

# NEXUS XXVI

VIOLENCE WITHIN THE HOME AND  
ITS EFFECTS ON CHILDREN

## PROGRAM GUIDE



THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

## REGISTRATION SIGN-IN

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

## INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

Deanne Tilton Durfee, Doc.hc, Executive Director, ICAN

Sheriff Robert G. Luna

Brandon Nichols, Director, Department of Children and Family Services

Jackie Contreras, Director, Department of Public Social Services

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

## MORNING KEYNOTE

“Raising Sacred Children: Guiding, Healing and Embracing Our Children” presented by Jerry Tello, Author - *Champion for Children Award Recipient*

10:15 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

## BREAK

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## MORNING WORKSHOP SESSIONS

12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

## LUNCH

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

## AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

“California Child Victims Act: Opening a Window on Sexual Abuse in California’s Trusted Institutions “ presented by Paul Mones, Leading Advocate of Victims of Child Sexual Abuse

1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m.

## AWARD CEREMONY

Lindsay Wagner, President, ICAN Associates

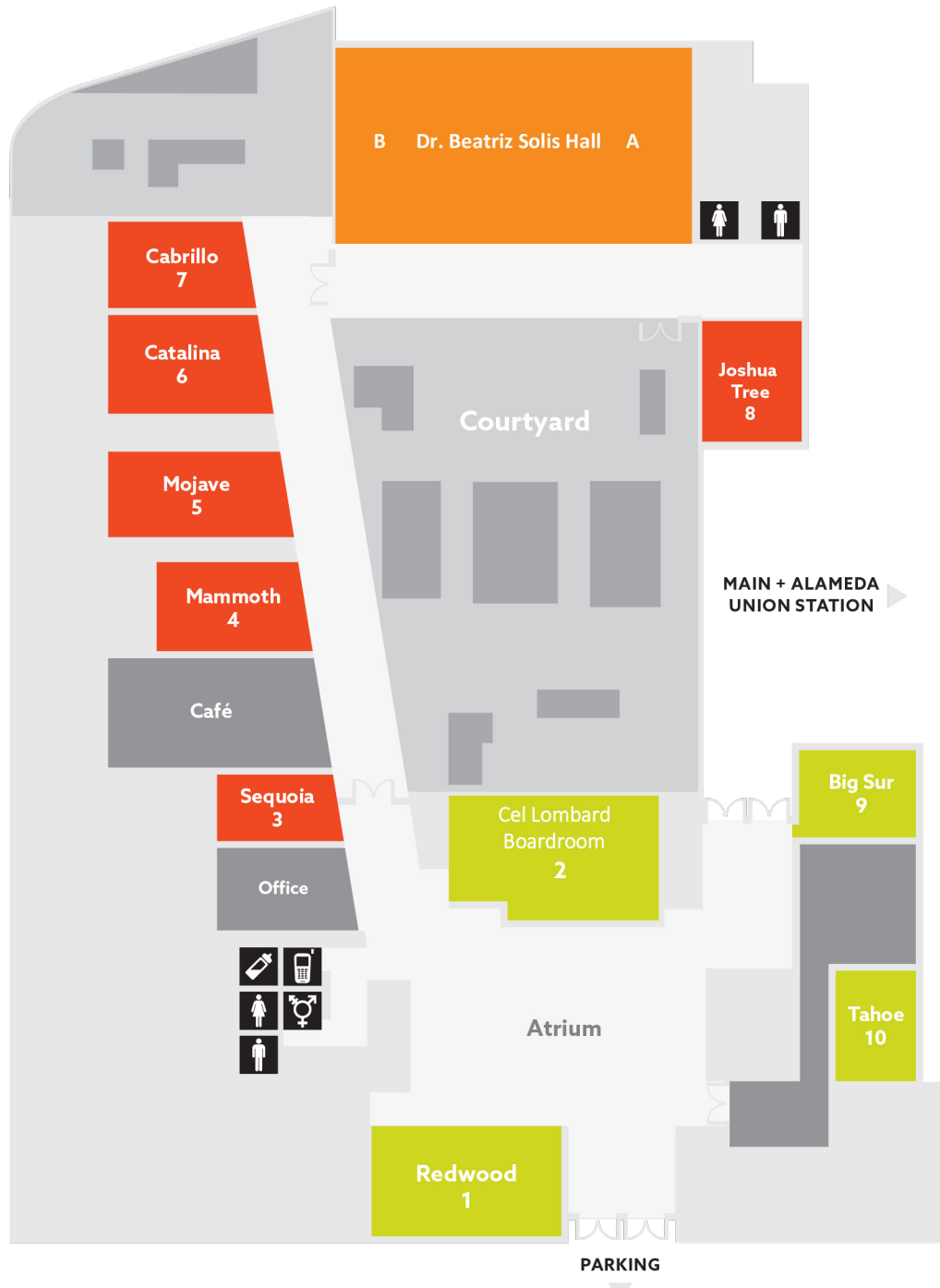
Justin Chambers, Actor

Carol Berkowitz - *Angelo Award Recipient*

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SESSIONS

# CA ENDOWMENT MAP



## MORNING KEYNOTE

### RAISING SACRED CHILDREN: GUIDING, HEALING AND EMBRACING OUR CHILDREN



#### **Jerry Tello, Author**

Jerry Tello comes from a family of Mexican, Texan roots and was raised in south central Los Angeles. He is an internationally recognized expert in the areas of fatherhood, family strengthening, community peace and mobilization and culturally based violence prevention/intervention issues. He is co-founder of the National Compadres Network (established in 1988) and the present Director of the National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute. He is the proud father of three children, Marcos, Renee, and Emilio, and grandfather of Amara.

## AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

### CALIFORNIA CHILD VICTIMS ACT: OPENING A WINDOW ON SEXUAL ABUSE IN CALIFORNIA'S TRUSTED INSTITUTIONS

#### **Paul Mones, Leading Advocate for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse**

For over thirty years, Paul Mones has been a leading nationwide advocate for victims of child sexual abuse, representing hundreds of people who had been sexually abused as children by their Boy Scout leaders, priests, ministers, coaches, employers, teachers, guidance counselors as well as by their parents and guardians. He has been at the forefront of representing Boy Scout victims of sexual abuse. In 2010 he and his co-counsel obtained the largest verdict ever against the Boy Scouts of America



