

Southern Illinois Drug Awareness Conference

March 13-14, 2024

Southern Illinois University Carbondale



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Bigger
Better**

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MUST attend BOTH Days

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www.conferenceservices.siu.edu

SEATING IS LIMITED



SIU MEDICINE
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PATRICK WINDHORST
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CENTERSTONE

Gateway Foundation
Alcohol & Drug
Treatment Centers

SIDAC 2024

AGENDA

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

- 8:30 - 8:40 Welcome and Opening Remarks | **Sarah Vanvooren**
Dr. Breanne Pleggenkuhle
- 8:40 - 9:30 Ted Talks (Challenges) | **Dr. Breanne Pleggenkuhle, Moderator**
Law Enforcement | **David E. Olson**
Social Determination of Health | **Sarah Miller**
Court Services | **Honorable Carey C. Gill**
Veteran's Affairs | **Aaron Morehead**
- 9:30 - 9:45 **Break**
- 9:45 - 10:30 Ted Talks (Challenges) | **Continued**
Behavioral | **A'nna Jurich**
SUD | **Mark Sanders**
Medical | **Melissa Sons**
Recovery | **Mike Tyson**
- 10:30 - 10:45 **Walking Break**
- 10:45 - 11:45 Breakouts Round 1
- 12:00 - 1:00 **LUNCH PROVIDED**
Food Court 1st Floor of Student Center (meal cards provided)
- 1:00 - 2:00 Breakouts Round 2 (Repeat of Round 1)
- 2:00 - 2:15 **Walking Break**
- 2:15 - 3:15 Breakouts Round 3
- 3:15 - 3:30 **Break**
- 3:30 - 4:30 Closing Plenary — Stigma | **John Holst**

Thursday, March 14, 2024

- 8:30 - 9:30 Opening Plenary — Deflection | **Stephanie Nevilles**
- 9:30 - 9:45 **Walking Break**
- 9:45 - 10:45 Breakouts Round 4
- 10:45 - 11:00 **Walking Break**
- 11:00 - 12:00 Breakouts Round 5 (Repeat of Round 4)
- 12:00 - 1:00 **LUNCH PROVIDED**
Food Court 1st Floor of Student Center (meal cards provided)
- 1:00 - 2:00 Breakouts Round 6
- 2:00 - 2:15 **Walking Break**
- 2:15 - 3:15 Testimonials | **Jamal Oxford & Mandy Hagen**
- 3:15 - 4:15 Recovery Revolution | **Mark Sanders**
- 4:15 **Closing and Door Prizes**

Breakout Sessions Round 1:

10:45 – 11:45

Wagering Wellness: An Examination of Gambling Use Disorders in Illinois | [Anita Pindiur](#)

Current Drug Trends in Southern Illinois | [David E. Olson](#)

Social Determinants of Health and Overcoming Inequity in SUD Treatment | [Sarah Miller](#),
[Alexandria Markel & Yvonne Daniels](#)

Problem Solving Court Overview | [Honorable Carey C. Gill](#)

Identifying and Developing a Treatment Strategy for Dual Diagnosis | [A'anna Jurich](#)

What's on the Streets | [Sgt Brant Blackburn and Andy Greer](#)

Law Enforcement Challenges in Regard to Substance Use | [Sheriff Kyle Bacon](#)

Vaping: Don't Let It Cloud Your Future | [Krysten Green](#)

Networking and Vendors | [International Lounge](#)

Addictions and Veteran Care | [Veteran's Affairs Panel](#)

The Special Sauce: Five Ingredients for Helping Clients Sustain Recovery | [Mark Sanders](#)

Violence Associated with SUD /Gangs/Inequity | [Benneth Lee](#)

Breakout Sessions Round 2:

1:00 – 2:00

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Breakout Sessions Round 3:

2:15 – 3:15

Intersectionality of Human Trafficking, Behavioral Health and Substance Misuse |
[Kara Doan, Sarah McHargue & Tim Buehler](#)

Everything You Need to Know About the Illinois Certification Board |
[Tim O'Boyle, Mike Tyson & Dona Howell](#)

Hidden in Plain Sight | [Sydney Shelton & Jennifer Worthen](#)

Illinois Cannabis Legalization: Milestones and Future Challenges | [Laura Jaramillo Bernal](#)

Networking and Vendors | [International Lounge](#)

Breakout Sessions Round 4:

