



43rd Annual Michigan Statewide Conference
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT
PREVENTION, ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 20-21, 2025



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 **43rd Annual Michigan Statewide Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: Prevention, Assessment, and Treatment** on Monday and Tuesday, October 20-21, 2025.

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 be able to effectively diagnose, recognize, intervene, and plan treatment of child abuse and neglect. Specifically, participants be able to:

- Implement recent advances in the field and applications to practice.
- Improve recognition of abused and neglected children in complex presentations.
- Determine the source of child behavior when children are abused and neglected.
- Create successful intervention and treatment plans for children.
- Implement successful prevention models in child abuse and neglect.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates: Monday and Tuesday, October 20-21, 2025

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

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



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

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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: info@canconferenceuofm.org.

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



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PRESENTERS



Kendall Clayton, LPC

Director of Mental Health and Wellness Services
Mosaic Georgia
Lawrenceville, GA

Kendall Clayton, LPC is the director of Mental Health and Wellness Services at Mosaic Georgia, a Child Advocacy Center and Sexual Assault Center in Lawrenceville, GA. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision with a dissertation focus on the impacts of a support group intervention for non-offending caregivers. Kendall provides presentations nationally that combine the clinical response to child maltreatment with personal reflections through her story as a survivor of child sexual abuse. In 2019, she worked with North Carolina

legislators to include in the North Carolina SAFE Child Act a provision that would ensure victims have the right to appear and be heard by the court in proceedings regarding a request for termination of the sex offender registration requirement. In her free time, Kendall enjoys spending time with her family and traveling.



Dena Nazer, MD, FAAP

Medical Director, Kids TALK Children's Advocacy Center
Professor of Pediatrics, Wayne State University
Detroit, MI

Dr. Nazer is a Professor of Pediatrics at Wayne State University School of Medicine. She is the Medical Director at Kids-TALK Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in Detroit, where she performs medical evaluations for children suspected of being maltreated and victims of human trafficking. Dr. Nazer completed her pediatric residency, served as a chief resident, and completed her fellowship in child abuse pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Michigan. Dr. Nazer was the medical director of the child protection team at Children's Hospital of Michigan for

11 years before transitioning her work to the advocacy center.

Dr. Nazer is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in both General Pediatrics and Child Abuse Pediatrics. Dr. Nazer was recently appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer as the chair of the Michigan Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board and is serving her 2nd term on the board. She actively teaches healthcare professionals nationally and internationally on the topic of child maltreatment and human trafficking.



Sharon M. Nienow, MD, FAAP

Medical Director, Chadwick Center for Children and Families
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego
Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics
Division Chief - Child Abuse Pediatrics
University of California San Diego
San Diego, CA

Sharon Nienow MD, FAAP is an Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of California San Diego, The Division Chief of Child Abuse Pediatrics at UC San Diego School of Medicine, and the Medical Director for the Chadwick Center for Children and Families at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego. As a Child Abuse Pediatrician she provides medical evaluations for children who are

alleged victims of all forms of child maltreatment. Dr. Nienow frequently serves as an expert witness in civil and criminal legal proceedings related to all aspects of child abuse and neglect. Dr. Nienow has conducted research in patterns of disclosure in child sexual abuse, methods of testing for sexually transmitted infections in children, social media facilitated sexual assault, and child abuse in the military; and has co-authored publications on these topics.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PRESENTERS



Michael R. Schweyen

Assistant Attorney General
Michigan Attorney General's Office
Detroit, MI

Michael Schweyen is the litigation specialist for the Children and Youth Services Division of the Michigan Attorney General's Office, where he handles complex neglect and abuse cases. Prior to joining the AG's office six years ago, he spent more than six years as a prosecutor in Wayne County, Michigan, overseeing cases, including serious assaults and major narcotics trafficking. His extensive trial experience is complemented by his expertise in litigation technology enabling him to effectively communicate voluminous, specialized information and challenging

legal concepts to the trier of fact. These skills permit impactful prosecution of cases dealing with many different types of evidence including social media, video, medical records and demonstrative evidence. Beyond litigation, his role also extends to designing and conducting trainings on neglect and abuse law, procedural issues and effective courtroom testimony. He also strives to improve the efficiency of court through the use of technology.