– \$19.9 million – against the Boy Scouts of America. The trial represented the first time that the Boy Scouts' 'Perversion Files' – confidential files maintained by the BSA on pedophiles – were admitted into evidence. The perversion files were finally publicly released in 2012 to national and international news coverage. Paul has also represented numerous victims of Catholic clergy abuse throughout the nation. In 2000, he and his co-counsel tried the first sexual abuse case to a jury against the Archdiocese of New York (the case settled during trial).

## 1A. CHILDHOOD TRAUMA SHOULD NOT DETERMINE YOUR DESTINY

### **PRESENTERS:**

Sophia Grant, MD, Chief of Medical Services, Riverside University Health System  
Judy Grant, LMFT

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:**

Sisters Sophia and Judy Grant will discuss the effect adverse childhood experience on the mind and body. They will discuss the lasting effects of trauma into adulthood and the ways to ameliorate the negative outcomes. They will address ways to prevent and end generational trauma.

## 1B. FAILURE TO THRIVE, SENTINEL INJURIES AND THE NO-HIT ZONE

### **PRESENTERS:**

Carol D. Berkowitz MD FAAP FACEP

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:**

This presentation will educate medical providers on Trauma Informed Care and its impact on patient care and outcomes. It also addresses self-compassion and resilience building for the provider and how TIC can help improve connections with patients and caregivers.

## 1C. THE MINDFULNESS EXPERIENCE: HOW TO COPE AND MANAGE STRESS

### **PRESENTERS:**

Jerome Front, MA, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Mindfulness Trainings and CE Retreats

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:**

In this Covid era, stress is heightened. Violence and trauma in a family can often be an emotional roller coaster for the entire family, as well as the helping professionals involved. These strong emotions can cause clinician burn-out, emotional fatigue, and shutting down at work. Occasionally, family members and professional caregivers are stretched to their limits in every way. This workshop will discuss how to use mindfulness to build resiliency, manage stress, as well as develop clinical skill through experiential, active learning. The workshop will review current research and provide a clinical perspective on three facets of mindfulness for working with clients. In down-to-earth language, you will learn practical ways to use mindfulness as soon as today.