9:45 – 10:45

Trauma Informed Care | [Mark Sanders](#)
Updates in Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opiate Use Disorder | [Jeff Ripperda MD](#)
The Problem Solving Court in Action | [Honorable Carey C. Gill](#)
Findings from Illinois' Justice Community Innovation Network (JCOIN) Project | [David E Olson](#)
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Curriculum Integrity as the Foundation for CRSS-CPRS Professionals: Building Trusting Partnerships | [Cristina Castillo & Dr. Angela Towne](#)
Culture of Recovery from Violence/Inequity | [Benneth Lee](#)
Celebrate Recovery: "Facts & Myths" | [Scotty Bollman & Dona Howell](#)
Networking and Vendors | [International Lounge](#)

Breakout Sessions Round 5:

11:00 – 12:00

Naloxone (Narcan) Overview and Training | [Randyl Wilkins & Kathy Murphy](#)
Updates in Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opiate Use Disorder | [Jeff Ripperda MD](#)
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Breakout Sessions Round 6:

1:00 – 2:00

Intersectionality of Human Trafficking, Behavioral Health and Substance Misuse
[Kara Doan, Sarah McHargue & Tim Buehler](#)
Multiple Pathways in Recovery | [Chrystal Cantrell, CPRS; Dan Pyles, BS, CPRS; Tessa Leech; & John A. Cantrell, BA, CADC](#)
Overdose, Infectious Disease & Harm Reduction in Southern Illinois
[Scott Fletcher, MPH, CHES; Rebecca Bolinski, PhD; Wiley Jenkins, PhD](#)
Hidden in Plain Sight | [Sydney Shelton & Jennifer Worthen](#)

Breakout Sessions Round 1:

10:45 – 11:45

Wagering Wellness: An Examination of Gambling Use Disorders in Illinois

Anita Pindiur

Gambling Use in Illinois, growth of gambling options, access, and social norms. Presentation focus on outreach, prevention, screening, and treatment. How to work with persons, families, and communities affected by gambling use disorders. Including availability of new statewide outreach, with screening and treatment options through the Are You Really Winning? statewide campaign.

Current Drug Trends in Southern Illinois

David E. Olson

Public health, treatment provider, and criminal justice data will be presented to highlight trends in how drug use, adverse outcomes, and the justice system's response to drug-law violations has changed in southern Illinois, and how it differs from other parts of Illinois. The implications for policy and practice will also be discussed.

Social Determinants of Health and Overcoming Inequity in SUD Treatment

Sarah Miller, Alexandria Markel and Yvonne Daniels

This session delves into the impact of SDOH and addressing stigma. It aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of these interconnected issues, promoting inclusive approaches to support the SUD population.

Problem Solving Court Overview

The Honorable Carey C. Gill

Problem solving courts operate much differently than the traditional criminal justice model and can lead to huge success for participants, offering an alternative to incarceration. In this program you will learn about the rationale for the inception of non-adversarial problem solving courts, the evidence based practices necessary for success of participants, and benefits of these courts to both participants and the community.

Identifying and Developing a Treatment Strategy for Dual Diagnosis

A'anna Jurich

This session will discuss the definition and a brief history of dual diagnosis treatment, and cover how to identify dual diagnosis and provide treatment based on the client's unique circumstances.

What's on the Streets

Sgt Brant Blackburn and Andy Greer

This will be an overview of current drug trends in southern Illinois from a law enforcement and drug treatment perspective. We will discuss trends in our communities and what is heading our direction. As well as the implications this has on our communities and resources.

Law Enforcement Challenges in Regard to Substance Use

Sheriff Kyle Bacon

Discussion concerning challenges faced by law enforcement as it relates to substance use disorder / mental health and incarceration. Will also cover aspects of the Safe-T-Act that I believe have caused additional barriers to finding treatment and recovery options for those who intersect law enforcement through incarceration.

Vaping: Don't Let It Cloud Your Future

Krysten Green, MSN, APRN, FNP-C

Electronic cigarettes and vaping have become the rage among those of all ages. Once considered by individuals as a tool to quit smoking has now become a worldwide health concern.

Vendor Engagement Session

International Lounge

Spend an hour networking and visiting with vendors allowing one-on-one conversations while learning about valuable resources available in our area. A job listing board will be available with opportunities to speak with employers on the spot or in a private location.

