



20TH ANNUAL

CONFERENCE ON MANAGING JUVENILES WITH SEXUAL BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

JUNE 28–JULY 01, 2026 • COLLEGE STATION, TX

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

1:00–5:00pm **GENERAL SESSION**

Century Ballroom

Victimology of Human Trafficking

Mike Sweeney, Human Trafficking Specialist and Criminal Justice Analyst, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault

The training gives an overview of what Human Trafficking is. Trauma focused investigations of Trafficking and root causes of how Survivors are lured into trafficking. A look at prior sexual abuse and the intersections of domestic violence and sexual abuse are linked to human trafficking. Studying trauma and how it effects the interviewing process of Human Trafficking survivors.

(3.5 Victim Hours)

MONDAY, JUNE 29

8:00–10:00am **GENERAL SESSION**

Century Ballroom

Developmental Pathways/Subtypes Associated with Adolescent Sexually Abusive Behavior: Prevention and Intervention

Tom Leversee, LCSW, Consultation, Training & Program Development

This Social Worker is currently part of a comprehensive literature review and planned publication developed for the SMART Office, U.S. Department of Justice. The Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative (previously SOMAPI) published the most recent literature review in 2017.

This workshop will focus on the causes/origins/pathways related to the development, onset, and maintenance of sexually abusive behavior in adolescence with relevance to professionals across the continuum from policy to clinical practice. Four associated research supported subtypes will be presented. Knowledge about the etiology and subtype specific characteristics is important because it provides both conceptual frameworks and specific guidance to develop more effective prevention efforts across the continuum from primary to tertiary. This includes designing intervention programs that address the specific risk and needs of subgroups of adolescents who engage in sexually abusive behavior. Specifically, what individual and ecological dynamic risk factors are emerging that guide treatment and supervision planning.

Research, implications, and associated recommendations that will be presented and discussed include but is not limited to:

- The disproportionate role of sexual victimization in the development of sexually abusive behavior, while also recognizing that it clearly co-varies with other developmental risk factors.
- The theoretical and research base demonstrating the link between attachment styles and adolescent sexual offending.
- Developmental Life Course theoretical frameworks emphasizing the developmental aspect of offending, including the relationship between psychological, biological, social, parental, and peer influences that may influence onset of offending at different ages (Lussier et al, 2019; Chouinard-Thivierge et al, 2022; Rosa, et al, 2018).
- McKibben, et al, 2023 theorized a pathways model as “a chronological mapping of a child’s psychosocial experiences that lead to the onset of HSB” (p.16). This study included the identification of pathways concepts and 10 unique pathways to harmful sexual behavior.
- Prevention and intervention perspectives and strategies including but not limited to: Early life-course prevention, risk assessment, and intervention; Parent-focused prevention strategies; Improving healthy peer attachment; Trauma-informed approaches; Addressing individual and ecological risk factors in clinical practice.

This workshop will be primarily lecture. Case examples will be provided and encouraged. Participants will be encouraged to share examples of emerging evidence-informed policy and clinical practice that aligns with the research.

(3.5 Offender Hours)

10:00–10:30am Break		
10:30am–12:00pm	GENERAL SESSION (continued)	Century Ballroom
12:00–1:30pm Lunch (On Your Own)		
1:30–3:00pm	CONCURRENT SESSION I Juvenile Offenders with Autism: What You Need to Know Michelle Garcia, Psy.D., Clinical Psychologist, Michelle Garcia, Psy.D. & Associates, PLLC Mark Mahoney, JD, Partner, Harrington & Mahoney Juveniles with Autism present unique differences that should be considered when they are involved in the criminal justice system. This presentation will review the science behind Autism and discuss how this impacts engagement, probation, interventions, and the need for specific resources.	Century I & II
<i>(1.5 Offender Hours)</i>		

**Formulating Risk Reduction/Health Promotion Plans
with Sexually Abusive Youth***Tom Leversee, LCSW, Consultation, Training & Program Development*

Treatment and supervision of adolescents who engage in sexually abusive behavior (ASAB) has evolved beyond relapse prevention to a more holistic model that integrates risk reduction and health promotion. An evidence-informed holistic conceptual framework for intervention includes the following:

- Core Correctional Principles
- Developmental/Ecological
- Cognitive-Behavioral/Skills Based
- Trauma-Informed
- Strength-Based

How does this broad conceptual framework translate into a structured guide for treatment and supervision planning? Moving from addressing the components of treatment in a fragmented manner to pulling it together into a holistic road map.

This plenary will be practical application in nature and will provide an empirically informed outline for the completion of a written Risk Reduction/Health Promotion Plan (RR/HP). It is designed primarily for treatment providers, supervising officers, and other multidisciplinary team members who collaborate in treatment and supervision.

