



*41st Annual Michigan Statewide Conference*  
**CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT**  
PREVENTION, ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT

*VIRTUAL CONFERENCE*  
**OCTOBER 16-17, 2023**



[www.canconferenceuofm.org](http://www.canconferenceuofm.org)

## CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The Michigan Medicine Child Protection Team and the Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Conference Planning Committee welcome you to the **41st Annual Michigan Statewide Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: Prevention, Assessment, and Treatment** on Monday and Tuesday, October 16-17, 2023.

This two half-day **virtual** conference features noted national and Michigan experts who will address a range of topics in the field of child abuse prevention, assessment, and treatment. Each day will consist of one 90-minute keynote and two 75-minute presentations.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

The conference is designed for prevention specialists, social workers, child welfare professionals (Children's Protective Services, Foster Care, Adoption), juvenile justice services, physicians, nurses, mental health and other medical professionals, attorneys, law enforcement, child advocacy professionals, and educators. Community members are also welcome to attend.

### CONFERENCE GOALS

At the conclusion of the conference, participants will understand and be able to implement:

- Recent advances in the field and applications to practice.
- Improved recognition of abused and neglected children in complex presentations.
- Improved recognition of the source of child behavior when children are abused and neglected.
- Successful intervention and treatment plans for children.
- Successful prevention models in child abuse and neglect.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Dates:** Monday and Tuesday, October 16-17, 2023

**Time:** Conference sessions begin Monday and Tuesday at 8:30 am and end at 1:00 pm.

**Online information:** After registering, participants will receive a separate Zoom registration confirmation, with a web link and instructions for joining. Please allow 3-5 days to receive your Zoom confirmation. Reminder emails with the web link will also be sent prior to the conference.

### CONFERENCE FEES AND REGISTRATION

Monday only:	\$75
Tuesday only:	\$75
Monday & Tuesday:	\$150

*A reduced fee of \$50 for one day or \$100 for two days is available to students.*

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Registration is online. Please visit our website for information:  
[www.canconferenceuofm.org](http://www.canconferenceuofm.org)

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** There are no refunds or substitutions for this conference.



**THIS CONFERENCE IS CO-SPONSORED BY**  
Michigan Medicine Child Protection Team  
Michigan Medicine Department of Social Work  
Michigan Medicine C.S. Mott Children's Hospital

### ACCREDITATION

The University of Michigan Medical School is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The University of Michigan Medical School designates this live activity for a maximum of 8.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This conference has been approved by the Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative. The Training Approval Number is MICEC 0056 for a maximum of 7.0 continuing education clock hours to be earned over this two-day period. Attendees should only claim credit commensurate with their extent of participation in the event.

The conference has been registered with MCOLES for the use of 302 funding.

### QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact us at: [Canconf.uofm@gmail.com](mailto:Canconf.uofm@gmail.com).

## CONFERENCE PLANNERS

#### Martha Kerr, LMSW

CAN Conference Planning Committee-Chair  
Abuse Prevention Initiative &  
Child Protection Team Coordinator  
University of Michigan Health  
Michigan Medicine  
Ann Arbor, MI

#### Bethany Mohr, MD, FAAP

Clinical Associate Professor  
Medical Director, Child Protection Team  
Division of Pediatric Hospital Medicine  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Michigan Health, Michigan Medicine  
Ann Arbor, MI





## PRESENTERS



### Dr. Gail Dines

Founder and President  
Culture Reframed  
Professor Emerita of Sociology and Women's Studies  
Wheelock College  
Boston, MA

Dr. Gail Dines, a Professor Emerita of Sociology, has been described as the world's leading expert on the impact of pornography on men and women. She has been researching and writing about the porn industry for well over thirty years. She is a recipient of the Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America, and author of numerous books and articles. Her latest book, **Pornland: How Porn Has Hijacked Our Sexuality**, has been translated into five languages.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

As well as her TEDx talk, with well over half a million views, Dr. Dines was recently named as one of the top ten most influential women sociologists in the world by Academic Influence. She has consulted for government bodies in the US, Brazil, UK, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, and Canada. She regularly appears on CNN, BCC, CBC, and writes for media outlets such as *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and *The Huffington Post*.



