



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**  
DRUG AWARENESS CONFERENCE



**MARCH**  
**13-14**  
**2025**

**STUDENT**  
**CENTER**

1255 Lincoln Drive  
Carbondale, IL 62901

EVENTS AND OUTREACH  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

# SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

## DRUG AWARENESS CONFERENCE

Welcome to the **Southern Illinois Drug Awareness Conference!**

On behalf of the planning committee, we are honored to have you join us for this pivotal event. Over the next two days, we will delve into the pressing issues of substance use, mental health, and homelessness that impact our community. Our goal is to foster collaboration among professionals from various sectors, including law enforcement, healthcare, education, and social services, to develop comprehensive strategies that address these challenges.

We have curated a diverse program featuring esteemed speakers, interactive workshops, and insightful panel discussions. We encourage you to actively participate, share your experiences, and engage with fellow attendees. Together, we can drive meaningful change and strengthen the well-being of Southern Illinois.

Thank you for your commitment to this cause. We look forward to a productive and inspiring conference.

Warm regards,

SIDAC Planning Committee,

Aaron Morehead  
Andy Greer  
Breanne Pleggenkuhle  
Chrystal Cantrell  
Dona Howell  
Holly Windhorst  
Jenee' Westjohn  
Lisa Gulley  
Mandy Hagen  
Michelle Hamilton  
Scotty Bollman

Aaron Seibert  
Annette Miner  
Brent VanHam  
Diana Shields  
Dria Markel  
Jackie Welch  
Laura Addison  
Lisa Link  
Margot Cepeda  
Sarah Basler  
Shara Robinson

Amber Bridgman  
Bradley Bullock  
Christy Richardson  
Diane McIntyre  
Erik Bethel  
Jeff Watkins  
Lindsay Powell  
Lisa Smith  
Mary Jane Morris  
Sarah Miller  
William Lo

SIDAC would like to thank the 2025 Conference Sponsors:

**Diamond Sponsors**

Williamson County 708 Board

**Platinum Sponsors**

**Gold Sponsors**

Meridian Healthcare

**Silver Sponsors**

Gateway Foundation

**Friends of SIDAC**

Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development | SIU School of Medicine

Illinois Education Association

Southern Illinois Enforcement Group (SEIG)

**Continuing Education Unit Hours**

CEU credits will be available for each session. As follows:

1. Plenary sessions, please sign in electronically using the provided QR Code on the tables.
2. Breakout sessions, a sign-in/sign-out sheet will be provided in each room. To receive credit, ensure you sign in and out for every breakout session you attend.

When signing in, please be sure your email address and license number are listed by your name.

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Illinois Certification Board has approved **14 hours**

SIU Medicine, Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development has approved **10.25 approved for LCSW, LCPC, LSW, and LPC**

**SIDAC would like to thank the 2025 Conference Vendors:**

Gateway Foundation

Herrin House of Hope

Illinois Certification Board  
Illinois Council on Problem Gambling

Meridian Health

Purpose House Church

Rural Health Inc.

Shawnee Health Services

SIU Medicine, Center for Rural Health  
and Social Service Development

Smoot Enterprises

Take Action Today

USP Marion

## Thursday, March 13, 2026

- 8:25 - 8:30**      **Welcome and Opening Remarks** | Sarah Vanvooren
- 8:30 - 9:30**      **Opening Plenary** | Dr. David E. Olsen
- 9:30 - 9:45**      **Break**
- 9:45 - 10:30**    **Ted Talks (Challenges)** |                      **Moderator:**  
David E. Olson  
Chantell Fullilove  
Mark Sanders  
Tiffanie Clark
- 10:30 - 10:45**    **Break**
- 10:45 - 11:45**    **Breakouts Round 1**
- 11:45 - 1:15**      **LUNCH—Food Court 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of Student Center (meal cards provided)**  
*Group A:* 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM                      12:15 PM - 1:15 PM  
Lunch at the Food Court                                      Visit Vendor Exhibits  
*Group B:* 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM                      12:15 PM - 1:15 PM  
Visit Vendor Exhibits                                      Lunch at the Food Court
- 1:15 - 2:15**      **Breakouts Round 2 (Repeat of Round 1)**
- 2:15 - 2:30**      **Break**
- 2:30 - 4:00**      **Closing Plenary — Challenges of Reentry | Panel Discussion**  
Donald Brady, Rachel Terrill, Yasmine Townsley-Martinez, Carl Gauthier,  
Christina Dunningan, Anthony Arington, Tiffanie Clark and Andrew Young