The plenary will identify the components of an RR/HP (what are we doing?) as well as the rationale for each component (why are we doing this?). Clinical and supervision strategies/methods will be addressed.

The discussion of components and strategies will include but not be limited to:

- The strengths and limitations of the relapse prevention model
- What is foundational to the delivery of effective services (i.e. therapeutic relationship; promoting hope and optimism; identifying strengths, interests, and passions; meeting basic human needs)
- What can be gained and learned by starting our work with youth identifying: vision and goals for the future: motivation and confidence; obstacles to success; fears, worries, and concerns.
- Identification of internal and external risk factors. This includes utilizing youth stories/narratives to elicit core/basic beliefs and their origins. Approaching this with cultural humility. Differentiating adaptive behavior from internalized norms.

- Integrating adolescent development from a developmental and ecological framework, including youth resiliency and the need for interventions to enhance individual, family, and community protective factors.
- Identification of individualized coping responses/behavioral management skills (i.e. new thinking to reduce risk; emotional regulation; problem solving; peer pressure refusal skills, etc.). This includes engaging the youth's ecology (caregivers, teachers, etc.) in the practice and mastery of key skills.
- Promoting healthy sexuality/gender identity
- When does treatment and supervision result in unintended consequences that create obstacles to the successful application of the RR/HP to the community (i.e. overly restrictive terms and conditions, safety plans, etc.)

(1.5 Offender Hours)

1:30–3:00pm **CONCURRENT SESSION III**

Corps

Managing Your Sexual Behaviors: Turning Turbulence into Tranquility

Wayne Smith, PhD, LPC-S, LSOTP, Associate Professor, University of Houston Victoria

Managing Your Self is a program designed to help children and adults understand brain function to manage their emotions and behaviors. Based on neuroscience, there is a focus on emotional intelligence, motivators, behaviors styles, and innate gifts to assist the individual move beyond crisis to behavioral mastery. Each piece is innovative, energizing, insightful, and individuals learn vital curriculum topics from each area then participate in group activities by presenting the information and role playing to each other. This gives them a voice, understanding of self and others, and develops their social emotional learning skills.

Join us as we use simple, character-based, and cognitive leadership techniques to learn how to be preventative and proactive with your treatment of sexual behaviors.

(1.5 Offender Hours)

3:00–3:30pm Break

**Ethical and Competent Evaluations and Courtroom Testimony:
Successfully Navigating a Challenging Terrain**

Daniel Krall, PhD, LSOTP-Supervisor, Clinical Director, Gainesville State Juvenile Correctional Facility, Texas Juvenile Justice Department

For many sex offender treatment providers and others who work with individuals with problematic sexual behavior, interaction with the courts is among the most anxiety-provoking activities they will face in their professional lives. However, if you work in this field, this interaction with the courts is inevitable. Drawing on current research in forensic psychology as well as Dr. Krall's own extensive experience in forensic evaluation and courtroom testimony, this presentation will give the participant practical strategies in how to ethically and effectively interface with the courts legal system. Included in this presentation will be recommendations on what to include and not include in written forensic reports, debiasing strategies in reports, and how to communicate risk. Further, this presentation will offer a helpful guide to participants in how to prepare for courtroom testimony, how to communicate your findings effectively during testimony, and how to respond to challenging questions from attorneys and judges while on the witness stand.

By the end of this presentation, participants will learn:

- What to include and not include in an effective report for the courts
- Strategies to reduce bias in written reports
- How to effectively communicate risk in written reports
- How to prepare for oral testimony
- Strategies to manage challenging questions from attorneys during a court proceeding

(1.5 Ethics Hours)

**This is Serious and There is Hope: Supporting and Engaging Families
Upon Identification of a Problematic/Illegal Sexual Behavior**

Natalie Gallo, LPC, National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth

When adolescents engage in illegal or problematic sexual behavior, the entire family is impacted. Adolescents, caregivers, and their communities are often at a loss for what to think, how to feel, and more importantly, what to do. Their reactions, founded often in fear, shame, and confusion, can appear combative or confrontational. This presentation will focus on how each individual, regardless of your professional role with adolescents with PSB can play a critical role in supporting caregivers and teens to ensure the best outcomes for the family and communities.

(1.5 Offender Hours)

Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool

*Kellye Turner, Awareness, Prevention and Justice Solutions Lead,
Child Sex Trafficking Team, Office of the Texas Governor, Greg Abbott*

Commercial sexual exploitation is a major child protection issue for communities across the country. Hidden from view and often unnoticed, vulnerable youth are recruited, groomed and then abused, leaving them traumatized and without support. Issues specific to sexual exploitation of youth, including the difficulty of identifying youth at risk of trafficking, makes the provision of appropriate treatment and services a challenge for systems that serve youth.

