

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

**7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.**

## **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

**8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY & OPENING**

Honor guard - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Pledge of Allegiance - Mark Chayse Macabe, ICAN Ambassador

America the Beautiful: Annie Bosko

**8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**

## **WELCOME**

Deanne Tilton Durfee, Doc.h.c., Executive Director,

LA County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)

Lindsey Horvath, Chair,

LA County Board of Supervisors

## **Special Messages:**

Robert Luna, Los Angeles County Sheriff

Brandon Nichols, Director, Department of Children and Family Services

## **Opening Comments:**

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director, Department of Public Health

Christina Ghaly, M.D., Director, Department of Health Services

Karla Pleitz Howell, Executive Director, First5 LA Commission

Joseph Iniguez, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles District Attorney

## **ICAN OPERATIONS CHAIRS**

Captain Richard Ruiz, LASD Special Victims Bureau

Clayton Kazan, M.D., Medical Director, Los Angeles County Fire Department

**9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. ~ BREAK**

**9:30 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.**

## **MORNING PLENARY PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Alan-Michael S. Graves, Sr. Director, Good+Foundation ~ 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Ana Estevez, “Piqui’s mom” ~ 10:35 a.m. – 11:05 p.m.

Azim Khamisa, Author, Social Activist ~ 11:10 p.m. – 11:55 p.m.

**12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. ~ LUNCH**

## **LUNCH PROGRAM**

**12:30 p.m. - 12:35 p.m.**

Special Message: Holly Mitchell, L.A. County Supervisor

## **WELCOME BY ICAN ASSOCIATES**

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

**12:40 p.m. - 1:05 p.m.**

Judge Mary Thornton House, Lindsay Wagner, Justin Chambers, France Nuyen

**1:05 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

**FRANK VICENCIA AWARD**

**1:15 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.**

**ANGELO AWARD**

**LUNCHEON KEYNOTE ~ 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Sharon Cooper, M.D.**

**CEO of Developmental & Forensic Pediatrics, P.A.; Physician at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Faculty at UNC Chapel Hill-School of Medicine and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.**

