



ELEVATE
YOUR POWER
AMPLIFY
YOUR IMPACT

2024 NASW ARKANSAS
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

MARCH 13 - 15 | LITTLE ROCK HARRIOTT

FROM THE COMMITTEE

It is an honor to welcome you to the NASW Arkansas 45th Annual Conference. This year's theme is Elevate Your Power Amplify Your Impact!

In our ever-evolving world, social work professionals like you play a pivotal role in uplifting individuals, families, groups, and communities. The power you hold as a change agent is immeasurable, and this year's conference has been designed to empower you further by providing a platform for learning, collaboration, and professional and personal growth. We sincerely hope that the 2024 NASW Arkansas Annual Conference will provide you with the opportunity to: 1) Elevate your knowledge by engaging in enriching sessions and workshops led by experts in our field, where you can gain valuable insights, best practices, and the latest research to stay at the forefront of social work. 2) Amplify your network by connecting with like-minded professionals, forge new alliances and strengthen your current ones, we understand that collaborations often lead to innovative solutions and enhance our impact. 3) Elevate Your Skills: Sharpen your skills through hands-on experiences, case studies, and interactive discussions, empowering you to effect positive change in even the most complex situations. 4) Amplify your passion: Rekindle your passion for social work and leave the conference with renewed energy and inspiration

to continue making a difference in the lives of those you serve.

We believe that together, we can elevate the power of social work and amplify its impact on society. By fostering a sense of unity and purpose, this conference aims to equip you with the tools, knowledge, and connections necessary to drive change, confront challenges, and advocate for justice. We hope you find the next three days informative and educational and a source of motivation and empowerment.

The Annual Conference Planning Committee has been working hard on the 2024 agenda. This year's conference yields over 40 breakout workshops and five keynote speakers. The various breakout sessions will cover a wealth of knowledge. The various tracks included topics on Aging and Disabilities, Behavioral & Mental Health, Children, Family & Schools, Community, Policy & Administration, Health & Medical, Professional & Career, Social Work Education, and Ethics. You can earn up to 23.5 continuing education units throughout this conference.

NASW Arkansas takes pride in its ongoing commitment to deliver engaging and educational conferences. These events not only facilitate the expansion of attendees' knowledge in social work best practices but also enhance their capacity to ensure the utmost continuity of care for the individuals we serve on a daily basis. We are thrilled to host your conference experience, and we hope that you enjoy it!

2024 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE



Kristen Dobbs Davis, LMSW
CO-Chair



Tamara Glover, PhD, LCSW
CO-Chair



Alyssa Guffey, LMSW
CO-Chair



Christiane Long, PhD, LCSW



Shara Purtle, MSW

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 13

8:00 am – 5:30 pm	Registration/Information Desk/Exhibits Open
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Morning Break with Exhibitors
9:30 am – 11:30 am	<i>Welcome & Plenary I – Why Fear Makes Us Say “Yes” When We Should Have Said “No” by Rachel Bernstein, LMFT, MEd</i>
11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Lunch on Your Own
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	<i>Concurrent Workshops – Sessions 1a—1c</i>
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break with Exhibitors
5:30 pm – 9:00 pm	<i>Concurrent Workshops – Sessions 2a—2c</i>

THURSDAY • MARCH 14

8:00 am – 5:30 pm	Registration/Information Desk/Exhibits Open
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	<i>Concurrent Workshops – Sessions 3a—3c</i>
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Morning Break with Exhibitors
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<i>Student Poster Session 1</i>
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch on Your Own
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<i>Plenary II – Flipping Fear & Failure by Epiphany “Big Piph” Morrow</i>
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break with Exhibitors
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	<i>Concurrent Workshops – Session 4</i>
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	<i>Student Poster Session 2</i>
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	<i>Wine & Cheese Soiree</i>
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	<i>9th Annual Social Work Advocates’ Dinner (ticketed event)</i>

FRIDAY • MARCH 15

8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Registration/Information Desk/Exhibits Open
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	<i>Concurrent Workshops – Sessions 5a—5c</i>
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Morning Break with Exhibitors
12:00 pm – 2:30 pm	<i>Annual Awards Luncheon & Celebration (ticketed event)</i>
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>Concurrent Workshops – Session 6</i>