### Kari Nixon, PhD

Assistant Professor (on leave),  
Whitworth University, Spokane, WA  
Postdoctoral Fellow (current)  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
Trondheim, Norway

Dr. Kari Nixon is a postdoctoral fellow at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, on leave from her role as an assistant professor of English at Whitworth University. Her research focuses on the mutually constitutive nature of social understandings of death, disease, and community. Formerly studying to be a clinical

psychologist with an emphasis in data science, she shifted to the humanities early on in her graduate career. Dr. Nixon's work on the historical roots of today's expectations of mothers and on disease and how it shapes society, as well as her public humanities projects aimed to develop best practices in preventing and flagging cases of factitious disorder by proxy, has become internationally renowned.



## PRESENTERS



### Angela Rabbitt, DO

Professor of Pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin  
Medical Director, Child Advocacy and Protection Services  
Program Director, Child Advocacy and Protection  
Fellowship  
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Dr. Angela Rabbitt is board certified in General Pediatrics and Child Abuse Pediatrics. Her clinical duties include the provision of medical care to children and adolescents when there are suspicions of physical or sexual abuse or neglect. Her research interests involve assessing the knowledge and confidence of medical providers in recognizing and responding to patients at risk for commercial sexual exploitation, exploring the medical needs of individuals impacted by the sex trade,

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

and in the assessment of educational programs meant to address knowledge gaps in the medical response to sex trafficking. She has led multidisciplinary initiatives in Wisconsin to develop protocols for the investigative, medical, and advocacy response to potential victims of maltreatment and sex trafficking. Dr. Rabbitt has served on the Wisconsin State Human Trafficking Taskforce as the chair of the implementation committee, national committees to improve the medical response to sexually exploited youth and participated in creation of educational programs for the response to human trafficking at the state and national level. She is the co-director of the Healthcare Collaborative Against Sex Trafficking, a collaborative of healthcare systems, community agencies, and survivors working to improve the health care of patients impacted by sex trafficking in Wisconsin.



### Mandy Sanchez, PhD

Program Coordinator  
Culture Reframed  
Boston, MA

Dr. Mandy Sanchez earned her doctorate in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology and Women's Studies. She has been researching and writing about pornography and violence against women for over 20 years. Dr. Sanchez specializes in domestic and sexual violence; the intersectionality of gender, sexualities, place, and trauma; and justice-involved women and children. Dr. Sanchez is a trained facilitator and as the Program Coordinator for Culture Reframed, she focuses on expanding, developing, and ensuring high quality, comprehensive, impactful programming for parents and adults who are influential in children's and teens' lives.



### Detective Corporal Jim Twardesky, MPA

Warren Police Department  
Warren, MI

Detective Corporal Jim Twardesky has been in law enforcement since 1999, currently serving as a detective for the City of Warren Police Department in Michigan where he has received several departmental awards for his performance. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice & a master's degree in public administration, both from Wayne State University along with certificates in Criminal/Investigative Psychology & Criminal Profiling from John Jay College & the Forensic Criminology Institute. He further serves as an adjunct instructor for the Macomb Public Service

Institute and regularly lectures & writes on the subjects of child homicide, sex crimes, interviewing child and criminal investigation.