Corinna Jenkins Tucker, PhD, CFLE

Director
Sibling Aggression and Abuse Research and Advocacy Initiative (SAARA)
Crimes Against Children Center, University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH

Corinna Jenkins Tucker, Ph.D., is the Director of the Sibling Aggression and Abuse Research and Advocacy Initiative (SAARA) at the Crimes against Children Center at the University of New Hampshire. She is also a Professor Emerita of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of New Hampshire, where she served on the faculty for over twenty years. She is well known for her research on parenting and sibling relationships, especially her empirical work on sibling aggression and abuse in childhood, adolescence, and emerging adulthood. Dr. Tucker has published in top-ranked human development and family studies, medical,

public health, sociological, and psychological journals, been the recipient of multiple research grants, and had her work featured in a variety of media outlets, including the New York Times. She has received teaching awards, serves on multiple editorial boards, and is a Certified Family Life Educator.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Tanya Rouleau Whitworth, PhD

Assistant Director
Sibling Aggression and Abuse Research and Advocacy Initiative (SAARA)
Crimes Against Children Center, University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH

Tanya Rouleau Whitworth, Ph.D., is the Assistant Director of the Sibling Aggression and Abuse Research and Advocacy Initiative (SAARA) at the Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire. Dr. Whitworth's research focuses on sibling sexual abuse and the importance of familial and parenting experiences for children's and adolescents' well-being. Her research has been published in top journals, including the American Journal of Public Health, Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, and the Journal of Marriage and Family. She co-authors a regular blog on Psychology Today with Corinna Jenkins

Tucker, Ph.D., called "The Science of Siblings." Dr. Whitworth is an experienced teacher and presenter, and a recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025

TIME	EVENT
8:30 AM	Welcome, Opening Remarks KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Not Just Rivalry: The Invisibility of Sibling Aggression and Abuse Presenters: Corinna Jenkins Tucker, PhD, CFLE; Tanya Rouleau Whitworth, PhD
10:00 AM	Break
10:15 AM	PRESENTATION: Human Trafficking: Working Together for Better Identification and Prevention Presenter: Dena Nazer, MD, FAAP
11:30 AM	Break
11:45 AM	PRESENTATION: Law & Order: CPS - Strategies for Courtroom Success Presenter: Michael R. Schweyen
1:00 PM	Session Adjourns

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025

TIME	EVENT
8:30 AM	Welcome, Opening Remarks PRESENTATION: Brave Girl, Speak: Moving Beyond Survival of Child Sexual Abuse Presenter: Kendall Clayton, LPC
9:45 AM	Break
10:00 AM	PRESENTATION: Recognizing and Responding to Sibling Aggression and Abuse Presenters: Corinna Jenkins Tucker, PhD, CFLE; Tanya Rouleau Whitworth, PhD
11:15 AM	Break
11:30 AM	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Medical Child Abuse Presenter: Shalon M. Neinow, MD, FAAP
1:00 PM	Conference Adjourns

ABOUT THE PRESENTATIONS

MONDAY KEYNOTE, 8:30AM

Not Just Rivalry: The Invisibility of Sibling Aggression and Abuse

Presenters: Corinna Jenkins Tucker, PhD, CFLE; Tanya Rouleau Whitworth, PhD

Summary: Sibling aggression is the most common form of family violence, but it is often minimized or dismissed. This keynote presentation will provide an overview of sibling aggression and abuse (SAA), including its prevalence, associated family conditions, harmful impacts, and barriers to seeking and receiving help for SAA. Participants will learn about four types of SAA: physical, psychological, property, and sexual. A classification of sibling dynamics will be presented, distinguishing sibling rivalry and conflict from sibling aggression and abuse. Research will be presented showing that despite being viewed as harmless, SAA is associated with negative impacts on mental and physical health and interpersonal relationships across the lifespan and should be considered an adverse childhood experience. Practitioners in relevant professional fields lack training on the topic and policies and laws to address this form of family violence remain virtually non-existent. Victimized children, adult survivors, and families face extensive barriers to seeking and receiving help. This presentation will argue for a shift in the way that professionals, families, and society perceive and respond to SAA, indicating the need to take it seriously as a form of family violence and a widespread public health problem.

Objectives: Participants will be able to discuss the prevalence of sibling aggression and abuse, variation in experiences among diverse groups, and impacts on mental and physical health and interpersonal relationships across the lifespan; explain cultural and institutional factors that make it difficult for children, parents, and professionals to recognize and respond to sibling aggression and abuse.

MONDAY, 10:15AM

Human Trafficking: Working Together for Better Identification and Prevention

Presenter: Dena Nazer, MD, FAAP

Summary: Human trafficking has been increasingly recognized as a major public health problem. It is a crime based on exploitation of the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals of any community and is a violation of human rights. Children are especially at risk of victimization and may experience considerable physical and mental health consequences. Adding these problems to pre-existing vulnerabilities and adversities makes human trafficking a complex health issue that needs to be addressed by a multidisciplinary team including health care providers. We all have a responsibility to work together to prevent, suspect and report suspected trafficking and offer services as appropriate.

NOTE: This presentation fulfills the LARA/ requirements for the mandatory one hour education on human trafficking.

Objectives: Participants will be able to explain the various types and venues of human trafficking in Michigan and the United States; identify potential victims of human trafficking within healthcare settings; recognize warning signs of human trafficking in both adults and children; identify available resources for education, prevention, and reporting suspected cases involving minors; implement a trauma-informed, rights-based approach to the initial evaluation and discuss ways in which you may contribute to a multidisciplinary response to human trafficking; dispel myths, unlearn and relearn together to deepen our understanding of this crucial topic.