WELCOME & PLENARY I (2 CEUS)9:30 AM – 11:30 AM **SALONS B/C****Why Fear Makes Us Say “Yes” When We Should Have Said “No”** by Rachel Bernstein, LMFT, MEd, Cult Specialist-Educator

A fundamental principle in the modern self-help movement and the drive of many life coaches and counselors is to push people to say "yes" in order to have them embrace opportunities, to step out of their comfort zone, and to foster personal growth. While these are important goals, when they are pushed for across the board with everyone in equal measure, they are more aligned with toxic positivity than good judgment, and people may find themselves committing to and staying in situations that ultimately are not wise for them. Because I work with people who have been in cults, people in controlling and manipulative relationships and workplaces, and people who are being spiritually and emotionally abused, I often work with people who had the ability and freedom to say "no" taken away and they want and need to get it back. What is it about **fear** that makes us say "yes" when we know we should have/wanted to/truly needed to say "no"? What is inherently wrong with a situation that would cause people to intuit that it would not be safe for them to say "no" to the people there? This presentation will also cover why people find themselves staying in unhealthy groups, relationships, and environments long after they have sensed inherent problems and dangers.



There are many reasons that stop people from standing up for themselves and being honest about how they really feel and what change they know they need to make. We'll go over many of those reasons and will also delve into what can help people develop the courage and clarity to say "no" when they see that it is the safest and smartest answer.

Rachel Bernstein is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist from Los Angeles who has specialized in cult intervention and re-acclimation for over 30 years. Rachel serves on the advisory board of the International Cultic Studies Association and has worked with the Department of Justice providing support to cult survivors. She is a passionate educator and compassionate therapist with a journey rooted in understanding the need for connection and purpose, and how to set people on a road to recovery from trauma, and help them regain their power after it's been stripped away.

Beginning at Boston University's School of Education in 1987, Rachel's enthusiasm for teaching took root as she earned her Bachelor of Science and teaching credentials. Her journey continued at USC's Rossier School of Education, where she cultivated her expertise with a Master of Science in Education (MEd) and a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy (MMFT) in 1989.

From 1989 to 1993, Rachel embarked on a unique path, embracing roles as a Special Education Teacher and Family Therapy Intern at Vista Del Mar, Los Angeles, developing support groups for the siblings of those with special needs, and support groups for those who became ensnared in controlling and damaging relationships. In 1991, Rachel achieved licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist.

From Los Angeles to Manhattan and back to Los Angeles, Rachel's journey started by encompassing diverse roles and working with a unique population at the Cult Clinic. With an unwavering focus on recovery, she supported former cult members and their families, all while creating avenues for education and prevention. She ran the Speakers Bureau there, training former victims to go out and tell their stories. In New York, she was the clinician at the Cult Hotline and Clinic, providing counseling, a support group for former cult members, support groups for the families of those in cuts and dangerously manipulative relationships, and she was approached by media outlets, from news channels and newspapers, to educate the public about this issue. Her dedication to the community rippled beyond therapy as she also lent her heart and time to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Settling back in Los Angeles in 2001, Rachel's private practice evolved into a haven of healing. She embraces general clients while providing a lifeline for former cult members and their loved ones. Her support groups, like beacons of resilience, aid those recovering from narcissistic relationships and the clutches of cults.

Rachel has made many media appearances over the years as a cult expert on Netflix, Discovery+, Newsnation, Hulu, Starz, CNN, MSNBC, BBC, NPR, Bloomberg, and many other major news outlets. Ms. Bernstein is the host of IndoctrINATION: A weekly podcast covering cults, manipulators, and protecting yourself from systems of control where she has interviewed hundreds of cult survivors, journalists, and experts.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - SESSION 1a (3 CEUS)

1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Making Space for Every Body: Adopting a Weight-Inclusive Approach to Mental Health Care by Heather Allen, LCSW & Tonya Hale, LMSW

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: **Salon B**

Anti-fat bias contributes to disparities in healthcare, including limited access to treatment and delayed care. This presentation will describe a fat acceptance approach to mental health care, one in which all bodies are acceptable and what counts as health is ultimately determined by the client.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - SESSION 1b (1.5 CEUS)

