a consulting practice, The Improvising Professional, which applies his professional experience, formal education, business best-practices, and deep theoretical understanding of improvisation to group dynamics in the workplace. Whether engaging a single individual, a functional work team, or an executive board; Jon develops engagements centered on improvisation and value-based change, which can be implemented to manage group dynamics and understand conflict management strategies.

Jon co-founded Integrative Recovery Therapies. LLC., a New Orleans-based organization providing meaningful treatment by locals in an intimate setting, addressing the ravaging effects of addictive illness and mental health issues on individuals, their families and the community. Since 2015, Jon has been educating students in the fields of Psychology, college readiness, and career readiness at National Louis University. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Jon has been engaged in curriculum development and faculty management. He has applied his expertise in group dynamics to guide the development of healthy culture change among students, faculty, and staff.

**Lisa Gilmore, LCPC, M.Ed.** is Principal & Founder of Illinois Accountability Initiative (IL-AI), which strives to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people in their self-determined efforts to create and sustain accountability practices in local communities, among individuals, and within systems and institutions. IL-AI believes that community accountability practices can increase safety and reduce harm in the lives of LGBTQ people, transforming communities and directly challenging social conditions that support oppression and violence in many forms. IL-AI is an active member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. Lisa currently serves as Lead Consultant on the Alliance of Local Service Organizations' (ALSO's) Underserved Technical Assistance Project for the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women's Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations Grant. Lisa is Senior Trainer with Morten Group, LLC, a national consulting firm specializing in organizational and resource development, including a specialty in incorporating racial equity efforts within strategic planning and everyday organizational practices.

Previously, Lisa served as Director of Education & Victim Advocacy at Center on Halsted, Chicago's LGBTQ community center. While at the Center from 2005 – 2013, Lisa provided victim services and guided the work of the Anti-Violence Project, the Legal Program, professional training and technical assistance, and the implementation of the Center's formal systems-level advocacy efforts. Lisa is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and has provided individual counseling, group support, and crisis counseling to hundreds of survivors and witnesses of domestic, sexual, hate, police, and HIV status-related violence. In March 2012, Lisa was honored as one of four "Women of Distinction" by Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, during the inaugural year of this Women's History Month event.

**Damaris Lorta, MA** has a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology with Counseling Specialization and a Domestic Violence Professional Certification. She has worked and advocated for victims of Domestic Violence for the past 19 years. For over 14 years, she advocated for victims of domestic violence through programs at A Safe Place. Damaris was Director of the Legal Advocacy program for more than 7 years. Through this program, she and the team were able to connect victims and survivors of domestic violence with resources that will aid in the efforts of maintaining free from abuse and safe from their abuser. She has also experience providing direct counseling work with adults, couples, children and victims of abuse. Damaris has done many trainings educating the public, police officers and students about domestic violence, myths and truths of dv, orders of protection, and resources available for victims and survivors of abuse. She is currently the Chief of Development Officer at A Safe Place, where she continues to share survivor's stories and continues to advocate, bring awareness to the community and raise much needed funding to support services for survivors and their children. She is passionate about empowering all victims of abuse and working with organizations and agencies to help keep victims and the community safe.

**Keith Zupec, BA, CFI** is the Interim Chief of Police for the Waukegan Police Department. Since 1997, he has been a law enforcement professional with the Waukegan Police Department. Besides his current position as Interim Chief of Police, Keith was Deputy Chief of Investigations, has served as a patrol officer, detective, sergeant of detectives and a commander. Keith has served as second in command of the department's SWAT Team for 10 years. During his 18 years assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division, Keith conducted thousands of interviews and interrogations. Homicides he handled as a detective, or supervised, have been successfully concluded through arrests or by outstanding arrest warrants.

Keith has a Bachelor of Arts from Western Illinois University. He attended Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, School of Police Staff and Command, as a graduate with honors in the 319th class. Keith is a Certified Forensic Interviewer (CFI). A CFI demonstrates an understanding of the legal aspects of interviewing and proficiency in interview preparation, behavioral analysis, accusatory and non-accusatory interviewing, documentation, and presentation of findings. As an instructor, Keith has presented to thousands of law enforcement officers throughout the country over the past 10 years in the areas of interviewing and interrogating along with homicide investigations.

Keith is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force, Lake County Chiefs of Police Association, International Homicide Investigators Association, Illinois Homicide Investigators Association, and the International Association of Interviewers. He has also received numerous state and local awards for his law enforcement service.