## Friday, March 14, 2025

- 8:30 - 9:30**      **Opening Plenary** | Mark Sanders
- 9:30 - 9:45**      **Break**
- 9:45 - 10:45**    **Breakouts Round 3**
- 10:45 - 11:00**    **Break**
- 11:00 - 12:00**    **Breakouts Round 4 (Repeat of Round 3)**
- 12:00 - 1:30**      **LUNCH—Food Court 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of Student Center (meal cards provided)**  
*Group A:* 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm                      1:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
Lunch at the Food Court                                      Visit Vendor Exhibits  
*Group B:* 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm                      12:30 pm - 1:30 pm  
Visit Vendor Exhibits                                      Lunch at the Food Court
- 1:30 - 2:30**      **Breakouts Round 5**
- 2:30 - 2:45**      **Break**
- 2:45 - 3:45**      **Closing Plenary** | Kerry Martin
- 3:45**              **Closing and Door Prizes—(must be present to win)**

# SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

## DRUG AWARENESS CONFERENCE

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025**

**7:00 AM-8:25 AM** **Registration**

After you check-in at the registration table, please visit our vendors in Art Alley.  
(map in conference folder)

**8:25 AM - Welcome**

**Speaker:** Sarah Vanvooren, Director, Events and Outreach, SIU Carbondale

**8:30 AM-9:30 AM** **Opening Plenary**

***Current Drug Trends in Southern Illinois***

Dr. Olson will present public health, treatment provider, and criminal justice data to highlight trends in drug use, adverse outcomes, and the justice system's response to drug-law violations in Southern Illinois, comparing them to other regions in the state. Policy and practice implications will also be discussed.

**Speaker:** Dr. David E. Olson, Professor and Co-Director, Center for Criminal Justice, Loyola University Chicago

**David** 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.

**9:30 AM - 9:45 AM** **Break**

**9:45 AM - 10:30 AM** **TED Talks - Specialized Topics**

**Speakers:**

- o Mark Sanders
- o Chantel Fullilove
- o Dr. David Olson
- o Tiffanie Clark

**10:30 AM - 10:45 AM** **Break**

**AA1:            *Law Enforcement Perspectives: Contemporary Approaches to Substance Use and Mental Health***

Sustained efforts are required to effectively consider police/citizen interactions. With new substance use patterns and alternative approaches to mental health incidents, this panel will discuss these issues and strategies.

**Speakers:** Laterriea Martin, Mental Health Advocate Supervisor, Sergeant Theodore Lattan & Community Resource Officer Randy Matthis, Carbondale Police Department

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**AA2:            *Illinois Bail Reform***

This presentation will highlight findings from Loyola’s evaluation of Illinois’ Pretrial Fairness Act, including how the law has changed the size and composition of jail and pretrial supervision populations, how often individuals charged with offenses eligible for detention are detained, and the implications of these changes for individuals with substance use disorders during the pretrial period.

**Speaker:** Dr. David E. Olson, Loyola University Chicago

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**AA3:            *Women's Issues in Substance Abuse Treatment***

This presentation explores the unique challenges and considerations surrounding women's issues in substance abuse treatment. It will address the impact of gender-specific factors such as trauma, mental health, and societal stigma influencing treatment outcomes.

**Speakers:** Chantel Fullilove, BA, CADC, and Destiny Smith, CADC, Gateway Foundation

**Chantel** is a Clinical Supervisor for the female units at Gateway Foundation. She has been with Gateway for five years. She has been a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor for three years. Currently, she is obtaining her Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

**Destiny** is a Counselor II at Gateway Foundation. She has been with Gateway for six years and in the field for 12. She is a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Destiny is currently enrolled in a social work program and plans to be a Licensed Social Worker and continue my work in this field.