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Bridging the Gap: The Role of MSW Interns in Behavioral Health Integration by Kim Shuler, LCSW, Caitlyn Johnson, LCSW, Kimberly Stauss, PhD, LCSW, Dr. Lindsey Ruhr, LaShawnda N. Fields, PhD, MSW, Molly Zehmer, MSW Intern, Erica Schoelkopf, MSW Intern

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health, Social Work Education

Room: **Manning**

Navigating healthcare complexities is challenging, especially for patients with varied needs. Behavioral Health Integration models provide holistic care, enhancing quality and reducing costs. Social workers play a vital role in addressing these needs. This presentation explores workforce development through an innovative MSW internship program, discussing impactful data and insights to sustainability.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - SESSION 1b (1.5 CEUS) - *continued*

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Navigating Ethical Storms: Lessons from Personal and Professional Challenges by

Mauren Morel, MSW Ed.D.

Track: **Ethics**Room: **Salon C**

This training, “Navigating Ethical Storms,” empowers social workers with essential skills. It fosters ethical resilience, ensuring they can navigate complex dilemmas effectively. The session provides insights from real-life experiences, offering practical strategies to safeguard licenses and skills for fraud detection and prevention. By enhancing their professional toolkit, social workers can proactively contribute to organizational integrity.

Opportunity and Resources for All Arkansas Children: Policy Advocacy with Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families (AACF) by Shannon Collier-Tenison, PhD, MSW

Track: Community, Policy, & Administration

Room: **AR Ballroom**

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families (AACF) works to ensure that Arkansas children have access to necessary “resources and opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives.” With a dedicated racial equity focus and a data-informed policy approach, AACF provides a voice for children in Arkansas and tools for policy advocacy.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - SESSION 1c (1.5 CEUS)

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

All You Need to Know About Medical Marijuana and PTSD by Angela Campanga LCSW

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: **Salon C**

This presentation is designed to inform and educate about Medical Marijuana use and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) This is a new intervention and practice in Arkansas. Navigating this in the therapeutic environment can have both challenges and benefits. This presentation will provide real-life experiences, ethical concerns, and legal information. Information will also be provided about how this is affecting Substance Use Disorder treatment. Finally, it will provide safe practices and information on the complexities that coincide with this intervention.

Caring Contacts: A Suicide Prevention Strategy by Chad Sievers, MSSW & Martye Nelson, RN

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: **Manning**

This presentation highlights the urgent need for suicide prevention, where each suicide affects hundreds. Introducing Caring Contacts, an evidence-based approach rooted in compassion and shown to significantly reduce emergency care, health costs, and suicide rates. Initial data from our program reveals promising outcomes, supporting its efficacy in diverse practice settings.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - SESSION 1c (1.5 CEUS) - *continued*

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Just What IS the Conditional Release (aka ACT 911) Compliance Program? by Amy Angel, LCSW; Tom Burks, LCSW; Dane Clement, LCSW; Ashlea Collins, LCSW; Amy Enderlin, LCSW; Angela Green, LCSW; & Marie Mueller, LCSW

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: **AR Ballroom**

ACT 911 (1989) is an Arkansas criminal code. This law pertains to the evaluation, commitment, and conditional release of individuals acquitted of a crime when found Not Guilty By Reason of Mental Disease or Defect. The Conditional Release Compliance program monitors these individuals once conditionally released to the community. In this training, participants will learn more about the Conditional Release Compliance Program through a panel composed of the Conditional Release Compliance Monitors. There will be an open dialogue identifying systemic barriers when treating conditionally released clients in the community. Participants and panel presenters will develop new ideas and ways to overcome these barriers to more effectively provide service to those conditionally released to the community.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - SESSION 2a (3 CEUS)

5:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction: Power of the Practice by Ali Turfe, M.A., Specialist School Psychologist, LLP

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: **Salon B**

MBSR: Empowering social workers with increased presence, awareness, and connectivity resulting in workplace stress reduction. Learn mindfulness meditation practices in this experiential self-care presentation, where social workers will (a) review MBSR literature, (b) experience five formal mindfulness practices and inquiry, (c) learn two mindfulness practices to reduce stress during communication.