ABOUT THE PRESENTATIONS

MONDAY, 11:45AM

Law & Order: CPS - Strategies for Courtroom Success

Presenter: Michael R. Schweyen

Summary: Protecting children is one of the most vital responsibilities we share. Whether conducting investigations, performing examinations, meeting with victims, consulting with experts, visiting scenes, documenting abuse, or interviewing witnesses—our roles demand dedication and resilience. Yet, after all that work, we often face one of the most daunting challenges: testifying in court.

Courtroom testimony brings together many of life's most stressful elements—public speaking, scrutiny, hostile cross-examination, personal insecurities, and the serious consequences of the outcome. It's an environment that can feel overwhelming, even for seasoned professionals.

In this presentation, Assistant Attorney General Michael Schweyen, Litigation Specialist for the Children and Youth Services Division of the Michigan Attorney General's Office, will share the strategies he finds most effective for successful courtroom testimony. From preparation techniques to handling opposing counsel, his insights will help equip child protection professionals to navigate this critical aspect of their work with confidence and clarity.

Objectives: Participants will be able to explain the role of witnesses in court on child abuse cases; discuss the psychology of the trier of fact and how to maintain credibility; identify different techniques for improving efficacy of testimony as well as deal with the stress of testifying; confront the strategies of cross examination.

TUESDAY, 8:30AM

Brave Girl, Speak: Moving Beyond Survival of Child Sexual Abuse

Presenter: Kendall Clayton, LPC

Summary: Kendall Clayton will talk about her lived experiences of child sexual abuse to provide a framework for how one transforms from victim to advocate. The presentation will include an overview of abuse dynamics and barriers to disclosures, an exploration of the needs of victims and their immediate non-offending family members post-disclosure, and identification of actions that promote post-traumatic growth that influence the long-term outcomes for child abuse survivors. Attendees will recognize their contributions to the field leave a lasting impact on the children they serve.

Objectives: Participants will be able to recognize the physical, emotional, relational, financial, and environmental impacts of child sexual abuse on primary and secondary victims; identify three common barriers that prevent children from disclosing abuse; evaluate agency effectiveness in providing trauma-informed advocacy to primary and secondary victims of child sexual abuse.



ABOUT THE PRESENTATIONS

TUESDAY, 10:00AM

Recognizing and Responding to Sibling Aggression and Abuse

Presenters: Corinna Jenkins Tucker, PhD, CFLE; Tanya Rouleau Whitworth, PhD

Summary: This workshop presentation will focus on prevention, screening, and intervention for sibling aggression and abuse (SAA). A brief overview of SAA definitions will be provided, and attendees will learn that SAA should not be overlooked, due to its prevalence and harmful impacts on children, families, and adult survivors. Guidance will be provided on signs and symptoms of SAA and incorporating SAA screening into existing practice. Evidence-based strategies for intervening after SAA has occurred will be reviewed. Attendees will leave with practical tips to encourage sibling positivity and prevent and cope with sibling rivalry, conflict, aggression, and abuse. Information on existing law and policy, as well as recommended policy changes, will also be covered. Policy changes that could be instituted include expanding the focus of mental health and social services agencies, hospitals, and community centers to include identifying and providing education about SAA as a form of family violence and child maltreatment. This endeavor could begin with screening for SAA as part of the ACE inventory. Such screening could create opportunities to offer evidence-based prevention and intervention tools to individuals and families, and if needed, referrals for abuse. Case examples and excerpts from survivor narratives will be infused throughout the presentation.

Objectives: Participants will be able to explain that prevention and reduction of harmful sibling dynamics will improve siblings' well-being and relationship across the lifespan, shield family members' relationships with one another from estrangement, and lower family stress; identify best practices to detect, address, and prevent sibling aggression and abuse to protect children and help survivors heal.

TUESDAY KEYNOTE, 11:30AM

Medical Child Abuse

Presenter: Sharon M. Nienow, MD, FAAP

Summary: Medical Child Abuse (MCA), formerly known as Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, is a complicated form of child maltreatment that is often difficult to recognize until it reaches severe stages. The hallmark of this form of abuse is that the medical system is manipulated into causing physical and/or psychological harm to a child at the instance of a caregiver. In this form of maltreatment caregivers fabricate, exaggerate, or induce symptoms and/or illness in their child. This leads to unnecessary and potentially dangerous medical interventions. This session will help participants to identify concerning cases early, understand appropriate responses, and recognize best steps in medical management.

Objectives: Participants will be able to explain the spectrum of vulnerable child syndrome and medical child abuse; identify appropriate steps in the medical management of these complex cases.

Technical support for this
conference provided by:



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