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**AA4:            *Introduction to Human Trafficking***

This presentation will introduce the audience to human trafficking. Topics will cover sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and what the Illinois State Police is doing to identify and recover victims of trafficking through partnerships with local and federal law enforcement partners.

**Speaker:** Lieutenant Brandon Grzechowiak, Illinois State Police

**Brandon** has been a police officer for 23 years. With the Illinois State Police for 20 years, and 18 years in investigations. 17 years in narcotics as an Agent and supervisor. Currently assigned as a Lieutenant in the ISP Trafficking Enforcement Bureau.

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**AA5:            *Investigating Nicotine Addiction in Youth***

This investigation begins with what nicotine is and how harmful and hazardous it is to the human body then concludes with how to protect our youth from this addictive substance.

**Speaker:** Kelli Corner

**Kelli** has a Master's degree in Public Health Education. Over the years she has worked in community, hospital, and health department settings along with teaching and being an adjunct professor for her alma mater Central Michigan University for over a decade. Her passion is health promotion and prevention.

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**AA6:            *DOC Substance Use Program***

This presentation will be an overview of the work that the Department of Corrections is doing to address Substance Use Disorders within our facilities and provide services for justice-impacted individuals to become returning citizens.

**Speaker:** Tiffanie Clark, Illinois Department of Corrections

**Tiffanie** began working for the Department of Corrections in 1996. Over the span of her career, she has served in a variety of roles. She focuses on training staff to provide the best services for justice-impacted individuals.

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**AA7:            *Breaking Intergenerational Patterns of Addiction, Trauma, and Dark Family Secrets***

Presentation of eight strategies to break intergenerational patterns of addiction, trauma, and family secrets.

**Speaker:** Mark Sanders, LCSW, CADC, International Speaker and Consultant in Behavioral Health

**Mark** is an international speaker and consultant in behavioral health whose presentations have reached thousands throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, the 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, the 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 the lead writer on a trauma-informed gun violence prevention curriculum that 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 addiction 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 of Social Work. He is co-founder of Serenity Academy Chicago, a program that sponsors recovery-oriented peer groups in local high schools.

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**AA8:            *Stimulant Use in Southern Communities***

Stimulant use and our local communities. This presentation will examine the signs of crack cocaine use, prevention, treatment, mental health impact, and side effects.

**Speaker:** Stacy Seitz, LCPC, CADC, Centerstone

**Stacy** is the Clinical Director of Addiction Treatment Services at Centerstone. Seitz has worked in the field of behavioral health and addiction for over twenty years. Seitz is passionate about improving access to care and expanding treatment services.

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**AA9:            *Mental Health Crisis Management in the ER***

With the increase in mental health admissions and limited beds in facilities of all kinds, it's important to both the systems we utilize and the patients we see to get them plugged into the right resources. It sounds easy enough. So why isn't it?

**Speaker:** Cortney Meyer, LCSW, Southern Illinois Healthcare

**Cortney** is the Behavioral Health Program Manager at SIH. She currently manages the crisis program and also assesses patients who come into the SIH ERs. She has been working in various roles in the social work field for 14 years.

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**AA10:          *Fentanyl: Communities in Crisis***

This presentation will discuss the effects of fentanyl nationally and on our local communities. Topics discussed will be: fentanyl production, fentanyl trafficking, national trends, local trends, prevention, treatments, and what the Illinois State Police is doing to stop the epidemic through partnerships with local and federal law enforcement partners.

**Speaker:** Special Agent Robert Kraemer, Illinois State Police

**Robert** has been a police officer for 11 years. Robert has been with the Illinois State Police for six years, and five years in investigations. He is currently assigned as a Special Agent in the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force.

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**AA11:        *Drug Trends in This Area***

A comparative analysis of what substances are being used throughout this region. We will discuss trends over the last 24 months and what is likely coming in our direction.

**Speaker:** Andy Greer, Gateway Foundation

**Andy** has been in the field of substance use treatment since 1996. He has worked in admissions, adolescent residential programs, adult and adolescent outpatient services, DUI evaluations and counseling, and drug court treatment, For 22 years he has provided community outreach to the southernmost 24 counties of Illinois.