Understanding and Addressing Professional Grief in Social Work Practice: Ethical Considerations in Addressing Professional Grief by Adrienne Scott, LCSW, Alishia Ferguson, PhD, LMSW, Mollie Zehmer, MSW Student

Track: **Ethics**

Room: **Salon C**

This presentation aims to provide an overview of professional grief in social work practice, highlight its impact, and suggest strategies for recognition, coping, and prevention. Ethical considerations, the role of organizations, and recommendations for policy and practice are explored to foster a comprehensive understanding of this crucial aspect of social work. Participants will learn the following: 1. Define professional grief; 2. Examine its types and sources; 3. Discuss its impact on social workers; 4. Provide strategies for recognizing, coping with, and preventing professional grief; and 5. Discuss ethical considerations from a micro, mezzo and macro perspective.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - SESSION 2b (1.5 CEUS)

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Navigating Transitions: Utilizing Autoethnographic Writing Prompts to Support Non-Traditional College Students by Brijet L. Beazer

Track: Social Work Education

Room: Manning

This innovative research project explores the unique journey of non-traditional college students through participatory autoethnographic writing prompts conducted on virtual platforms. The study reveals the challenges and triumphs of returning to academia after extended absences and balancing work and family responsibilities. The findings underscore the power of autoethnographic prompts in fostering connections among students, forming peer support networks crucial for their success. The research informs targeted strategies and campus programs to better support non-traditional students nationwide.

There is No "I" in Team: Integrating Peer Support in a Clinical Setting by Dori Haddock, LCSW & Shawn McCown, PRSS

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: Hoffman

Peer Support services are integral to helping individuals find and sustain recovery. For these services to be most effective in a clinical setting, we must first understand how they work within a multidisciplinary team and where they best fit throughout the system of care. Therapists are equipped and trained to address underlying issues, such as anxiety, depression, and trauma. Peer Recovery Specialists bring an additional level of interventions through their lived experiences and specialized training. Successful integration of peer support and therapy improves when each role is understood, respected, and valued by one another. Working together is vital to the process of implementing peer services and ultimately improving treatment and recovery outcomes.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - SESSION 2c (1.5 CEUS)

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Translating Terminology: Shifting Perspectives from Clinician to Social Work Educator by Mercedes Ray, LCSW, TCYMT

Track: Social Work Education

Room: Manning

Social work education often focuses on preparing professionals for practice in the field. However, field experience doesn't teach the pillars of teaching, scholarship, and service highlighted in academia. CSWE Accreditation requires a balance of both. Learning to translate this terminology is valuable for a seamless transition, especially during CSWE reaffirmation.

Treating Illicit Anabolic-Androgenic Steroid (AAS) Use in Treatment Centers by Melissa Her-
rington, LMSW

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health; Health & Medical

Room: Hoffman

Addiction treatment focuses on treating substance and alcohol use disorders. Illicit anabolic-androgenic steroid (AAS) use is often overlooked. This presentation will discuss the DSM-V criteria for diagnosis, treatment options, and underlying issues that cause people to begin to use steroids - before, during, and after "recovery" from other substances.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION - 3a (3 CEUS)

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Social Work Leadership: Maximum Support + Maximum Challenges = Maximum

Rewards by Alishia Ferguson, PhD, LMSW; Haleigh Trotter, LCSW; Devon Davasher, LCSW, CCM; Susan Okroglic, DSW, LCSW; Catiya Welch, LMSW; Justin Laffoon, LCSW; Jaclyn Billins, LCSW, Tamiko Johnson, LMSW, Nikki Thornton, LCSW, Sanchia McCall, LMSW, Rashele Wade, LCSW

Track: Community, Policy, & Administration

Room: **Salon C**

This presentation focuses on a person-centered approach to social work leadership. Person-centered leadership concepts apply to all social workers because “leadership is not about being in charge; it’s about taking care of those in your charge.” Person-centered leaders emphasize empathy and compassion to enhance aspects of personal and professional development. During this discussion, the person-centered model will be supported by various podcasts, Brene Brown’s writings on Leadership as well as content from the self-leadership approach. This session also highlights the experiences of NASW AR Distinguished Leaders to illustrate person centered leadership in action.

