Keynote: Understanding Mental Health in the Juvenile Justice System: Assessment, Understanding, and Intervention

Keynote Address: Thursday, June 9, 2016 9:05 a.m.—11:50 a.m.

Presented By: Dr. Michael Wolff, BRAINS

Michael Wolff, PsyD, ABPdN, is a Neuropsychologist at BRAINS specializing in children and adults with medical, neurodevelopmental, and/or mental health conditions. He has a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology, with specialization in Neuropsychology and is board certified in pediatric neuropsychology. Dr. Wolff provides a variety of assessments including comprehensive neuro-psychological, developmental and psychological evaluations for those experiencing medical complications, traumatic brain injury, ASD, complex neurodevelopmental concerns, learning disabilities, ADHD, and related mental health and behavioral issues. He continues to specialize in medical and congenital conditions and how they influence neuropsychological functioning and development. Dr. Wolff also provides behavioral consultation for individuals, families, and agencies. He has experience conducting research, frequently provides consultation and training, and presents at conferences throughout the nation.

Session Overview: This session will review several key risk factors confronting juveniles involved in the legal system. The workshop will begin by addressing the prevalence of abuse, traumatic brain injury, and other life attributes that can negatively influence neurological development and/or brain health. After reviewing these factors, it is important to not only recognize the risks, but to better understand how targeted assessment can be used to understand how these challenges may influence the juvenile in day to day function. Participants will learn to recognize the areas of vulnerability, which can lead to anticipating the patterns of behavior, to differential reaction vs. intent, and to targeted interventions that can address long term outcomes. Unfortunately, many of these children are misunderstood, which can worsen behavioral problems, result in overmedication with managing symptoms and generally complicate the situation. Participants will hear examples of these commonly complex individuals with multi-systemic influences contributing to behavioral vulnerabilities.

Seminar 1: Combating Compassion Fatigue, Burnout and Secondary Traumatic Stress in Juvenile Justice Staff

Session: Thursday, June 9, 2016 1:30 p.m.—2:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

Presented By: Ann Heerde, Ottawa County Community Mental Health

Ann Heerde, LMSW, is the Program Supervisor for Family Services at Community Mental Health of Ottawa County. In her current role, she provides oversight for services for children and adolescents that have mental health concerns and developmental disabilities. Ann has a Master’s degree in Social Work from Grand Valley State University and a Bachelor of Arts from Central College. Currently Ann is pursuing a Doctorate in Social Work and her dissertation explores the impact of Secondary Traumatic Stress on Mental Health Professionals.

Session Overview: Participants will receive an overview of compassion fatigue, burnout and secondary traumatic stress (STS). The presentation will provide an overview of the impact of STS. Participants will be provided with an opportunity to explore strategies for addressing STS and develop a personalized plan during the presentation.
Seminar 2: Youth Mental Health in the “Real World”: Trends, Risk Factors, and Effects
Session: Thursday, June 9, 2016  1:30 p.m. —2:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.—4:30 p.m.
Presented By:  Dr. Robin Smith-Colton, Grand Valley State University School of Social Work
                      Kolby Cole, MSW Candidate, Grand Valley State University School of Social Work

Robin Smith-Colton, PhD, LMSW, LCSW, QCSW, has been an Associate Professor with Grand Valley State University since 1998. Her specialties include children and families, human behavior and the social environment, families in poverty, children and adolescent mental health with an emphasis on African American male adolescents, social work practice in schools, and other interests including adolescent psychopathology and women’s issues. Dr. Smith-Colton completed her Master’s degree at Grand Valley State University and earned her Ph.D. from Loyola University in Chicago. She has been involved at the local and state levels with work involving the mental health of at-risk children and adolescents. Dr. Smith-Colton has participated with several community organizations such as D.A. Blodgett for Children and the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan and she currently participates with Messiah Missionary Baptist Church.

Kolby Cole obtained his B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Religion from Hope College in 2013 where he played lacrosse and studied abroad in India. After giving serious consideration to pursuing further education in World Religions, he decided to pursue a Master’s of Social Work. Kolby is expecting to graduate from Grand Valley State University with a Master’s in Social Work and Master’s in Public Administration in April of 2017. He currently works as a Graduate Assistant in the School of Social Work and recently started his internship at Mercy Health McLees Clinic (HIV/AIDS) in Muskegon. Kolby is in the preliminary stages of writing a Master’s thesis and is hoping to extend the body of research on turning points in trauma recovery and Male Childhood Sexual Abuse (MCSA). After graduation, Kolby hopes to continue his education and enroll in a Ph.D. program in either Sociology or Cultural Anthropology.