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**AA12:        *Value Vision and Victory***

The Power of Collaboration, Working Together, Leveraging our strengths and sharing information.

**Speaker:** Darrell Wimberly, Pastor, East Liberty Christian Church

**Darrell** has been an influential member of the Southern Illinois Community for over twenty-four years, and has proven to be a valuable asset as a pastor, business person, high school administrator and an assistant football and basketball coach. Darrell has established great working relationships with members of the business community and has built relationships with the youth in our community as a role model and mentor. Currently Darrell serves as the Pastor of East Liberty Christian Church, and has been since November, 2002. As a testament to the relationships, he has built with youth, through his role as an administrator and being ordained as a minister, Darrell has officiated over 50 weddings of former Marion high school students. He currently serves as Chairman of Connect 360 a non-profit organization, Co-Chair of the Boyton Street Community Center Board, Carbondale United, and the Marion Police and Fire Merit Board. Darrell has been an integral part of planning, organizing, and conducting events to improve our community especially the underserved members.

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**AA13:        *ICB Credential Overview***

This workshop will discuss the requirements for credentials offered by ICB. Details about the process including submitting an application, taking the exam and renewing credentials will be reviewed. Dianne will also be able to answer any questions you may have about the overall process.



**BB5:** Investigating Nicotine Addiction in Youth

*Speaker:* Kelli Corner

**BB6:** DOC Substance Use Program

*Speaker:* Tiffanie Clark

**BB7:** Breaking Intergenerational Patterns of Addiction, Trauma, and Dark Family Secrets

*Speaker:* Mark Sanders, LCSW, CADC

**BB8:** Stimulant Use in Southern Communities

*Speaker:* Stacy Seitz, LCPC, CADC

**BB9:** Mental Health Crisis Management in the ER

*Speaker:* Cortney Meyer, LCSW

**BB10:** Fentanyl: Communities in Crisis

*Speaker:* Special Agent Robert Kraemer

**BB11:** Drug Trends in This Area

*Speaker:* Andy Greer

**BB12:** Value, Vision and Victory

*Speaker:* Darrell Wimberly

**BB13:** ICB Credential Overview

*Speaker:* Dianne Williams

**BB14:** Certified Recovery Support Specialist in Training

*Speakers:* Elizabeth Raleigh and Kitty Juul

**2:15 – 2:30 PM**

**Break**

**2:30 – 4:00 PM**

**Closing Plenary**

### ***Bridging the Gap: Navigating Transitional Care in Reentry***

This presentation delves into the primary challenges inmates encounter during reentry, addressing issues such as continuity of care and difficulty accessing community resources.

#### **Speakers:**

- o Donald Brady, Federal Bureau of Prisons
- o Rachel Terrill, Federal Bureau of Prisons
- o Yasmine Townsley-Martinez, Federal Bureau of Prisons
- o Christina Dunnigan, Federal Bureau of Prisons
- o Carl Gauthier, Psy.D., ABPP, U.S. Public Health Service
- o Tiffanie Clark, Illinois Department of Corrections
- o Anthony Arington, Southern Illinois Reentry
- o Andrew Young, GEO Reentry Services

**Mr. Brady** received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from SIU in 2016. He worked at the Gateway Foundation in Carbondale as a certified substance abuse counselor and as a caseload counselor for the Sober Opportunities for Adolescents in Recovery (SOAR). He is currently a Drug Treatment Specialist at FCI Marion.

**Rachel's** duties include providing diagnostic and therapeutic medical care and services to adults in custody, while collaborating with multidisciplinary team including administrative,

pharmacy, psychology, and social work staff. Has specialized area of expertise in medication-assisted opioid use disorder treatment and counseling.

**Ms. Martinez** is a licensed social worker employed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. She holds a Master of Social Work from Western Kentucky University and a Bachelor of Sociology from Murray State University. Licensed in Illinois and Kentucky, she is skilled in mental health, substance use, service coordination, and resource acquisition.