Speaking of Sex: How to Confidently Open the Topic and Provide Meaningful Help for Clients Struggling with Sexual Issues by Chelsea Wakefield, PhD, LCSWRoom: **Salon B**

Social Workers receive little training about how to address sexual issues and the discomfort and silence regarding sex conveys that “sex is not spoken here.” Learn how to open the topic, assess the source of the problem, gain skills, competency, and offer real help to clients in sexual distress.

Voting is Social Work: Strengthening Voter Mobilization and Social Work Advocacy by Kelly Moore, LCSW & Morgan Leyenberger, LCSW

Track: Community, Policy, & Administration

Room: **Hoffman**

Drawing on the ‘Voting is Social Work’ national campaign, this interactive presentation will explore historical challenges to enfranchisement, legal opportunities and barriers to voter participation, and practical approaches for ALL social work practitioners to (easily) engage in voter registration and mobilization efforts.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 3b (1.5 CEUS)

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Guilty Thoughts and Grief by Greg Adams, LCSW, ACSW, FT

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health, Health & Medical

Room: **AR Ballroom**

One of the common and challenging experiences in grief is guilt. And guilt, of course, can show up in many aspects of life, and often it is remarkably resilient. In this presentation, we will focus on the experience of guilt and explore possible responses that could really help.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 3b (1.5 CEUS) - continued

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Navigating the Black Nuances: Analyzing and Understanding the Intersectional Perspectives of Black Transgender Arkansans utilizing Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs by Aidan Sage Alford

Aidan Sage Alford

Track: Intersectionality within the LGBTQ+

Room: Manning

The presentation explores the experiences and needs of Black transgender individuals in NWA and Central Arkansas, employing Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to analyze intersectionality's impact on humans needs, in addition to aiming to understand how these factors influence the fulfillment or lack thereof of human needs for Black transgenders. Following this session, participants will 1. create a space for informed discussions about the unique needs of members of the LGBTQIA+ community based on their specific orientation and identities, 2. help current, and prospective social workers better understand the needs of Black members of the transgender community, and 3. learn if, how, and what aspects of the Hierarchy of Needs Theory incorporate an intersectional lens.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 3c (1.5 CEUS)

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Radical Love Through Harm Reduction by Brittany Kelly, Director & Founder of Northwest Arkansas Harm Reduction

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health, Health & Medical

Room: Manning

This presentation will define what harm reduction is, why it is important, and how it should be an integral part of the way we work with people who use and abuse drugs. The presentation will also introduce attendees to Northwest Arkansas Harm Reduction and the work they do in NWA.

The Mind is a Filing Cabinet: EMDR and Trauma-informed Mental Health Treatment by Christiane C. Long, PhD, LCSW

Christiane C. Long, PhD, LCSW

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: AR Ballroom

Trauma-informed care involves broadening our understanding of traumatic stress reactions. The impact of trauma can be subtle, insidious, or outright destructive. EMDR therapy focuses directly on the memory and is intended to change the way that the memory is stored in the brain, thus reducing, and eliminating the problematic symptoms.

STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS—SESSION 1 (1 CEU)

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

REGISTRATION LEVEL BALCONY

Visit student poster presentations to hear about innovative programs or interventions from field placement experiences, public policy that is current or relevant to social work practice, and graduate research projects or practice evaluations.

PLENARY II (1.5 CEUS)

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM SALONS B/C

THURSDAY • MARCH 14



Flipping Fear & Failure by Epiphany “Big Piph” Morrow

We all have fears and have come up short on occasion. Who said they can't be used to our advantage? Epiphany “Big Piph” Morrow will present a dynamic session on the benefits he's gained from reframing his fears and failures. Through a relatable, often time humorous talk, he will offer pragmatic takeaways. For the latter half of the session, attendees will be guided through informing a creative piece of their own related to the themes and discussion. At the end of the session, attendees will be encouraged to share their original piece or other works.

Epiphany “Big Piph” Morrow is a Stanford-educated engineer who decided rapping was a better career choice. He's currently rolling out new music for the “FAR FROM FINISHED” soundtrack and performs regularly with his seven-piece band, Tomorrow Maybe.