Addictions and Veteran Care

Aaron Morehead, LCSW CADC; Mary J. Thompson, LCSW, C-SWHC; Sandra Call, LCSW; Kristina Smith, LCSW; and Jennifer Spurrier, CSW

An exploration of addictions treatment options for Veterans in the context of a rural, integrated care setting with a focus on advantages and barriers inherent to this. This panel presentation will highlight the intersectionality between substance abuse and behavioral health, suicide and homelessness within the Veteran population by subject matter experts.

The Special Sauce: Five Ingredients for Helping Clients Sustain Recovery

Mark Sanders

In this presentation you will learn the CHIME Model which includes 5 key ingredients to help clients sustain recovery long term. Topics covered include: Research based strategies to help clients establish connections in recovery; instillation of hope in recovery; client empowerment in recovery; helping clients develop meaning and purpose in recovery; Individual and organizational strategies to help clients sustain recovery.

Violence Associated with SUD / Gangs / Inequity

Benneth Lee

This workshop will focus on the anomie and social disorganization of a community. The participants will learn of the crime triangle and how the community enable crime and violence. The participants will understand how gangs are formed and the drugs that are dealing to gang members.

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1:00 – 2:00

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Breakout Sessions Round 3:

2:15 – 3:15

Intersectionality of Human Trafficking, Behavioral Health and Substance Misuse

Kara Doan, Sarah McHargue and Tim Buehler

A discussion of human trafficking basics, misconceptions, and the intersectionality of substance misuse and the behavioral health needs through a trauma-informed lens.

Everything You Need to Know About the Illinois Certification Board

Tim O'Boyle, Mike Tyson, and Dona Howell

This session will cover all the certifications, endorsements, and registrations that are offered by the Illinois Certification Board around such areas as: Substance Use Disorders, Mental Health Issues, Peer Recovery Support, Gambling, Adolescents, Women, and Veterans (to name a few). In addition, the process of getting certified will be reviewed and participants can review in depth the materials required for certification at the ICB Exhibit during the conference.

Hidden in Plain Sight (HIPS)

Sydney Shelton & Jennifer Worthen

The Hidden In Plain Sight room provides parents with clues from a teen's bedroom to help them determine whether their child might be experimenting with or using drugs or alcohol. Room decor, hidden compartments and items to conceal use are located throughout the room.

Illinois Cannabis Legalization: Milestones and Future Challenges

Laura Jaramillo Bernal

Exploring Illinois' journey through cannabis legalization, highlighting key milestones and addressing future challenges in regulation, social equity, and economic impact.

Vendor Engagement Session

International Lounge

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Plenary Session

2:45 – 3:45

Why We Need To Keep Love Front and Center!

Rev. John Holst

The strongest gift we can offer a person, no matter whether it is themselves or someone they love, is to help foster an engaged and loving community that begins with you. Be present. Share time with them. Let them know that they are loved and that they are valuable to you.

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Plenary Session

8:30 – 9:30

What is Deflection and How it Works?

Stephanie Nevilles

Deflection is a collaborative intervention connecting public safety (e.g., police, fire/EMS) and public health systems to create community-based pathways to treatment for people who have substance use disorders (SUDs), mental health disorders, or both, and who often have other service needs, without their entry into the criminal justice system. Deflection initiatives are created to "deflect" individuals who may have or have potential for criminal justice involvement. In this session, you will gain a deeper understanding of deflection, the different pathways to deflection, the "Relentless Engagement" and "Warm Handoff", and statistical data from around the country as well as locally. We will also discuss local Deflection Initiatives and a "Call to Action" for Southern Illinois Communities.

Breakout Sessions Round 4:

9:45 – 10:45

Trauma Informed Care

Mark Sanders

The majority of clients with substance use disorders have trauma histories, which if unaddressed trigger a return to drug use and recidivism. In this presentation you will learn the 6 principles of trauma informed care and how to apply these principles in your work with clients in order to increase recovery rates.

Updates in Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opiate Use Disorder

Jeff Ripperda MD

Dr. Ripperda will give an update on medication assisted therapy (MAT) for treatment of opiate addiction. He'll focus on buprenorphine, but also touch on methadone, naltrexone, and naloxone. He'll review current guidelines and share anecdotes from his 13 years providing MAT.

The Problem Solving Court in Action

The Honorable Carey C. Gill

Attendee's will observe a Drug/Veteran's Court Team meeting followed by a Drug Court Hearing. While the meeting and hearing are simulations, the team members are real, and the participants are actual Drug/Veterans Court graduates who have remained arrest free since graduating from the program. A question and answer session will follow.