**Mrs. Dunnigan** is the Reentry Affairs Coordinator for FCI Marion. She assists Adults-In-Custody (AICs) with preparing for a successful release back into society by offering various evidence-based programs, locating release resources, assisting with gaining IDs, and networking with multiple outside agencies and non-profits.

**LCDR Carl Gauthier** currently serves as the Medication Assisted Treatment Coordinator at FCI Marion and previously served as the Drug Abuse Program Coordinator-Psychologist with the same agency.

**Anthony** has dedicated over 20 years to supporting individuals transitioning from state and federal incarceration back into their home communities. Southern Illinois Reentry intends to work with the community for successful second chances.

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## **FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025**

**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**

**Opening Plenary**

### ***Strength-Based Approaches to Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery***

In traditional approaches to prevention, treatment, and recovery we focus on addressing deficits, problems, problems, and more problems! In this presentation, you will learn strength-based approaches for working with Individuals, families, and communities. Examples will be drawn from positive psychology, Logotherapy, Native Americans, and rural communities.

**Speaker:** Mark Sanders, LCSW, CADC, International Speaker and Consultant in Behavioral Health

**9:30 – 9:45 AM**

**Break**

**9:45 AM – 10:45 AM**

**Breakout Sessions 3**

**CC1:**        ***Mental Health & Substance Use Treatment in Madison County Jail***

**Speaker:** Allyssa Cline-Spencer, LCSW, Centerstone

Centerstone provides Methadone, Suboxone, and Vivitrol to treat opioid use disorders and also works with Madison County Jail to provide mental health and substance use treatment and recovery support.

**Alyssa** is currently the Project Director & Clinical Coordinator for the opioid treatment grant

programs at Centerstone, including Medication Assisted Treatment, and a mental health and substance use program inside Madison County Jail.

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**CC2:            *What is ROSC?***

**Speaker:** Mandy Hagen and Shara Robinson, Take Action Today

We will educate individuals on what Recovery Oriented System of Care means; discuss the values of a ROSC in your county and the importance of promoting quality of life for your community. ROSC councils are made up of all sectors that would make up a community. Law enforcement, businesses, persons with lived experience, recovery support, agencies, faith-based groups and churches, etc. ROSC councils are funded by the IDHS Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Department.

**Mandy** is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and works at Take Action Today as the ROSC Coordinator for Perry, Jackson, Franklin, and Williamson Counties. I am a person with lived experience of substance use and incarceration. I have successfully re-entered society and recently celebrated 8 years of recovery! Today, I am not ashamed of my past because I use it to help others.

**Shara** has been at Take Action Today since 2023. I have served as the Workforce Development Coordinator, the Franklin Williamson ROSC Coordinator, and currently serve as the Community Development Coordinator which works closely with Mandy, the ROSC Coordinator for all our coalitions. I also conduct SMART Recovery Groups and assist with Invitation to Change groups which is a family recovery program.

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**CC3:            *Veterans Nonprofit Down the Leash Service Dogs***

**Speaker:** Tony Eaton, Founder/Executive Director of Down the Leash Service Dogs

We are a suicide prevention group that provides training to veterans and first-line responders on how to train their service dogs, free of charge.

**Tony** is a United States Marine and Retired Police Officer from the City of Christopher, Illinois. he also served as a firefighter for four years on the Little Rock/Fox Fire Department in Plano, Illinois.

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**CC4:            *Hidden in Plain Sight***

**Speaker:** Jennifer Worthen, Kerie Rumsey, and Bekkah Schemonia, Southern 7 Health Department

Hidden in Plain Sight is an interactive, in-person experience designed for parents, teachers, and others who work with adolescents. This exhibit allows adults to explore a simulated teenager's

bedroom and discover potential signs of substance use and risky behavior. The room is filled with various items that may indicate tobacco, alcohol, or drug use, as well as behaviors that could lead to such issues. Some of the clues are obvious, while others are cleverly concealed or placed in plain sight, challenging participants to observe closely. The goal of the exhibit is to help adults view the teen's environment through a new lens, identifying subtle warning signs that might otherwise go unnoticed. With this knowledge, parents and mentors are better equipped to initiate conversations with teens and address dangerous behaviors before they escalate into addiction, legal issues, injury, or even death.