This community builder from Pine Bluff, Arkansas is a noted speaker and creator of The F.A.M. Project empowering high school students in underserved communities. Most notably, he serves as Cultural Ambassador where he builds through Hip Hop. Thus far, he's worked in over 10 countries including e Morocco, Algeria, The Gambia, Seychelles, Myanmar, Thailand, Ghana and more.

After creating his one-man show entitled “The Glow”, described as if “TED Talks were a Hip-Hop concert wrapped in an OG Spike Lee narrative”, it was transformed into a current digital series with PBS. He is in the process of releasing his new creative endeavor, Far From Finished, which is a web series and soundtrack.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 4 (1.5 CEUS)

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

A Guide to Developing Successful Social Work Field Placements in the Law Enforcement Setting by Ananda Rosa, LCSW; Steven Jennings, LMSW, AADC; Sergeant Patrick Hanby
Track: Social Work Education
Room: White Hall Lecture

The partnership between University of Arkansas and the Fayetteville Police Department began with an educational opportunity for social work students. This internship was the foundation of creating the Crisis Intervention Response Team where students continue to learn the road map to responding for calls for service alongside law enforcement personnel.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 4 (1.5 CEUS) - *continued*

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Human Trafficking Awareness for Social Work Professionals by Jennifer Sorey, Hub of HOPE Founder and Executive Director; KayLee Hayes, MSW Candidate
Track: Community, Policy, & Administration

Room: Harris/Brake Lecture

Social workers play a vital role in addressing the hidden complexities of human trafficking. Participants will learn to recognize and address trafficking dynamics, exploring the intersection of social work theory and practice. Insights into trauma-informed care, strengths-based approaches and collaborative strategies will empower advocacy for systemic change, ensuring compassionate support for survivors.

Intro to Ethics of Trauma-Informed Care by Becca Odom, LCSW, E-RYT 200

Track: **Ethics**; Behavioral & Mental Health; Children, Family, Schools; Health & Medical; Professional & Career; Social Work Education

Room: Conway Lecture

This training will help Social Workers and therapists identify and implement the principles of Trauma-Informed Care as well as have trauma-informed tools to practice in the field with clients and colleagues. Participants will leave with simple effective tools to help clients and themselves build resilience and emotional regulation skills.

Moving Through the Mental by Nia Lancelin-Brantly

Room: Manning

Embark on a transformative journey with THRIVE Artists' Group, where our mission is to kindle mental health and holistic wellness through the prism of creativity. Join us in a pursuit of cultivating mental wellness through creativity, play, and movement. We will go on a meditative exploration and set thematic tones. Groups will express insights through creative outlets such as poetry, storytelling, dance, improv, mime, song, and more. We will explore ways to integrate newfound wisdom into daily life, fostering connection and wellness beyond the session. THRIVE with us as we navigate the realms of mental well-being through creativity, collaboration, and self-discovery.

Talk Saves Lives by Dawn Porter

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: Hoffman

Talk Saves Lives, AFSP's education program, provides participants with a clear understanding of this leading cause of death, including the most up-to-date research on suicide prevention, and what they can do in their communities to save lives. Participants will learn common risk factors and warning signs associated with suicide, and how to keep themselves and others safe.

The Political History of the Racist Origins of 'School Choice': Can Social Work Salvage Public Education? by Morgan Leyenberger, LCSW; Melissa Salas, MSW student; & Oliva Gardner

Track: Children, Family, Schools

Room: AR Ballroom

This presentation will examine Arkansas policy and court decisions that have shaped public education, in particular examining how Arkansas law has decreased educational equity and access for impoverished Arkansans and minoritized children. The presentation will culminate with an exploration of the LEARNS Act and practice implications for school social workers.

STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS—SESSION 2 (1 CEU)

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM REGISTRATION LEVEL BALCONY

Visit student poster presentations to hear about innovative programs or interventions from field placement experiences, public policy that is current or relevant to social work practice, and graduate research projects or practice evaluations.