## 1D. WHEN FAMILY VIOLENCE ENDS IN DEATH: PROMOTING HEALING IN GRIEVING CHILDREN AND TEENS

### PRESENTERS:

Lauren Schneider, Clinical Director of Children's Program, Our House Grief Support Center  
Carolyn Christ, MA, Amft.

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

When family violence ends in death, the child's natural grief reactions may be compounded due to exposure to this adverse childhood experience. Social service professionals who work with survivors of family violence are often ill-equipped to deal with traumatic reactions that may occur alongside natural grief responses. In this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of the DSM-5-TR diagnosis Prolonged Grief Disorder for children including the physical, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral responses of grieving children and teens who have experienced a death due to family violence. Participants will acquire effective intervention strategies to use with both individuals, families, and groups in agency, school, or private practice settings.

## 1E. FAMILY LAW UPDATES 2023

### PRESENTERS:

Stephanie Davidson, Managing Attorney of Survivor and Family Justice Workgroup, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (Survivor and Family Justice Workgroup)

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

In this session, four attorneys from the Legal Aid Foundation's Survivor and Family Justice Workgroup will present the most recent California family law updates that impact survivors of domestic violence and their families. Among other items, we expect to provide training on:

1. Coercive Control, under California Law
2. New Methods for Gun Control Enforcement in DV situations
3. The Court Reporter Crisis in CA

Please note this list is flexible, as we intend to adapt our presentation to the current moment, and more legal updates may arise prior to 3/30.

## 1F. IMPROVING OUTCOMES IN INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF COMPLEX CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE CASES

### PRESENTERS:

Sandra Murray, MD, UCI  
Pak Kouch, JD

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

Child homicides and near-death cases are often the result of severe forms of child abuse - abusive head trauma, torture, starvation, and severe abdominal trauma. These cases are medically and socially complex and require collaboration with a multidisciplinary team to obtain the best outcomes for the child and family. In this presentation, we will discuss issues and cases involving abdominal trauma and starvation, as well as family violence. We will explain why these cases are complex, the need for teamwork, and what to look for in your cases.

## 1G. WHAT JUDGES NEED, WANT AND LOVE

### **PRESENTERS:**

Honorable Mary Thornton House

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:**

Members of the public --even attorneys--are not tuned into how judges think, are trained, and must do in their roles in our constitutional system as leaders of the judicial branch, the third branch of our government. This workshop will delve into the common personality traits of judges, their decision-making models, and provide a roadmap for the public, the justice community, and attorneys to understanding the duties and responsibilities of our judiciary.

## 2A. RISE UP FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH: UNDERSTANDING DISPARITIES AND INTERVENTIONS

### PRESENTERS:

Ariel Bustamante, Capacity Building Manager, Los Angeles LGBT Center

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

Led by the leading program serving LGBTQ+ youth in care and the first federally evaluated, evidence-informed direct service and staff development program, multi-disciplinary professionals will gain the key pieces needed to serve LGBTQ+ children and youth at home and in care, increasing their knowledge and skills to build safety, wellbeing, and permanency. This session will include a unique framework for understanding sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE) and developmental milestones, tools to recognize rejecting/harmful behaviors in the home, and how to implement best practices.

## 2B. THEY LOVE ME, THEY LOVE ME NOT: THE IMPACT OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA IN SHAPING OUTCOMES IN ADULT ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

### PRESENTERS:

Gregory Canillas, PhD, Associate Professor, Clinical-Forensic Psychology/CEO, Soul 2 Soul Global, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

The workshop will examine the impact of childhood trauma on adult romantic relationship outcomes. Research studies suggest that adults experiencing trauma as children (e.g., physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect) may be at greater risk for negative outcomes in their romantic relationships (e.g., intimacy issues, intimate partner violence, infidelity). Recent research studies also indicate that some of the defining factors that create resilience are spirituality, religious orientation/practice, and a strong/healthy social support system. Conversely, children and adolescents who lack a religious orientation, solid spiritual beliefs and a substantial support system may be more susceptible to experiencing negative outcomes as adults in their romantic relationships. Additionally, the impact of factors such as race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and other diversity issues will be explored and presented through a case vignette/treatment plan. Finally, resources that may be used with this population will be suggested.

## 2C. THE TRAUMA OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: DEVELOPMENTAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND NEUROBIOLOGICAL IMPACTS

### PRESENTERS:

Dr. Michael Levittan, T.E.A.M.