**Jennifer** is a health educator at S7HD with 2 years of experience. Previously, she taught high school English for 23 years and worked as a victim advocate for the local State's Attorney. A lifelong Pope County resident, she is dedicated to the education of Southern Illinois students. She is married with two sons.

**Kerie** is a Health Educator at S7HD with one year of experience. Before this, she spent 17 years in Physical Therapy, specializing in pediatric and geriatric care. Kerie holds a B.S. in Communications and is passionate about promoting wellness and educating diverse populations on healthy living.

**Bekkah**, 23, is a Health Educator at Southern Seven Health Department, having joined in October 2024. A Southern Illinois native, she recently graduated from Southern Illinois University in 2024 with a Bachelor's in Animal Science and a Minor in Neurology. Bekkah is dedicated to promoting community health and wellness.

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**CC5:**            ***Insurance Essentials for Supporting Individuals in Recovery: Navigating Coverage and Care***

**Speaker:** Sarah Miller, Shawnee Health

An in-depth exploration of insurance options for individuals in recovery. This session will provide an overview of insurance enrollment and eligibility, coverage for services, and identifying gaps in care. Participants will learn about resources that complement insurance to ensure comprehensive support. Designed for professionals working with individuals in recovery, this session equips attendees with tools and strategies to help clients access the care they need for long-term success.

**Sarah** is the Clinical Case Management Coordinator for Shawnee Health where she has worked for the past 13 years. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Social Work from SIUC and her MSW from UT-Knoxville with a certificate in Human Services Management. Her passion is health justice with an emphasis on underserved and vulnerable populations.

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**CC6:**            ***Harm Reduction / Overdose Awareness / Homelessness and Medical Respite***

**Speaker:** Torie Patton and Shauna Hale, Take Action Today (TAT)

Harm reduction the action and harm reduction the movement. What it means to be overdose or opioid aware. Homelessness and what that means, and also what medical respite could do for our unhoused population.

**Torie** is a PLE as well as a person in recovery. She began her journey with TAT in October 2023 when she did a term with Recovery Corp and was then hired in August 2024 by TAT. She is a certified harm reduction specialist and peer.

**Shauna** is a person with lived experience in homelessness and substance abuse. I started with TAT in January as the Medical Respite Outreach Coordinator. I recently received my bachelor's degree in December 2024. I am also in recovery since 2005.

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**CC7:**            *Legislature Committee on Homelessness*

**Speaker:**

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**CC8:**            *Celebrate Recovery: What it is and how it works*

**Speaker:** Scotty Bollman and Dona Howell

A discussion of how CR works, what it is, why it is an important part of recovery.

**Scotty** is a Recovery Pastor at Purpose House Church; Local Business Owner; and deeply involved with community wellness programs.

**Dona** is a 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.

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**CC9:**            *MOUD – Life Saving Medications*

**Speaker:** Dr. Jason West, Southern Illinois Healthcare

A high-level overview of opioid use disorder, the various treatment options, and the utilization of a "low threshold approach" to treatment in a primary care setting.

**Dr. Jason West** is a board-certified family physician who provides outpatient primary care services in Harrisburg. He is also board-certified in addiction medicine and is passionate about providing healthcare to patients with substance use disorders.

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**CC10:**            *It's a Beautiful Day to be a Counselor: Lessons from Mr. Rogers*

**Speaker:** Tiffanie Clark and Kasey Singleton, Illinois Department of Corrections  
This nostalgic presentation will provide counseling basics. We will explore lessons from Mr. Rogers as we embrace our inner child (for the young at heart).

**Tiffanie** began working for the Department of Corrections in 1996. Over the span of her career,



she has served in a variety of roles. She focuses on training staff to provide the best services for justice-impacted individuals.

**Kasey** worked in the substance abuse field for many years before her journey led her to become a counselor at Logan Correctional Center. Her knowledge and experience allow her to counsel justice-impacted women with dignity, respect, compassion, and empathy.

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**CC11:            *The State of Substance Use in Illinois and Resources Available Through IDPH***

The presenter will report the most recent data on substance use in Illinois and discuss the resources available through the Illinois Department of Public Health and other state partners.