2024 STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Age-Friendly Cities and Communities: A Multi-faceted Approach to Well-being by Cheney Herring

Challenges Faced by Families of Children with Disabilities by Charlotte Alexander

Comparison of Ireland's and The United States' social services by Carly Gierke, Samantha Pack

Depression and Coping Among College Students: Implementing STAND as a Treatment Option by LaKiva Jackson

Family Impacts of Childhood Disability by Meredith Williams

Knowledge and Prevention of Sexual Transmitted Infections Among Rural College Students by Diamond Muldrow

Navigating Transitions: Using Autoethnographic Writing Prompts to Support Non-Traditional College Students by Brijet Lynn Beazer

Primary Care Employees' Perceptions, Attitudes, and Knowledge about Human Trafficking by Mollie Zehmer

Providing Trauma- Informed Care for Veterans by Devyn Luzardo, Adam Nick, Jordan Harrison

Religiosity Among College Students by Alexis Hayes

Strengthening the Online Environment Through Policy and Education by Katherine McClanahan

The Role of Parenting Styles and Depression on Risky Behaviors in Youth by Anastasia Clarry

Universal Basic Income: A Policy Analysis by Sam Statland

WINE & CHEESE SOIREE

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM REGISTRATION LEVEL FOYER

9th Annual SOCIAL WORK ADVOCATES' DINNER

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
SALON C

The Art of Powerful Storytelling



Vicky Williams

Our Journey from Victims to Survivors

In 1999, I lived in Texas with my three children and my now ex-husband David. On September 11, 1999 my domestic violence situation escalated to a life or death decision. We were going to leave everything we had and everyone we knew for a chance at a new life. We went to a shelter in Dallas that day. Two weeks later, David shot someone and was a fugitive. It was too dangerous to stay in Texas. By God's grace, he guided my son's finger on a map to Little Rock and we started our new life here with faith in God and the help of Woman & Children First. I am a survivor with a purpose to educate families in crisis on their choices.



Ruby Welch

Criminal and Restorative Justice

Ruby Welch is a motivational speaker, Criminal and Restorative Justice Advocate, Healing Hostess and Founder of F.E.L.O.N (Formerly Incarcerated Empowered Leaders Overcoming Negative Stigmas). After experiencing first-hand the harmful effects of serving seven years in the Arkansas Department of Correction, Ruby vowed to educate her community about the disparities of incarceration and its lasting effects on individuals.



Brittany Kelly

Harm Reduction Efforts in Arkansas

Brittany Kelly leads a thought-provoking discussion on the challenges in harm reduction efforts. She sheds light on the anticipated stigma, political barriers, resource constraints, and healthcare access limitations that impede progress in this critical field. She underscores the need for collective action to address these obstacles and ensure equitable support for those grappling with substance use. By fostering dialogue and mobilizing advocacy, Brittany aims to inspire others to confront these challenges and drive positive change.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 5a (3 CEUS)

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

The Mindful Approach to Social Work Core Values, An Experiential Journey into Ethics by

Therese Marie Skinner, LCSW, Linehan Certified DBT Therapist, 500 hr RYT yoga instructor, KRI Kundalini Level 1 Certified Instructor

Track: **Ethics**Room: **AR Ballroom**

Immerse yourself in a transformative learning experience and explore the essence of ethical practice. This session is designed to accomplish three key learning objectives that will enhance your understanding and application of the 6 core values in social work. This training begins with a mindfulness opening, encouraging participants to cultivate presence and intention for active engagement. Utilizing principles from Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), participants will acquire mindfulness skills to integrate, establishing a clinical foundation to scrutinize and comprehend the 6 core values. Elevate your social work practice with this holistic approach to ethics training, fostering a deeper commitment to the ethical foundations of the profession. A limited number of yoga mats will be available for use.

The Sexual Grief Effect: Techniques to Heal Self-Loathing and Rebuild Identity After Sexual Trauma by Edy Nathan, MA, LCSWR

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: **White Hall Lecture**

The Sexual Grief Effect (SGE) is introduced as a dynamic and new perspective to help accurately identify what the client is feeling after a sexually traumatizing occurrence in their lives. The SGE is a natural response to a sexual trauma, that has occurred after a predatory/exploitive event or during a developmental experience which can occur over the lifespan.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 5b (1.5 CEUS)

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

A Day in the Life: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation by Elizabeth Waldrum, LCSW & Amy Daugherty, LCSW

Track: Children, Family, Schools

Room: **Harris/Brake Lecture**

This presentation will define the evidence based approach of infant and early childhood mental health consultation and will help participants understand its role in Arkansas' early care system.