Findings from Illinois' Justice Community Innovation Network (JCOIN) Project

David E. Olson

Illinois' JCOIN project has brought together staff from parole offices, behavioral health providers, and public health agencies to identify opportunities to improve access to substance abuse treatment services for those released from prison in Illinois. Loyola University Chicago, Texas Christian University, and the University of New Mexico are carrying out the project across Illinois, Texas and New Mexico. The presentation will provide an overview of the JCOIN project and the strategies being developed/implemented to improve service coordination and delivery to those released from prison in Illinois.

Obstacles of Re-Entry

Anthony Arington and Kathy Hueter

Men and women returning to the community from incarceration face multiple barriers to success. Addiction, untreated mental health, unemployment and housing instability are common themes found within struggling communities.

Exploring SUPS: Analyzing Johnson County Data

Morgan Nickles

SUPS focuses on students in fourth grade through high school to educate and raise awareness of substance use and misuse through a prevention-based curriculum and awareness initiatives.

Building Recovery Ready Communities in Southern Illinois

Mike Tyson, CPRS

This presentation will explore community based solutions for addressing chronic substance use and homelessness in rural Southern Illinois communities.

Family Recovery Basics

Erin Wallace and Tim Perkins

In this presentation, we will share about the family education program that we started post COVID. Family Recovery Basics helps families with addiction gain insight on the problems that families with addiction may encounter, as well as learning healthy responses and strategies for hope and healing. It helps empower families on the road to recovery to explore communication, resilience, and community resources for a supportive environment. Join us for an informative session.

Curriculum Integrity as the Foundation for CRSS-CPRS Professionals: Building Trusting Partnerships

Cristina Castillo & Dr. Angela Towne

SIU SOM's CRSS-CPRS interactive curriculum meets both State and National requirements to prepare exceptionally trained professionals. Learn more about how your agency and communities might benefit from our program.

Culture of Recovery from Violence / Inequity

Benneth Lee

This workshop will focus on the Kingian nonviolence beloved community model. The participants will understand how community can reduce violence, crime and substance abuse in their community.

Celebrate Recovery: "Facts & Myths"

Scotty Bollman & Dona Howell

A brief review of the tenants of Celebrate Recovery and how this program supports recover from substance use, mental health, trauma, PTSD, gambling, overeating through a spiritual focus. The hurts, habits, and hang-ups we all struggle with don't have to be faced alone.

Vendor Engagement Session

International Lounge

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Breakout Sessions Round 5:

11:00 – 12:00

Naloxone (Narcan) Overview and Training

Randy Wilkins and Kathy Murphy

Presenters will discuss how to advocate for Narcan training in communities in a way that is compassionate and non-stigmatizing. Participants will learn how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and administer Narcan. After completing the session, participants have the option to receive one Narcan kit.

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Kara Doan, Sarah McHargue and Tim Buehler

A discussion of human trafficking basics, misconceptions, and the intersectionality of substance misuse and the behavioral health needs through a trauma-informed lens.

Multiple Pathways in Recovery

Chrystal Cantrell, CPRS; Dan Pyles, BS, CPRS; Tessa Leech; & John A. Cantrell, BA, CADC

SAMHSA's definition of recovery: A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential. This workshop will focus on some ways people are finding and sustaining recovery from SUD/mental health challenges and homelessness.

Overdose, Infectious Disease, and Harm Reduction in Southern Illinois: Findings from the ETHIC Clinical Trial

Scott Fletcher, MPH, CHES; Rebecca Bolinski PhD; and Wiley Jenkins, PhD

This presentation will provide an overview of the findings from the ETHIC clinical trial that ran in southern Illinois between 2017 and 2023. Attendees will understand the scope of overdose in the region, infectious disease risks and management associated with drug use, and harm reduction interventions to improve safety of people who use drugs in southern Illinois.

Hidden in Plain Sight (HIPS)

Sydney Shelton & Jennifer Worthen

The Hidden In Plain Sight room provides parents with clues from a teen's bedroom to help them determine whether their child might be experimenting with or using drugs or alcohol. Room decor, hidden compartments and items to conceal use are located throughout the room.

Testimonials

2:15 – 3:15

Jamal Oxford and Mandy Hagen

Plenary Session

2:45 – 3:45

A Recovery Revolution In Southern Illinois: Creating A Healing Forest To Promote Recovery Mark Sanders

In this presentation we will discuss the concept of The Healing Forest, which involves mobilizing the entire community to work together in order to promote recovery. Emphasis will be placed upon successful Healing Forests which currently exist in Southern Illinois. Other examples will be drawn from Native American, urban, suburban and rural communities.