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023

TIME	EVENT
8:30 AM	Welcome, Opening Remarks  <b>KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:</b> Growing up in a Porn Culture: The Social, Emotional, & Cognitive Effects & A Public Health Solution <b>Presenter:</b> Dr. Gail Dines
10:00 AM	Break
10:15 AM	<b>PRESENTATION:</b> The Intimate Connection Between Social Media, Gaming, & Pornography and the Harms to Youth <b>Presenter:</b> Mandy Sanchez, PhD
11:30 AM	Break
11:45 AM	<b>PRESENTATION:</b> "I Didn't Know it Counted": Design-Thinking and Narrative Theory Approaches to Munchausen-by-Proxy Intervention Barriers (A Survivor-Scholar's Perspective) <b>Presenter:</b> Kari Nixon, PhD
1:00 PM	Session Adjourns

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023

TIME	EVENT
8:30 AM	Welcome, Opening Remarks  <b>KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:</b> Community and Healthcare Responses to Trafficking of Minors and Young Adults <b>Presenter:</b> Angela Rabbitt, DO
10:00 AM	Break
10:15 AM	<b>PRESENTATION:</b> Investigating the Accident <b>Presenter:</b> Detective Corporal Jim Twardesky, MPA
11:30 AM	Break
11:45 AM	<b>PRESENTATION:</b> Child Burn Injuries for Investigators <b>Presenter:</b> Detective Corporal Jim Twardesky, MPA
1:00 PM	Conference Adjourns

## ABOUT THE PRESENTATIONS

### MONDAY KEYNOTE, 8:30AM

#### Growing up in a Porn Culture: The Social, Emotional, & Cognitive Effects & A Public Health Solution

**Presenter:** Dr. Gail Dines

**Summary:** Prior to 2000, most young people, especially boys, would first encounter pornographic images in magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse. Their access to these (mainly) soft-core images was limited, so it was not a pivotal issue in terms of the sexual health and development of young people, and pornography did not serve as the primary source of sex education. Since 2000, the internet has become the main vehicle for porn, and hardcore porn is just a click away—it is free, violent, and based on the degradation and abuse of women and children. The proliferation of the smartphone, together with the growth of teen-targeted social media sites, has opened up yet more avenues for teens to access hardcore porn. Today, online porn has become a primary source of sex education for young people around the world.

Researchers from across disciplines, using a wide range of methodologies, have shown that viewing pornography is associated with:

- increased anxiety and depression
- poor academic performance
- risky and problematic sexual behaviors
- decreased capacity for empathy, connection, & healthy relationships
- lowered empathy for rape victims
- lowered likelihood of intervening in a sexual assault
- increased likelihood of engaging in sex at a younger age
- increased likelihood of contracting STIs

Focusing on the public health approach, this presentation will highlight how Culture Reframed helps parents and professionals who work with young people to navigate this precarious terrain of hypersexualized social media and pornography. We will discuss our research-driven online courses and resources for parents and professionals, including our new Sex Education with a Porn-Critical Lens Curriculum.

**Objectives:** Participants will be able to gain a nuanced and research-based understanding of the social, emotional, and cognitive impacts of hypersexualized pop culture and pornography on young people; develop an awareness of the cultural impact of pornography, and how it impacts family and peer relationships; debunk the most prevalent myths about kids and pornography; understand the public health approach to the porn crisis as the basis for the development of CR's courses and resources; gain practical skills, tips, and strategies to address the harms of pornography.



## ABOUT THE PRESENTATIONS

**MONDAY, 10:15AM**

**The Intimate Connection Between Social Media, Gaming, & Pornography and the Harms to Youth**

**Presenter:** Mandy Sanchez, PhD

**Summary:** In the last two decades, screen time has doubled for young people, with 10–14-year-olds spending eight hours per day and older teens even more on screens. The question is not if they are using social media and gaming platforms, but when, and what are they seeing? This presentation will explore the most popular social media and gaming platforms accessed by young people today, with discussion of the hypersexualized images and pornography they are exposed to. This presentation will link the massive social media, gaming, and porn industries through their explicit content, shared platforms, and common marketing tactics that serve as a fertile hunting ground for predators, exposing the harmful effects of their exposure to young people. Also highlighted is how Culture Reframed actively works with Child Advocacy Centers and a multidisciplinary set of professionals and systems across the country, most directly involved in responding to child sexual abuse, to build partnerships for education, training, and materials for best practices.