**Speakers:** Dr. Leslie Wise, Illinois Department of Public Health

**Dr. Wise** serves as the overdose epidemiologist in the Division of Emerging Health Issues at the Illinois Department of Public Health. She conducts analysis and surveillance on non-fatal and fatal overdoses statewide.

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**CC12:            *Deflection in the Community***

**Speaker:** Jenny Provo, TASC-Deflection, and Lisa Walther, TASC

This presentation will focus on the framework of Deflection, how it works, and how Deflection collaborates closely with Law Enforcement and the community.

**Jenny** is the Deflection Supervisor for TASC. I oversee 14 counties in Southern Illinois.

**Lisa** started with TASC as a Deflection Specialist in August 2024. She is originally from Chicago but relocated to southern Illinois in 2019 and I have been pursuing my dream of helping people in the community.

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**CC13:            *Rainbow Café***

**Speaker:**

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**CC14:            *Drug Endangered Children and Family Human Trafficking: The Intersection***

**Speaker:** Liesl Wingert, SIU School of Medicine Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development

Drug-endangered children are at known risk for ACE's and, in some cases, family human trafficking. This session will discuss the intersection between the two issues.

**Liesl** is the Program Coordinator for the eastern region of the SIU School of Medicine - Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development. She holds a Bachelor's in Human Development and Family Studies and a Master's in Health Administration.

**10:45 – 11:00 AM** **Break**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** **Breakout Sessions 4**

*Note: These sessions are repeats from Session 3.*

- DD1: *Mental Health & Substance Use Treatment in Madison County Jail***  
Speaker: Allyssa Cline-Spencer, LCSW
- DD2: *What is ROSC?***  
Speaker: Mandy Hagen and Shara Robinson
- DD3: *Veterans Nonprofit Down the Leash Service Dogs***  
Speaker: Tony Eaton
- DD4: *Hidden in Plain Sight***  
Speaker: Jennifer Worthen, Kerie Rumsey, and Bekkah Schemonia
- DD5: *Insurance Essentials for Supporting Individuals in Recovery: Navigating Coverage and Care***  
Speaker: Sarah Miller
- DD6: *Harm Reduction / Overdose / Homelessness and Medical Respite***  
Speaker: Torie Patton and Shauna Hale
- DD7: *Legislature Committee on Homelessness***  
Speaker:
- DD8: *Celebrate Recovery: What it is and how it works***  
Speakers: Scotty Bollman and Dona Howell
- DD9: *MOUD – Life-Saving Medications***  
Speaker: Dr. Jason West
- DD10: *It's a Beautiful Day to be a Counselor: Lessons from Mr. Rogers***  
Speaker: Tiffanie Clark and Kasey Singleton
- DD11: *The State of Substance Use in Illinois and Resources Available through IDPH***  
Speaker: Dr. Leslie Wise
- DD12: *Deflection in the Community***  
Speaker: Jenny Provo and Lisa Walther
- DD13: *Rainbow Café***  
Speaker:
- DD14: *Drug Endangered Children and Family Human Trafficking: The Intersection***  
Speaker: Liesl Wingert

**12:00 PM– 1:30 PM:** **Lunch Break**

*Group A:*

- **12:00 PM – 1:00 PM:** Lunch at the Food Court
- **1:00 PM – 1:30 PM:** Visit Vendor Exhibits

*Group B:*

- **12:00 PM – 12:30 PM:** Visit Vendor Exhibits
- **12:30 PM – 1:30 PM:** Lunch at the Food Court

**EE1: *Families Matter! Increasing Recovery Rates by Working with Families***

Involving families in treatment and recovery efforts can increase programmatic completion, decrease relapse rates, and increase recovery rates, yet very little work is done with families. Topics covered in this presentation include: the disappearance of family work in addictions treatment and recovery and the desperate need for its return; family engagement strategies; repairing family relationships in recovery, parenting in recovery; strengthening marriages and partnerships in recovery

**Speakers:** Mark Sanders, LCSW, CADC, Chrystal Cantrell, CPRS, Take Action Today, and Mandy Hagen, Take Action Today

**Chrystal** is 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.

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**EE2: *Illinois Conditional Release Program***

Liberty Healthcare has been contracted by the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) since 2002, Liberty Healthcare Corporation manages the statewide Safety First! Conditional Release Program (IL-CRP) for sexually violent persons (SVPs). For 23 years, Liberty has maintained community safety through:

- specialized supervision,
- GPS monitoring,
- proactive case management,
- and sex offender-specific treatment.