Closing / Door Prizes

4:15

Melissa Sons

Melissa Sons received her bachelor's degree in nursing from McKendree College and Master's of Science from Greenville University. She has 24 years of nursing experience with over 18 years dedicated Case Management. She is a member of the American Case Management Association, serving six years on the Illinois/Missouri Gateway Board. She is currently Director of Case Management at Deaconess Illinois.

Anita Pindiur

Anita Pindiur, LCPC, CADC, PCGC, and ICDVP is the Executive Director of the Way Back Inn since 2002. Graduated from Loyola University, undergraduate and Benedictine University for Masters of Science in Clinical Psychology. Anita is involved with many boards, committees, and task forces, advocating for treatment and recovery for those affected by substance and gambling use disorders.

David E. Olson

David Olson is a Professor and Co-Director of Loyola University Chicago's interdisciplinary Center for Criminal Justice. Dr. Olson also serves as the Chair of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and the advisory boards of the Illinois Department of Corrections & Department of Juvenile Justice.

Sarah Miller

Sarah Miller is the Clinical Case Management Coordinator for Shawnee Health. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Social Work from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and her Master's in Social Work from The University of Tennessee with a certificate in Human Services Management. Her passion is health justice with an emphasis on underserved and vulnerable populations. She has worked with Shawnee Health for over 10 years. In addition to her work growing Shawnee Health's Clinical Case Management Program, she is currently managing the development of Shawnee Health's Community Health Worker Program.

Alexandria Markel

Alexandria Markel is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor. She currently serves as the Substance Use Program Coordinator for Shawnee Health and has been in the field for 10 years. She earned her M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and specializes in providing behavioral health treatment for substance use.

Yvonne Daniels

Yvonne Daniels is a Licensed Clinical Social Work and the Clinical Behavioral Health Director at Shawnee Health Service. The majority of her experience 12+ years of experience has been working at Shawnee Health. Currently, she continues to provide individual counseling to patients while working on developing and managing program growth at her organization.

Honorable Carey C. Gill

The Honorable Carey C. Gill has been an At Large Circuit Judge in the First Judicial Circuit since February 2017. Judge Gill has presided in multiple counties and over numerous dockets. After working to create the Drug/Veterans Court in 2018, she has presided over it since its inception.

A'anna Jurich, MS, LCPC, CRADC

Graduate of SIU Carbondale with MS in Rehabilitation Counseling. LCPC, CRADC Worked in substance use and mental health with Gateway Foundation for 29 years. Currently working as a private counselor with focus in trauma. Training in addiction counseling, EMDR, IFS, and Accelerated Resolution Therapy.

Sgt Brant Blackburn

Sgt. Wm. Brant Blackburn started his career in Law Enforcement in February 2000 as a Deputy Sheriff with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for Sheriff Russell "Rusty" Dakin and later Sheriff Kenny Moore. In February 2002, Blackburn joined the Illinois State Police (ISP) and was later assigned to District 12 (Troop 9) Effingham, where he was assigned to patrol. In January 2006, Blackburn transferred to ISP Zone 7 Investigations in DuQuoin and joined the then newly formed Methamphetamine Response Team (MRT) and served as a Special Agent with the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force. While in Zone 7, Blackburn worked several multi-level state and federal drug cases and has provided expert witness testimony for both State and Federal Jury Trials. Blackburn was also DEA Task Force Officer based in Carbondale, Illinois for three and a half years where he worked drug conspiracy cases with several other state local and federal law enforcement agencies across the country. In February 2023, Blackburn was assigned to the ISP Division of Criminal Investigation Investigative Support Command and is currently the Statewide Clandestine Laboratory Team (former MRT) Coordinator where he oversees operations and training for the Clandestine Lab Team Operators all over the state.

Andy Greer

Andy had been in the field of substance use treatment since 1996. For 22 years he has worked with the Gateway Foundation in various capacities with the majority of that time as a community outreach/business development coordinator. From 2013-2015 he acted as the drug court counselor for the Marion Co. Courts. From 2015-2019 he worked as the Johnson Co. Probation Officer for the First Judicial Circuit.

Sheriff Kyle Bacon

BA- SIUC '98 / Nashville Metro Police Dept 99-01 (Patrol) / Franklin County Sheriff's Office 2001 - Current / Elected Sheriff and took office in Dec. 2022.

