



15th Annual

RIGHT FROM THE START:

Understanding, Investigating, and Intervening
in Violence Against Women and Children

APRIL 3, 4, & 5, 2024

ASTER EVENT CENTER • ALLENTOWN, PA

Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc.

REGISTER AT WWW.VALLIERECOUNSELING.COM OR SCAN CODE!



SCAN ME

Right From the Start

April 3, 4, & 5, 2024

Aster Event Center, Hyatt Place, Allentown, PA

Registration 7:30 a.m. each day

Continental Breakfast Daily; Lunch provided Wednesday & Thursday

The conference theme is this year is the feeling of combat. It seems we are in combat with each other, with the system, and with misunderstanding. Many of us are feeling fatigued and helpless. This year's conference will offer information for growth, sharing, and arming us for struggles and challenges we have within society, our system, and ourselves.

Course Descriptions

(Schedule Subject to Change)

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 am – 9:00 am – **Keynote Speaker – TBA**

9:00 – 12:00 - “The Lost Boys: Incels, Shooters, and Male Rage” – V. Valliere, PsyD - *As the definition and requirements of maleness and masculinity has changed and broadened, some men and boys have gotten lost, depressed, and resentful, in particular towards women and the society that has grown towards tolerance of difference. The men’s mental health crisis will be explained. Issues like aggrieved narcissism, toxic masculinity, and the deteriorating mental health of some men and boys will be explored. Ways to help reconnect and support those at risk for violence or radicalization, as well as ways to identify risk, will be presented. (3 hours) ***

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch Provided

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Choose one

“Armed for Combat: The Manipulations of Offenders and How to Deal with Them” – V. Valliere, PsyD. *Offenders and abusers are extremely manipulative, using techniques that hide their intentions and camouflage that hides their character. This training will offer illustrations of some of these manipulations, use concrete case examples, and offers strategies to combat these manipulations. (3 hours) ***

“Effectively Addressing Allegations of Parent Alienation Syndrome (PAS) – Unraveling the Controversy” – B. Beckwith, Psy.D. *Parent Alienation Syndrome is a controversial term often used by offenders to defend against true allegations of sexual or physical abuse. However, there are times when one parent is engaging in active alienation. Recent theories, studies, and treatment protocols have given rise to a resurgence of this defense, which is gaining some momentum in courts. In this session, the controversy around PAS will be explored – the theory behind it, assertions, realities, and alternative explanations for a child’s alienation will be offered, including ways to differentiate a normative response to abuse versus actual intentional alienation. (3 hours)***

Thursday, April 4, 2024

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 p.m. – **Choose one**

“Debunking Myths of Child Abuse – How Science and Medicine Work Together for Accuracy” (part 1) – B. Knox, MD – Recent attacks on investigators of child maltreatment reveal the persistent myths about child abuse and maltreatment. Medical professionals rely on science and research to determine what constitutes abuse and why. This training will provide education and research on child abuse and maltreatment to inform participants how and why determinations of abuse are made, from physical injury, burns, head trauma, and medical maltreatment. This workshop will consist of a photographic review of findings in abused children and will discuss mechanisms of injury. This workshop will identify skin marks and other findings that indicate abusive trauma, as well as review other conditions that mimic abusive injuries.

Graphic Content (3 hours)**

“Why You Should Give a Shit about Domestic Violence” – B. Ryan, Esq. – Given the persistence and prevalence of domestic violence, especially with the recent uptick in dv related homicides, it is easy to become desensitized. In this session, reasons to care and engage in a call to action against domestic violence in your field will be presented. (90 minutes)*

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – **Choose one**

“Debunking Myths of Child Abuse – How Science and Medicine Work Together for Accuracy” (cont’d) - B. Knox, MD

“How the Hell am I Still Doing This? Combating the F* Its When Dealing with Domestic Violence” – B. Ryan, Esq.** – Apathy, helplessness, fatigue, and anger are common responses to those dealing with domestic violence, from investigating to prosecuting. This former DV prosecutor will present some strategies for self-care, keeping the passion and purpose aflame, and garnering support for your mission during this session. For all disciplines. (90 minutes)

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch Provided

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – **Choose one**

“Drug Endangered Children” – B. Knox, MD - Parental drug use/abuse can have a serious detrimental impact on a child, even if the child is not a target of physical or sexual violence. Dr. Knox will discuss the physiological effects of drug exposure on children as well as the serious environmental issues these children to which these children are exposed. Investigatory issues will be discussed as will clinical and treatment implications for parents and the children. (90 minutes)*

“DV Law for Non-Lawyers: De-Mystifying the Court Process” – Hon. D. Miles, Esq (retired). This interactive presentation will explore how various legal rules and procedures affect domestic violence cases in the criminal and civil court system. The presentation will use common scenarios to discuss legal issues that affect first responders, prosecutors, judges and other professionals dealing with domestic violence cases in the court system. (90 minutes)*