This training will address the importance of early identification and will present the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) as a method of screening and identifying commercially sexually exploited youth. The training will describe the structure and philosophy of the CSE-IT and provide a framework for engaging with sexually exploited youth along with suggestions for talking with youth.

(1.5 Offender Hours)

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

Best Practice Assessment, Treatment, Safety Planning and Reunification

Natalie Gallo, LPC, National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth

The National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth (www.NCSBY.org) provides national training and technical assistance to improve the accuracy, accessibility, and strategic use of accurate information about the nature, incidence, prevalence, prevention, treatment, and management of youth with problematic sexual behavior.

Data collected by the National Children's Alliance estimates that approximately a quarter of sexual offenses against children are committed by other youth. Families are often bereft of guidance on what to do to address safety and the treatment needs of all the children when PSB occurs. Professionals across systems want to help, but they may also be mired in misconceptions or may simply not know what to do. What is known, is that illegal and problematic sexual behavior initiated by adolescents often occurs within the family, impacting other children and caregivers. These behaviors are serious and can have serious consequences to those impacted. There is also hope. Recidivism rates for minors who engage in sex offenses have been repeatedly shown to be low (Caldwell, 2016), best-practice treatment outcomes demonstrate even lower recidivism rates (< 3%, NCSBY). In addition, evidence-based trauma treatments for youth, such as TF-CBT, also demonstrate high rates of treatment success to significantly reduce Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms. With healing possible and recidivism low, many families can safety re-engaging contact between the imitating teen and the impacted child with the right support.

This presentation will focus on how best practice assessment protocols can support effective safety planning, which subsequently guides if, when, and how families reunify.

This presentation will provide an overview of adolescents with problematic sexual behaviors and primarily focus on best practice 1) assessment and treatment protocols for youth with PSB; 2) safety planning; and 4) reunification of family members. Case examples will be utilized to demonstrate principles of safety planning and reunification in practice.

(3.5 Offender Hours)

10:00–10:30am Break

10:30am–12:00pm **GENERAL SESSION** (continued)

Century Ballroom

12:00–1:30pm Lunch (On Your Own)

1:30–3:00pm **CONCURRENT SESSION I**

Century I & II

Testifying in Court a Practical Approach

Frances Doggett, Program Specialist VII, Texas Juvenile Justice Department

This practical, experience-based session equips clinicians with strategies to strengthen their effectiveness in legal settings. Participants will learn key distinctions between fact and expert witness roles, including scope, limitations, and ethical considerations. The presentation incorporates real-world video examples demonstrating both effective and ineffective testimony, allowing attendees to identify common pitfalls and best practices. It also highlights recent legal updates affecting record release requirements, including timelines and compliance standards. Attendees will leave with clear, actionable tools to enhance credibility, maintain professional boundaries, and navigate evolving legal expectations with confidence.

(1.5 Ethics or Offender Hours)

1:30–3:00pm **CONCURRENT SESSION II**

Century III & IV

The 4 Horsemen of SOTP Ethics:

Boundaries, Burnout & the Apocalypse You Didn't See Coming

Matt Bierds, LPC-S, LSOTP-S, Neurocounseling & Consulting Services

Nobody goes into sex offense treatment planning to cross a boundary, burn out, or dehumanize a client. And yet the research tells us that ethical compromise in this field is not a matter of if but when, and it rarely arrives as a single dramatic event. It arrives as four slow-moving patterns that practitioners often don't recognize until they're already in the saddle.

This interactive session introduces the Four Horsemen of SOTP Ethics - four evidence-based patterns of ethical compromise that disproportionately affect sex offense treatment providers. Drawing on the metaphorical framework of the Four Horsemen of the pocalypse, participants will explore how Boundary Erosion (the White Horse), Adversarial Drift (the Red Horse), Compassion

Fatigue (the Black Horse), and Dehumanization (the Pale Horse) develop gradually, reinforce one another, and ultimately threaten clinical integrity, client welfare, and public safety.

Through composite case vignettes, real-time audience polling, and a guided self-assessment exercise, participants will learn to identify early warning signs of each Horseman in their own practice and develop concrete strategies to prevent ethical erosion before it reaches a licensing board. The session integrates current research on therapeutic alliance, the confrontation-denial cycle, the neuroscience of dehumanization, and the Good Lives Model to offer participants not just awareness but actionable clinical tools.

This is an ethics training designed for people who are tired of ethics trainings. Expect candor, humor, and at least one uncomfortable moment of self-recognition.