Krysten Green, MSN, APRN, FNP-C

I am a lifelong resident of Southern Illinois, with a passion for medicine, particularly Addiction Medicine and Behavioral Health. I have been a Behavioral Health Nurse for the last 10 years. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Nursing in 2020 and my Master's in Nursing, with a concentration in Family Medicine, in 2023.

Aaron Morehead, LCSW, CADC

Aaron is the Addictions Program Coordinator at the Marion VA Medical Center. Aaron is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

Mary J. Thompson, LCSW, C-SWHC

Mary is the Behavioral Medicine Specialty Program Supervisor at the Marion VA Medical Center. Mary is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and is a Certified Social Worker in Health Care.

Sandra Call, LCSW

Sandra is a Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Suicide Prevention team at the Marion VA Medical Center. Sandra is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Kristina Smith, LCSW

Kristina is a Licensed and Clinical Social Worker with the Marion VA Homeless Program. She is a HUD/VASH Case Manager at the Evansville Clinic since 2018. Kristina was at the Indianapolis VA for eight years in the USAF and has continued her federal service with the VA for 15 years.

Jennifer Spurrier, CSW

Jennifer began her VA employment as a student in 2021 and was hired as a Homeless Case Manager. Jennifer served six years in the Marine Corps. Jennifer worked with the homeless population at a local shelter in Owensboro, KY.

***Mark Sanders**

Mark Sanders, LCSW, CADC is an international speaker and consultant in behavioral health whose presentations have reached thousands throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, West Indies and Guam. He is the recipient of four lifetime achievement awards including the prestigious NAADAC *Enlightenment Award*. He was one of three finalists for the National Association for Addiction Professionals 50th Anniversary *Legends Award*. Mark is also the recipient of the Illinois Certification Board's *Professional of the Year Award*, *The Illinois Certification Board*, *Jessica Hayes Lifetime Achievement Award* and *The Barbara Bacon Award* for outstanding contributions to the social work profession as a Loyola University of Chicago alumni. Mark is the author of five books on behavioral health recovery. Recent writings include: *Slipping Through the Cracks: Intervention Strategies For Clients With Multiple Addictions Disorders* and *Relationship Detox: A Counselors Guide To Helping Clients Develop Healthy Relationships In Recovery*. He was lead writer on a trauma informed gun violence prevention curriculum which is being implemented in several large cities in the United States. His groundbreaking monograph *Recovery Management* co-authored with historians William White and Earnest Kurtz helped shift addictions treatment and recovery from the acute care model solely towards a Recovery Oriented System of Care. Mark has had two stories published in the New York Times bestselling book series, *Chicken Soup for The Soul*. Mark has also had a 30 year career as a university educator having taught at The University of Chicago, Loyola University of Chicago and Illinois State University School's of Social Work. He is co-founder of Serenity Academy Chicago, a program which sponsors recovery-oriented peer groups in local high schools.

Benneth Lee

Benny Lee, founder and CEO/founder of the National Alliance for the Empowerment of the Formerly Incarcerated (NAEF) is sought-after as an international trainer and consultant, having presented throughout the United States, Israel, and West Africa. He has received numerous awards for his outstanding work, including the Professional of the Year award from the Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association (IAODAPCA), a Project Safe Neighborhoods award from U.S. Department of Justice, and a national America Honors Recovery award from the Johnson Institute for his work in providing innovative services to gang affiliated individuals in the criminal justice system.

Kara Doan

As the CEO and Co-Founder of Restoration61, Kara Doan has extensive experience in victim advocacy, teaching and educating, partnership development, legislative change, and nonprofit leadership. Kara is a strong leader within the sector, making her a dynamic advocate in the anti-trafficking industry.

Sarah McHargue

Sarah McHargue is an advocate, consultant, and manager that effectively uses her own story and experience with trauma to provide individuals, advocates, and groups with the necessary tools to fight against human trafficking. Sarah currently leads Victim Services for Restoration61.

Tim Buehler

Tim Buehler is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor practicing as a counselor since 2016. Tim has been trained in Accelerated Resolution Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, and Brain Spotting. Tim has seen many great benefits from using these neurosomatic therapies to change help many lives.

Tim O'Boyle

Tim is the Program Director for the GEO group's Alumni Program. He is a Board Member with the Illinois Certification Board, and has been certified as a CADC, CAAP. He has a Masters Degree in Behavioral Health and is working toward his LCPC. He is a strong advocate for recovery and support services for people returning to the community from corrections and has lived experience in the field.