Session Overview: This presentation will highlight mental health issues youth currently encounter and experience in everyday life. Vulnerable youth are at a heightened risk to be impacted by the linkages between mental health, education, and the criminal justice system. By exploring these issues, this presentation seeks to raise awareness about the significance of these issues, and the importance of refocusing the perception of youth in helping them overcome the obstacles they face.

Plenary 1: Raise the Age
Session: Friday, June 10, 2016  9:00 a.m.— 9:45 a.m..
Presented By:  Kristen Staley, Michigan Council of Crime and Delinquency

Kristen Staley, JD, Deputy Director of the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, is responsible for advancing MCCD’s efforts to improve Michigan’s youth and adult justice systems. Prior to her work in Michigan, Kristen practiced family law in the Louisville, KY area and was an appellate clerk in the Juvenile Post-Disposition Branch of the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy. She is an experienced facilitator of youth restorative justice panels and assisted in the formation of the National Juvenile Justice Network’s Youth Justice Leadership Institute. Kristen holds a B.A. from American University and a J.D. from the University of Louisville.

Session Overview: For this workshop, participants will view Al Jazeera America’s “Fault Lines: Forgotten Youth”, which takes an in-depth look at the many dangers that arise from sentencing youth as adults in Michigan. The 30-minute video screening will be followed by a discussion to explore solutions to stopping the practice of treating youth in the adult criminal justice system.
Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 Training Event

Plenary 2: Legal Update
Session: Friday, June 10, 2016  10:15 a.m.—11:45 a.m.
Presented By: Tonya Krause-Phelan, Cooley Law School
Tracey Brame, Cooley Law School

Tonya Krause-Phelan, JD, joined the Cooley Law School faculty in 2005 as a Visiting Professor teaching Criminal Law. She became a full-time Professor at Cooley in 2006. Before joining Cooley, Professor Krause-Phelan worked as both a private criminal defense practitioner and as an Assistant Public Defender with the Kent County Office of the Defender in Grand Rapids. While in private practice, Professor Krause-Phelan served as adjunct faculty for the School of Criminal Justice at Ferris State University, where she taught Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure. During her years in practice, Professor Krause-Phelan lectured on a variety of criminal law topics, including “Junk Science in the Courtroom: Cross-Examining the Child Sexual Abuse Accommodations Syndrome Expert” and “Getting Experts in Court-Appointed Cases.” She has also served on the faculty for the Hillman Trial Advocacy Program. Professor Krause-Phelan has served as coeditor and editor of The Informant, a publication of the former Kent County Criminal Defense Bar. She also has served as editor of Right to Counsel, a publication of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan.

Tracey Brame, JD, has been a professor at WMU-Cooley Law School since 2006 when she joined the faculty after serving as a staff attorney at Legal Aid of Western Michigan. Tracey is currently the Assistant Dean at the Grand Rapids campus of Cooley where she handles disciplinary matters and works closely with the Dean on projects involving student support, community relations, and campus growth. Tracey also runs the Access to Justice Clinic, where she supervises students who work with ex-offenders on barriers to successful community reentry.

At Legal Aid, Tracey advised and represented low-income clients on family law, housing, and consumer law issues. She also collaborated with other programs to address legal issues faced by ex-offenders re-entering the community, and translated for Spanish-speaking clients.

Previously, Tracey served as a staff attorney for Public Defender Services for the District of Columbia, a research and writing specialist with the Federal Defender Office, and an assistant defender with the State Appellate Defender Office in Detroit.

In addition to her work at WMU-Cooley, Tracey is a member of the board of directors of LINC and Cubmaster for Cub Scout Pack 3206. Tracey is a prior Giants Award Winner, and has served as a Trustee of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, the Grand Rapids Art Museum, and the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center. She was honored as one of the “2014 Women in the Law” by Michigan Lawyers Weekly.

Session Overview:
This session will provide an update of juvenile justice legal changes from 2015 and 2016, including recent changes to the sex offender registry, expungement policies, and the Supreme Court decision regarding mandatory life sentences for juvenile offenders. The presentation will also illustrate the desire for the reform of interrogation techniques used on juveniles based on recent discoveries about their cognitive development.