**2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. ~ BREAK**

**2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

**WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

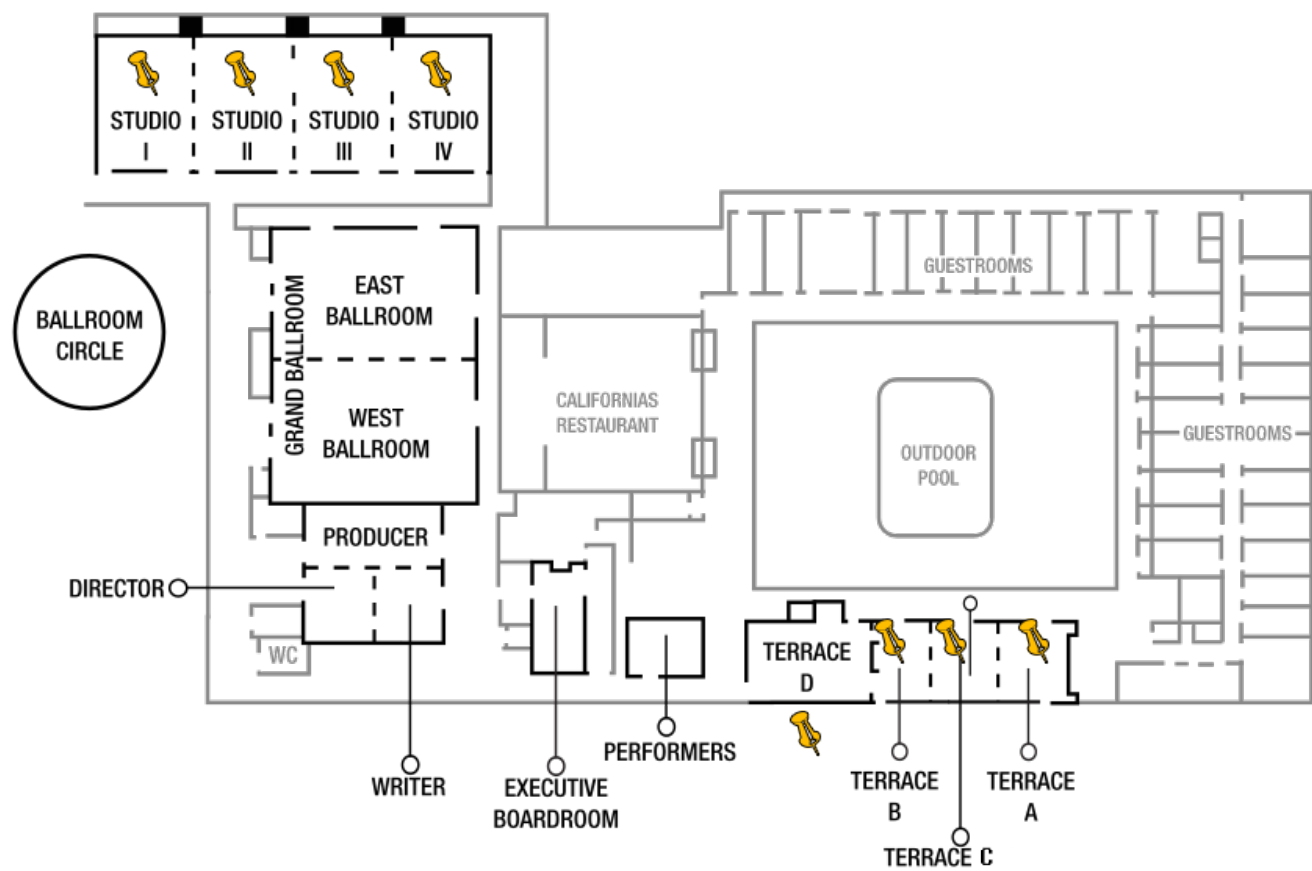
**4:30 p.m.**

**CONFERENCES CLOSES/SIGN-OUT**



# WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

## FIRST FLOOR



## RECOGNIZING THE TRUE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN



### **Dr. Alan-Michael S. Graves, Senior Director, Good+Foundation**

Dr. Alan-Michael S. Graves serves as the Senior Director of Teaching and Capacity Building with the Good Plus Foundation where he focuses on a broad range of multidisciplinary activities, from research and program development to training and advocacy for policy change. Dr. Graves has worked in the human services field, with extensive experience as a facilitator and administrator, for both public and private agencies, for the past 20 years. He has brought these diverse perspectives to his work helping agencies develop, implement and evaluate interagency

systems of care, family partnerships and community programming. Dr. Graves serves as a Community Advocate to address Disproportionality and Disparity within organizations and systems across the country. As a parent himself, he utilizes both his personal and professional knowledge and experience to strategically and positively impact the lives of children, families and communities.

## A MOTHER'S JOURNEY

### **Ana Estevez, Children's Advocate**

Ana Estevez is a passionate advocate for children, crime victims, and child safety. With over 27 years of experience in education, she has served as a teacher, elementary school principal, district administrator, and currently serves as a Director. Ana was honored by the State Assembly as the 2019 California Woman of the Year, recognized by Nexstar as a 2024 Remarkable Woman, and is a United States Army veteran. She has appeared on the Dr. Phil Show, Good Day LA, and has testified before the California



Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees. She has been instrumental in major child safety legislative initiatives at both the state and federal levels, most recently with the passage of Senate Bill 331—Piqui's Law—in October 2023. However, most meaningfully, she is known as Piqui's momma

## FORGIVENESS – THE HEALING ELIXIR!



### **Azim Khamisa, Author, Social Activist**

Following the murder of his son in 1995, Azim Khamisa founded the Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF.org), which started a subsequent forgiveness movement that has reached millions.

He has received over 80 local, national and international awards amongst which are: In 1997 he received the National Crime Victims Special Community Service Award presented by President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno, In 2002, he received Search for Common Ground's

prestigious award alongside Desmond Tutu and Ted Koppel In 2004, he participated in the Synthesis Dialogues with His Holiness the Dalai Lama which was hosted by Pope John Paul at his summer palace in Castelgandolfo, Italy and in 2006 he was given the "Spirit of Crazy Horse Award" from the Reclaiming Youth Network alongside Mohammad Ali. In addition, Azim has been the recipient of the California Peace Prize in 2003 and the Pepsi Freedom Heroes Award in 2006. He has received several other Peacemaker of the Year awards.

Azim has served as TKF's founder and leader for over 27 years. He is an emissary of peace and an international inspirational speaker with over 700 keynotes, including one to 300,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial at the Stand for Children Rally organized by the Children's Defense Fund, as well as a speech to the United Nations General Assembly at the High level forum on the culture of peace.

## LEADERSHIP BOOKS BY AZIM KHAMISA



## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT... WHAT'S IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD?



### **Sharon W. Cooper, M.D. FAAP**

#### **Developmental & Forensic Pediatrics, P.A.**

Sharon Cooper, M.D., is the CEO of Developmental & Forensic Pediatrics, P.A., a consulting firm that provides medical care to children with developmental disabilities, as well as medical care, research/training, and expert witness testimony in cases of child maltreatment. She has served as a practicing physician for more than 30 years at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Dr. Cooper recently established The MACE Foundation, a non-profit organization that focuses on mitigating the effects and reducing the occurrences of Adverse Childhood

Experiences, closing the gap in health disparities and improving maternal health outcomes. Dr. Cooper holds faculty positions at UNC Chapel Hill-School of Medicine and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. She serves on the boards of several national and international organizations focused on violence against children.