Mike Tyson, CPRS

Mike is a person in successful long-term recovery and is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in Addictions and is pursuing a Master of Social Work in Leadership and Social Change. He is the founder and executive director of Take Action Today Inc., a 501c3 not-for-profit that operates a recovery community organization based in Franklin County, Illinois.

Dona Howell

Former Illinois Department of Corrections Substance Use Program Manager (37 years); Board Member Emeritus for the Illinois Certification; Board Certified Reciprocal Substance Use Counselor; and currently working with Purpose House/Celebrate Recovery and Comprehensive Connections.

Sydney Shelton

From Goreville, Illinois. Graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in May of 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health. Started working at Southern Seven Health Department as a health educator, working on multiple projects such as the adolescent health program, tobacco cessation and prevention programs, teen pregnancy prevention program, and the prescription drug and monitoring program.

Jennifer Worthen

From Golconda, Illinois where after obtaining a Bachelor of Science in High School English Education at SIUC in 1997, returned to Pope County High School and taught for twenty-three years. Has taught teen pregnancy prevention and anti-vaping curriculum throughout the Johnson County region. Starting in 2024, Jennifer will be leading the TPSN program that works with pregnant teens and/or teen parents in DCFS.

Laura Jaramillo Bernal

Laura is the Chief Operating Officer for nuEra Cannabis, a rapidly growing vertically integrated cannabis operator with retail operations in Illinois and cultivation and production operations in Illinois and Michigan.

***Rev. John Holst**

Rev. John Holst has been a part of the ministerial staff of five United Church of Christ churches in the Midwest. He joined the congregation at Zion United Church of Christ in Marion on February 16, 2009. John graduated from the University of Illinois in Springfield (B.A.) and Chicago Theological Seminary (M.Div). Rev. Holst is very active in the community through the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club. He is a champion for all people and he has been involved with many community endeavors to provide food and other support to those in need.

***Stephanie Nevilles, BS, CADC**

Stephanie Nevilles serves as administrator of TASC's deflection services in downstate Illinois, including sites in East Central Illinois (Charleston base), Southern Illinois (Carbondale base), and East St. Louis.

Stephanie joined TASC as a clinical community reentry case manager for the Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center (SWICC) in 2007 and was promoted to supervisor in 2018. She is a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor (CADC), earned her BS in sociology from Southern Illinois University (SIU-Edwardsville), and is active in her church and community.

Jeff Ripperda MD

Dr Jeff Ripperda is a family physician who has practiced at Shawnee Health Murphysboro since 2007. He's been providing medication assisted treatment, primarily buprenorphine, to those with opiate use disorder since 2011. Dr Ripperda is an old school general country doctor who still practices obstetrics and has a special interest in treating pregnant women with opiate use disorder and in caring for newborns of those women. He was the first provider in Southern Illinois to offer treatment with long term injectable buprenorphine. In Dr Ripperda's spare time, he plays mandolin and bass for the Americana band Nine88 and loves watching soccer. His own drug of choice is bourbon. Drunk slowly and in small, responsible quantities.

Anthony Arlington

Anthony Arlington is the Chief Operations Officer for Southern Illinois Reentry, a federally contracted Residential Reentry Center scheduled to assume services in Marion, IL in early 2025.

Morgan Nickles

Morgan Nickles is a Programs Coordinator at Arrowleaf, a nonprofit human services organization with over 25 programs. Nickles has been instrumental in supervising the Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPS) program for over four years, overseeing its successful implementation across the southern seven Illinois counties.

Erin Wallace

Erin Wallace is the Residential Program Manager at Comprehensive Connections and has worked in the field of addiction for the past 10 years. She has four years' experience working in a therapeutic community at Big Muddy. She has her Bachelor of Science and is a CADC. She has been in long term recovery for the past 21 years.

Tim Perkins

Timothy Perkins is a Counselor I at Comprehensive Connections. Prior to working at Comprehensive Connections he worked for two years as a CRSS and Alumni Coordinator, He is in recovery and just celebrated five years in December. He oversees the family education program.

Cristina Castillo

Cristina Castillo earned a MS in Educational Psychology from SIUC. As a counselor trained in Cross-Cultural Communication, Program Development and Assessment she abides by the ethical principle "First Do No Harm." She is an educator and collaborator at heart and currently working as CRSS-CPRS coordinator at CRHSSD.