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

This workshop presents an integration of domestic violence and trauma with the goal of detailing the reasons that domestic violence is considered traumatic for the survivors, perpetrators, and the children involved. The presentation delves into the aspects of domestic violence, including abuse, physical violence, and controlling behaviors, and describes their traumatic impact. The



dynamics of psychological trauma are explored, such as definitions, the thresholds of trauma and PTSD, meanings of complex trauma, as well as neurobiological effects. Specifically, the areas of traumatic impact that are explored include developmental arrests in children, cognitive deficits, emotional swings, relational models, and diminished connectivity in the brain. Lastly, various ideas are presented that may serve as remedies for the epidemic of domestic violence.

## **2D. HEALING 2 HEALTHY: A THERAPEUTIC APPROACH TO DV OFFENDERS INTERVENTION**

### **PRESENTERS:**

Charles Frazier, President/DV Clinical Director, Radiance Innovative Services  
Sursatie Chetram Frazier, PhD, LPC

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:**

DV offenders have historically been met with a criminal justice approach to address the violence. Prior to 1981, there was no systematic treatment approach to help offenders reduce their aggressive behaviors. A group intervention approach is now the standard of care for DV offender treatment. The typical group approaches in the treatment of DV are the Duluth Model often used in Batterers Intervention Programs and cognitive behavioral therapy. The Healing 2 Healthy Model, (H2) highlights the trauma-informed therapeutic approach that differs from the traditional approaches. H2 applies a strength-based methodology using a proprietary 5-S model helping clients leverage areas of personal capability to extract key issues, examine gaps, educate themselves, and enhance their effectiveness throughout custom modules. The model builds ownership and accountability into the modules, so clients emerge with practical plans that intrinsically motivate and whose positive impact is sustainable. By the end of treatment, the client should be able to acknowledge his past behaviors, recognize healthy conflict resolution options, and to exercise those healthier choices. The goal is for the client to foster healthy relationships in the future and to avoid Crossing The Line.

## **2E. STORIES OF CHANGE: BUILDING RESILIENCY IN CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES THROUGH TRAUMA INFORMED EXPRESSIVE ARTS PRACTICES**

### **PRESENTERS:**

Estela Andujo, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak Peck School of Social Work

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:**

Best practices suggest that integrative methods which impact somatic sensory integration and neurobiology are essential in trauma recovery. Witnessing domestic violence can generate immediate and long-term consequences in cognitive processing and mental health. When not addressed these issues may interfere with general well-being for children and their families. Expressive arts interventions have been proven to be effective in treating trauma by encouraging externalization of inner trauma. Participation in this session will advance understanding of culturally informed preventive interventions such as art, narratives and sandplay in conjunction with evidenced-based modalities that promote psychological health.

## **2F. TRAUMA-GRIEF INFORMED SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY: WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO EXPERIENCE FATAL FAMILY VIOLENCE**

### **PRESENTERS:**

Linda Garcia, MA, CCLS, California Association for Child Life Specialist

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:**

Many surviving children and family members are overlooked for grief interventions due to a lack of identifying referrals or court orders for grief counseling. These surviving children and families are at risk for negative short- and long-term outcomes due to the trauma, fear, instability, interrupted attachment relationships, grief, and subsequent emotions that arise after witnessing and/or otherwise being impacted by family violence. This presentation will highlight the role of Certified Child Life Specialist providing trauma-grief informed services for children and families impacted by violence and grief.

## **2G. COMMUNITY AND DCFS PREVENTION PARTNERSHIPS THAT STRENGTHEN PROTECTIVE FACTORS**

### **PRESENTERS:**

Alma Golla, Children Services Administrator, DCFS

Ana Jayme, LMFT

Melissa Miller, LMFT

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:**

The Department of Children and Family Services focuses on child safety and works to prevent child maltreatment through partnerships and contracts with community-based agencies. Its efforts range from primary prevention through tertiary prevention services contracted through providers. The workshop will provide an overview of two programs, Prevention and Aftercare and Partnerships for Families, and how two different programs work to prevent families from ever having contact with DCFS or, if they have were involved, how they prevent reoccurrence of maltreatment and neglect. The presentation includes outcome results from various studies, including the Department's pioneering use of the Protective Factors Survey Online Database in California.