2:30 – 3:00 – Snack break

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – **Choose one**

“A Calculated Risk: Forensic Evaluation at the Intersection of Interpersonal Violence and Pennsylvania Child Custody” – D. Neiderer, Esq. 23 Pa C.S. § 5329 grants Pennsylvania Custody Courts the authority to order an evaluation to determine if there is a risk of harm to a child based upon a party or a parties’ household members’ enumerated past criminal convictions. This session will help in understanding why the statute was enacted, when the law applies and under what circumstances the evaluation could be useful. Additionally, we will examine how legal counsel could petition for an order

of court, ways providers could conduct this type of evaluation, what might be expected in the written report, and tips on how you might defend your position as an expert witness on the stand. (90 minutes)*

“The Invisible Student: How the System May Fail a Child and Family when Disabilities/Trauma aren’t Considered within the Educational Setting” – L. Attieh, Esq. - *Students with disabilities are commonly referred to the juvenile justice system and many possess extensive special education needs, but are not identified or receive inadequate services. Helpers can experience feelings of helplessness and fatigue when we don’t understand how our roles as professionals can contribute and effectively provide supportive measures for these families. Attorney Attieh is a former Deputy District Attorney of Northampton County, Chief Prosecutor of Juvenile Unit and Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit with experience representing school districts in the private sector and now representing the children and families with disabilities navigate through the system. The presentation will include case studies to discuss legal issues, including special education considerations, that affect juvenile probation officers, advocacy group members, mental health professionals, prosecutors, law enforcement, and clinical treatment providers that impact parents and children who face these dilemmas.*

**HAPPY HOUR TO CELEBRATE THE 15TH YEAR OF OUR CONFERENCE AND ATTENDEES!
5-6 PM AT THE ASTER CENTER!**

Friday, April 5, 2024

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 p.m. – **Choose one**

“Victim Intimidation and Access to the Courts in Domestic Violence Cases” – Hon. D. Miles, Esq (retired). *This interactive presentation will explore offender intimidation of domestic violence victims and how it affects the victim’s ability to access the criminal justice system. Topics will include the prevalence of victim intimidation, offender intimidation tactics, victim support and strategies for countering intimidation. (90 minutes)**

“Ethical Decision-Making in Complex Cases – Advanced Case Consultation and Panel Discussion” V. Valliere, Psy.D., B. Knox, MD., B. Ryan, Esq., B. Beckwith, Psy.D., and more – *In this session, participants are encouraged to bring complex cases for a multidisciplinary review for an analysis and discussion on how to further investigate, intervene in, or treat a case ethically and comprehensively. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING DE-IDENTIFIED ISSUES TO DISCUSS THAT ARE CREATING CHALLENGES FOR TEAM DECISION MAKING. The ethical issues for the cases will be highlighted and dissected with the panel to help ensure the highest quality and ethical solutions are offered. Qualifies for ethics credits for attorneys, psychologists, counselors, PCACB, and social workers. (3 hours) **

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – **Choose one**

“Call to Conviction: A Data Driven Response to Violence Against Women” – M. Miles. *This presentation will demonstrate the utility of data in law enforcement response to violence. It highlights the role of crime analysts and what they have to offer to drive more targeted, effective, and informed responses for responders. (90 minutes)**

“Ethical Decision-Making in Complex Cases – Advanced Case Consultation and Panel Discussion” (con’t).

CONFERENCE WRAP UP



Valliere and Counseling Associates, Inc. has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 6294. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc. is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc. has applied for approval by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc. maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

This conference is approved for continuing education for CLE’s for Pennsylvania and PCACB.
It is pending approval for New Jersey CLE’s and Pennsylvania Law Enforcement.

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April 3, 4, & 5, 2024
Aster Event Center • Hyatt Allentown, PA



REGISTRATION by fax or ONLINE with QR code

Name: _____

[] April 3, 2024

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9:00 – 12:00 “The Lost Boys: Incels, Shooters, and Male Rage” – V. Valliere, Psy.D.

1:00 – 4:30 p.m. **CHOOSE ONE**

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\$449.00 complete; **\$389.00** for 2 Full days; **\$239.00** for a single full day.
Friday only - \$129.00
Breakfast and Lunch included for the 2 full days!

*Save 10% for early registration – before 2/28/23 • Save 5% for more than 3 per agency
Save 25% for student discount with valid ID*

Name: _____
Agency: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Enclosed: _____
Email: _____ Type of CE needed: _____

Send check with forms to: Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc.,
P.O. Box 864, Fogelsville, PA 18051;
Email: h.bednar@valliirecounseling.com
Call to register at (610) 530-8392 or Fax registration to (610) 530-8940

CE's credits are available for Licensed Professional Counselors, Social Workers, PCACB, and PA CLE's. It pending/applied for approval for APA, PA Law Enforcement, and NJ CLE's. Other CE's must be submitted by the participant. Approved CE's for the entire conference will be 15 credits for all three days, 6 per full day, 3 for last day.

DEADLINE: March 29, 2024