Marshalllese Child Development Account Program: Changes in Household Well-Being Over Time by Marcia Shobe, PhD, LCSW, ACSW; Yvette Murphy-Erby, PHD, LCSW; Ananda Rosa, LCSW

Track: Children, Family, Schools

Room: **Manning**

The Child Development Account Program was designed to support college savings for 225 Marshalllese children via \$200 in seed funds. Using status attainment theory, we examined the association of education savings with outcomes, finding that income and savings play important roles. CDA Program impacts on households and communities are discussed.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 5b (1.5 CEUS) - continued

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Therapeutic Storytelling by Michelle Crandell, LCSW

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: **Conway Lecture**

Mental health professionals can use stories to connect with clients, establish credibility, illustrate abstract concepts and help clients solve problems. Therapists can learn to facilitate cognitive changes by helping clients alter their own narratives. This entertaining and informative presentation explores the use of storytelling as a therapeutic tool.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 5c (1.5 CEUS)

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Pediatric Behavioral Health Integration by Molly Reynolds, Heath Owens, Ashley Roberson, and Amanda Alls

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: **Manning**

Arkansas Children's Hospital has recognized the need for more integrated behavioral health services within our system and state. Through the lens of systems theory, we will explore how addressing a patient's mental health can create positive change in multiple systems including the family, school and community.

Social Media and Body Image: What do Social Workers Need to Know? by Erin Nolen, PhD, MSW

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: **Conway Lecture**

Body dissatisfaction is considered a risk factor for disordered eating, risky sexual behavior, and depression. I will discuss how social media impacts young adults' and adolescents' body image. We will explore the feminist frameworks for understanding the cultural influences of body image and best practices for resisting appearance pressures.

Supervisors Are You Ready for ADEI Practice? Tips and Tools Related to the New Accreditation Standards by Tara V. DeJohn, PhD, LCSW; Anita Neal, MSW; Latisha Young, LMSW

Track: Social Work Education

Room: **Harris/Brake Lecture**

The common practice of "exposing interns to diverse populations" will not be sufficient for meeting new social work education accreditation requirements. The anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI) emphasis calls for a practice that reaches beyond "exposure". This presentation addresses the ADEI standard, including tools to utilize in practice settings.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS SESSION 6 (1.5 CEUS)

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Acute Crisis Intervention Principles as Applied Through Social Work Involvement in Law Enforcement by Eric Olson, MSW

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: Harris/Brake Lecture

The partnership between the University of Arkansas Social Work and Fayetteville Police Departments have led to the creation of the Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT). Since the implementation of the program, CIRT has developed acute crisis intervention practice approaches that can be applied purposefully and tailored to individual situations.

From Pain to Power: Empowering the Intergenerational Narrative by Terance Dawkins, LISW-CP

Track: Behavioral & Mental Health

Room: Manning

Racial Trauma, Discrimination, Oppression, and Segregation; these are but a few of the profound and enduring traumas that have afflicted African Americans for generations. By learning from the past and forging a new path, we empower ourselves and future generations to thrive, unburdened by the weight of ancestral trauma.

Human + Machine: A Collaborative Canvas for Building a Better Future through Social Work & AI by Margaret Anna-Claire Butler, B.A.Track: **Ethics****Room: Conway Lecture**

This proposal envisions a collaborative future where AI empowers social work. AI chatbots revolutionize mental health access while tools streamline and predict. By prioritizing ethics and effectiveness, we can co-create a brighter canvas for social justice and well-being. Together, with AI, we can paint a brighter future for mental health.

P.L.A.Y.– Test Your Vulnerability by Nia Lancelin-Brantly**Room: AR Ballroom**

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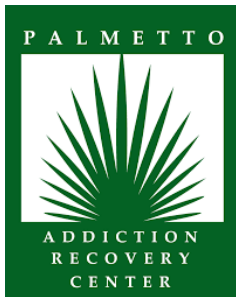
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