The program is led by an Executive Director who ensures that Liberty remains in contract compliance with DHS and communicates regularly with the DHS Program Director, IL-CRP Liaison, and the Attorney General's office staff. Additionally, the program consists of a team of professionals that includes: an assistant program director, deputy chiefs, lead conditional release agents (CRA), full-time CRAs, part-time CRAs, drivers, a clinical coordinator, a clinical therapist, an office manager, and administrative assistants.

**Speakers:** Randy Plunk, Executive Director, Don Spurlin, Deputy Chief, and Ruben Jimenez, Conditional Release Agent; Liberty Healthcare Corporation

**Randy** has a 30-year career in the criminal justice field, ranging from part-time patrolman and deputy to Illinois Department of Corrections warden. He earned his Bachelor of Applied Science in Law Enforcement, with minors in Security and Sociology, from Western Illinois University and holds a Master of Business Administration from Benedictine University. He began his 27-year career with the Illinois Department of Corrections as a Correctional Officer in the Greene County Impact Incarceration Program. He also served as a trainer, Manager of the Drug Screening Unit, Commander of Investigations for the Investigations Unit, and Executive for the Operations Center. Ultimately, he finished his DOC career as the Acting Warden and Assistant Warden of the

Jacksonville Correctional Center for three years, where he oversaw 450+ employees and 1600 offenders. He also taught as an Adjunct and Assistant Professor at MacMurray College for students in criminal justice corrections and homeland security courses. He is currently the Executive Director for the Illinois Conditional Release Program.

**Don** has a 29-year career in the criminal justice field. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice (Administration of Justice) in 1995 from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He served as a Probation Officer and Senior Probation Officer for 6 years in Sangamon County, Illinois, then became a Conditional Release Agent and later Deputy Chief of the Illinois Conditional Release Program supervising civilly committed sex offenders in the subsequent 23 years.

**Ruben** has a 29-year career in the criminal justice system. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Workforce, Education, and Development in 2019 from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He began his 25-year career with the Illinois Department of Corrections in 1994 and retired as a Senior Parole Agent in 2018 where he supervised regular parolees and Sex Offenders. He is also a retired veteran of 25 years from the United States Air Force. He has worked as a School Resource Officer with the Marion Unit 2 School system and is currently working as a Conditional Release Agent with Liberty Healthcare supervising sexually violent persons since 2019.

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**EE3:            *Addictions and Veteran Care***

An exploration of Addiction treatment options for Veterans in the context of a rural, integrated care setting with a focus on advantages and barriers inherent to this population and treatment needs. An area of particular focus will be on various treatment options and programs that Veterans in the Southern Illinois area have at their disposal, both locally and in the broader VA healthcare system.

**Speakers:** Aaron Morehead, LCSW, CADC, Nichole Jeters, LCPC, Quest Nelson, CPSS; Marion, IL VA Medical Center

**Aaron** is a southern Illinois native, Aaron has worked in the field of Addictions since 2012 in both community agency roles and now as the coordinator for the Marion VAMC's Addictions Treatment Program.

**Nikki** graduated from SIU Carbondale with a Master's degree in Educational Psychology and has been working in the fields of Mental Health and Addiction since 2012 for various community mental health agencies. Currently, she is an intensive mental health therapist for the Marion VAMC's RRTP.

**Quest** was raised in southern Illinois and is a US Navy Veteran, Quest has worked for Behavioral Health at the Marion VA since 2010. He serves his fellow Veterans as a Peer Specialist, assigned to the RRTP.

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**EE4:            *Diversity / Equity / Inclusion (DEI)***

Dr. Caldwell will discuss the basic concepts of DEI and the differences between them.