Dr. Angela Towne

After earning a B.S. in Health Psychology, Dr. Towne developed strengths-based, trauma-informed wellness curriculum and taught community education while working in peer recovery support. They continued this work in public health while earning their MEd and a PhD in Sexuality Studies from School of Human Service Professions.

Scotty Bollman

Recovery Pastor at Purpose House Church; Local Business Owner; Deeply involved with community wellness programs

Randyl Wilkins

Randyl Wilkins (she/her/hers) is a Mental Health and Youth Engagement Specialist from rural southern Illinois. Randyl has spent nearly twenty years working with young people in the areas of substance use prevention, teen traffic safety, intentional relationships, and mental health.

Kathy Murphy

Kathy Murphy is a Special Project Coordinator at Prevention First. Kathy works on prevention efforts with various programs throughout the agency. Kathy has vast knowledge in community outreach, program development, and training presentations.

Chrystal Cantrell, CPRS

Chrystal Cantrell is a person in long term recovery with a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist credential. Chrystal is the Director of Operations for Take Action Today, a Recovery Community Organization. Chrystal is passionate about Recovery Oriented Systems of Care and is a founding member of the So. IL Recovery Network.

Dan Pyles, BS, CPRS

Dan Pyles is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and has a BS in Behavioral Health. He is pursuing a Masters in Clinical Psychology. Dan is the Director of Programs for Take Action Today, a Recovery Community Organization. Dan oversees our community support groups such as SMART Recovery and SHINE (Healing/Trauma).

Tessa Leech

Tessa Leech is a Community Behavioral Health Liaison/Peer Recovery Specialist for Take Action Today, Inc. a Recovery Community Organization. Tessa is a graduate of the SIU SOM CPRS Training Program. She is pursuing both the CPRS/CRSS credential. Tessa's passion is Harm Reduction as a Recovery Pathway.

John Cantrell, BA, CADC

John Cantrell is a person in long term recovery with a BA in Psychology holding a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor credential. John is a Board Member of Take Action Today with 15 years of 12 step recovery experience. John enjoys mentoring people seeking recovery and is involved in So. IL Recovery Oriented Systems of Care.

Scott Fletcher, MPH, CHES

Scott Fletcher, MPH, CHES, is the Executive Director of the Community Action Place, Inc. His primary interest is serving vulnerable populations, specifically people who use drugs, those at greatest risk for contracting HIV, in rural communities. His work focuses on health education, testing, and uptake of harm reduction in rural areas.

Rebecca Bolinski, PhD

Rebecca Bolinski, PhD (she/her) is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the SIU School of Medicine Department of Population Science and Policy. Dr. Bolinski's research interests focus on the health and well-being of rural people who use drugs, harm reduction, intersectional stigma, and criminal legal impacts of substance use.

**SIDAC
2024**

SPEAKER BIOS

Wiley Jenkins, PhD

Wiley Jenkins, PhD, (he/him) is a Research Professor and Interim Chair at the SIU School of Medicine Department of Population Science and Policy. Dr. Jenkins' research interests broadly address rural health disparities, with specific foci including harm and infectious disease risk among people who use drugs.

Jamal Oxford

Jamal Oxford loves to share his inspirational story of hope to others struggling with addiction. Oxford, a military veteran and former state prison officer, got hurt and after several surgeries, he developed a serious opioid addiction which led to cocaine and then stealing to feed his habit. After losing his marriage, relationship with his child, job, and nearly his life, he attributes his time in prison to saving him. Seven years as an inmate, he is now 12 years clean and works with several Southern Illinois Counties courts, jails and drug courts as a peer recovery specialist. Jamal resides in Harrisburg with his wife, Amy. They had a second chance at love, remarrying 24 years later. They have a grown daughter together, Callie and their relationship has never been stronger. His story is filled recovery, redemption & forgiveness. Besides his full time job he is an avid volunteer and active in his church. He now devotes his life to helping others find the freedom he has and reducing the stigma of addiction.

Mandy Hagen

Mandy Hagen is a person in long term recovery. Mandy works with Take Action Today, a Recovery Community Organization as a Recovery Oriented System of Care Coordinator for the Franklin-Williamson ROSC Council. Mandy will share how she overcame the challenges of chronic substance use and what recovery looks like today.

***Keynote Sessions and Speakers**



**Save
the
Date
March 12-13
2025**