**Objectives:** Participants will be able to identify the ways the social media, gaming, and pornography industries target youth and serve as a hunting ground for predators; gain a research-based understanding of the social, emotional, and cognitive harms of hypersexualized images and pornography on young people; develop an awareness of the collaboration-building efforts that address the harms of pornography and the abuse of children in the U.S.

**MONDAY, 11:45AM**

**"I Didn't Know it Counted": Design-Thinking and Narrative Theory Approaches to Munchausen-by-Proxy Intervention Barriers (A Survivor-Scholar's Perspective)**

**Presenter:** Kari Nixon, PhD

**Summary:** Grounded in Kari Nixon's own experiences as a victim of Munchausen-by-Proxy, which have guided her scholarly research over the last 14 years, this presentation will discuss barriers to better Munchausen-by-Proxy research and intervention. Dr. Nixon draws from her various studies to address some core factors that limit not simply the intervention in current cases of Munchausen-by-Proxy, but even the development of peer-reviewed research on the topic beyond simple case studies. Weaving in her personal story of discovering, at age 25, she had been a victim of Munchausen-by-Proxy, Dr. Nixon reveals the way her journey, combined with her educational trajectory, has shaped her perspective on why Munchausen-by-Proxy research, media representation, and understanding seems to be lagging behind. Dr. Nixon ends with giving some concrete, actionable strategies for mitigating this stasis.

**Objectives:** Participants will be able to identify the factors limiting better research and intervention on Munchausen-by-Proxy; discuss strategies for overcoming these barriers.

Technical support for this  
conference provided by:



<https://www.lostvoices.org/>

## ABOUT THE PRESENTATIONS

**TUESDAY KEYNOTE, 8:30AM**

**Community and Healthcare Responses to Trafficking of Minors and Young Adults**

**Presenter:** Angela Rabbitt, DO

**Summary:** Responding to human trafficking is complex and challenging to professionals of all disciplines. Multidisciplinary collaboration and a shared understanding of roles and recommended responses may improve outcomes for clients and professional well-being. In this presentation we will discuss the nature of trafficking and barriers to accessing community services and health care expressed by focus groups of youth and adult survivors of sex trafficking in Milwaukee and professionals who care for them. We will review national, literature-based, and community-based recommendations to address these barriers. We will review multidisciplinary efforts to improve health care and community responses to victims and survivors of trafficking informed by these recommendations.

**Objectives:** Participants will be able to identify the barriers to exiting the life of trafficking through helpful responses from the perspective of survivors; describe recommendations for the multidisciplinary response to youth and young adults who have experienced trafficking; discuss examples and outcomes of multidisciplinary collaborative efforts to address trafficking.

**TUESDAY, 10:15AM**

**Investigating the Accident**

**Presenter:** Detective Corporal Jim Twardesky, MPA

**Summary:** Child abuse investigations are challenging as offenders often attempt to hide their abuse by staging the incident as an accident. On the other hand, it is not uncommon for children to be injured accidentally. This presentation uses real case studies to illustrate what steps an investigator can take to help distinguish between accidental and intentionally caused injuries in children with a focus on analyzing the crime scene in comparison with the injuries and caregiver statements.

**Objectives:** Participants will be able to identify the three key elements to a successful child abuse investigation; learn to use good crime scene analysis and the caregiver's statement to distinguish between accidental and intentionally caused injuries.

**TUESDAY, 11:45AM**

**Child Burn Injuries for Investigators**

**Presenters:** Detective Corporal Jim Twardesky, MPA

**Summary:** Inflicted burn injuries create a unique challenge for investigators because offenders don't often provide a truthful history. To add to the challenge, it can sometimes be difficult for hospital staff to make a firm conclusion based solely on the caregiver's statements. This presentation will examine the importance of a thorough investigation into all significant burn injuries and how attention to detail makes the difference in determining if the injuries are the result of abuse or not. Actual cases will be used to demonstrate the teaching points.

**Objectives:** Participants will be able to recognize what evidence to look for and evaluate at the scene; discern the difference between inflicted burns and the investigative considerations.