(1.5 Ethics or Offender Hours)

1:30–3:00pm **CONCURRENT SESSION III**

Corps

How to Run a Prejudicated Diversion Program for YPSB

*Sherry Elder, LPC-S, NCC, LSOTP, BASE Therapist & PSB Program Coordinator,
The Children's Assessment Center, Houston*

During this presentation, the audience will start by receiving psychoeducation from evidenced based research on Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors (YPSB). Research indicates that at least 35.6% of all child sexual assaults known by police are committed by juveniles (Finkelhor, Ormrod, and Chaffin, 2009). Unfortunately, even with the regularity of these cases, YPSB are a commonly stigmatized and misunderstood group of individuals. In fact, YPSB are commonly treated identical to adult sex offenders, even though research indicates they are distinctly different populations. These misunderstandings can vastly impact our quality of care and prevention efforts.

Participants will also will receive an overview of how the BASE program was established at The Children's Assessment Center. The Children's Assessment Center, in collaboration with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, offers a unique pre-adjudicated diversion program for youth who have engaged in Problematic Sexual Behaviors that could result in criminal charges. This program was first established in 2018 and since its inception we have successfully graduated over 250 YPSB. To our knowledge, our program is one of the only pre-adjudicated diversion programs currently established for YPSB within The United States. Our goal in presenting at CMIT is to share our success and to provide suggestions to MDT around the state so that more programs for YPSB can be established. We would provide case examples, program statistics, and discuss some of the benefits/challenges we face providing our program. This presentation would be in didactic format. PowerPoint, survey questions and videos would be utilized.

(1.5 Offender Hours)

3:00–3:30pm Break

3:30–5:00pm **CONCURRENT SESSION I**

Century I & II

Clear as Mud – Making Sense of the Legal Side of Juvenile Sex Offenders

Dan Reeves, LPC, ASOTP, Juvenile Probation Officer, Jasper County Juvenile Probation

This presentation will cover the various sexual based offenses that juveniles in Texas can be charged with, both those that can result in possible sex offender registration and those that do not. Areas that will be explained include the concept of affirmative defense and how it applies to these offenses, the process by which a juvenile case is handled and what options the Juvenile Courts have in Texas and finally how juvenile probation departments supervise these clients and how therapists can work with JPO's to ensure the best results for these clients.

(1.5 Offender Hours)

3:30–5:00pm **CONCURRENT SESSION II**

Century III & IV

Life After Sexual Abuse: What Happens to the Survivor?

Grace Davis, LCSW-S, Journey's Counseling Services, PLLC

This workshop will discuss the impact of sexual assault on children and adolescents who have been sexually abused by juveniles. Participants will learn about long term effects on children and adolescents when an outcry was never made and/or the offender was never prosecuted. Statistics, myths and treatment techniques will be presented.

(1.5 Victim Hours)

3:30–5:00pm **CONCURRENT SESSION III**

Corps

Implementing Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) in a Residential Sexual Behavior Treatment Program: Successes and Challenges

Daniel Krall, PhD, LSOTP-Supervisor, Clinical Director, Gainesville State Juvenile Correctional Facility, Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Cindy Marzett, LCSW, LSOTP, Social Worker VII, Gainesville State Juvenile Correctional Facility, Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) is an evidenced-based approach to help clients regulate intense emotions, tolerate distressing feelings, and improve their interpersonal effectiveness skills. DBT has been shown to be effective in a wide range of settings with many different populations. The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) has implemented DBT as a main component in the rehabilitative mission of the agency in transforming young lives and creating safer communities. The agency-wide implementation of DBT includes bringing this approach to the agency's sex offending population. This presentation will discuss the changing characteristics of the youth in TJJD's care that necessitated introducing DBT as a way to do business, the challenges of implementing DBT in a secure care setting for adolescent offenders, and how DBT has specifically been implemented in the agency's Sexual Behavior Treatment Program (SBTP).

By the end of this presentation, participants will learn:

- The core features of DBT
- The changing nature of the youthful offenders served by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) that necessitated the implementation of DBT
- The challenges of implementing DBT in such a setting and how the agency has overcome those challenges
- How TJJD has applied DBT to its adolescent sex offending population

(1.5 Offender Hours)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

8:00–11:30am **GENERAL SESSION**

Century Ballroom

Assessing Risk and Maximizing Community Safety

Jennifer Deyne, LPC-S, LSOPT-S, Health Specialist-Sex Offender Treatment Provider, Hightower Unit, Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Evan Norton, Psy.D., Deputy Executive Director, Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Richard Williamson, LCSW-S, LSOTP-S, Risk Assessment Review Committee

This presentation will discuss efforts to improve risk assessment practices of both sexually and nonsexual violent behavior. Specifically, the statewide Risk Assessment Review Committee (RARC) will speak on their work selecting accurate risk assessment tools, assigning risk levels of incarcerated individuals and making recommendations to parole. They will share examples and cases of adolescents and young adults who have been reviewed by the committee. Dr. Norton will join this discussion by sharing sentencing trends in the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) and share how best practices in risk assessment and treatment are guiding juvenile rehabilitative matters in Texas.

(3.0 Offender Hours)