Dr. Cooper has lectured worldwide in over 300 conferences, including federal justice agencies, APSAC, INTERPOL, and Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics conferences. She has provided extensive training on the analysis of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) to more than 50 child sexual exploitation hotlines worldwide.

She is the lead author and editor of two comprehensive texts on child sexual exploitation and has contributed numerous chapters to textbooks on child maltreatment. She has served on the International Working Group which published the landmark Survivor Survey of victims of abusive images, sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. Dr. Cooper is the Executive Producer of the documentary Not Just Pictures, examining the victim impact of abusive images and other types of sexual exploitation.

Dr. Cooper was appointed by the U.S. Attorney General to serve on the Defending Childhood: Children Exposed to Violence Task Force, and served 15 years on the Board of Directors of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

She has provided testimony regarding child sexual exploitation to the United States Congress, the European Commission, the Manitoba Legislature, the Italian Senate and the Russian Duma (Parliament).



# WORKSHOP SESSIONS

## **1A. MINDFULNESS COOLS THE FIRE: WAYS TO RELAX, REDUCE YOUR STRESS AND BUILD RESILIENCE**

**LOCATION: TERRACE A**

### **PRESENTER:**

Jerome Front, M.A., LMFT, Mindfulness Trainings for Agencies

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:**

As world tensions continue, and our own election strife approaches, individual, family, and cultural stress-loads will be increased. The inner fire of all these stressors combined can contribute to family violence and trauma, creating 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, there are even moments when 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 skills 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.

## **1B. TRAUMA-INFORMED SENSORY-BASED TECHNIQUES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY VIOLENCE**

**LOCATION: TERRACE B**

### **PRESENTERS:**

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

### **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:**

Witnessing domestic violence can generate immediate and long-term consequences for cognitive processing, and mental health. When not addressed these issues may interfere with learning and psychosocial functioning. Best practices suggest that integrative methods which impact somatic sensory integration and neurobiology are essential in trauma recovery. Expressive and sensory-based activities such as visual imagery, sand play and art in conjunction with Evidenced-based treatment modalities can assist children and adolescents in accessing trauma memories and facilitate healing. Participants will enhance clinical skills related to culturally relevant and empirically driven expressive techniques to treat children, youth, and families exposed to domestic violence.

## 1C. UNDERSTANDING THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF LGBTQIA2S+ YOUTH: HOW PROVIDERS CAN COLLABORATE TO BUILD INCLUSIVE SERVICES & SPACES

LOCATION: TERRACE C

### PRESENTERS:

Ariel Bustamante, Senior Manager, Capacity Building, Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Maria Contreras, Senior Community Policy Associate, National Center for Youth Law  
Jasmine McDonald MSW PPSC ACSW, Saving Innocence, Assistant Director of Clinical Programs  
Erin French Nafekh, JD, Children's Law Center of California

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

Data shows that LGBTQIA2S+ youth are overrepresented among those impacted by commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). While there is growing attention to the needs of LGBTQIA2S+ youth and those experiencing CSE, there is rarely a recognition of the intersection of the two, and the unique needs and strengths of these young people. Presenters, including a survivor, will share prevalence data and youth examples, key takeaways from listening sessions with youth and service providers, and recommendations for how service providers can better identify and tailor services for youth impacted by CSE who identify as LGBTQIA2S+. We will also share a new Issue Brief highlighting practical strategies and examples of collaborations that demonstrate how to come together to meet youth's intersecting needs.

## 1D. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A FORM OF CHILD ABUSE

LOCATION: TERRACE D

### PRESENTERS:

Michael Levittan T.E.A.M.

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

Only in the last quarter of a century has domestic violence been recognized as a form of child abuse. Currently, domestic violence is known as a type of child abuse by DCFS, treatment programs, medical personnel, law enforcement, probation departments, and most significantly, judges making child custody decisions. It is estimated that, in the United States, approximately one in three children are present in domestic violence cases reported to police. Due to a lack of reporting, the varying definitions of domestic violence, an indefinite consensus on what domestic violence is, and the "behind closed doors" ethos that still endures, it is difficult to estimate the real number of children exposed. Various sources approximate up to ten million children exposed each year. This workshop examines the reasons that it has taken so long to recognize domestic violence as one of the forms of child abuse. Additionally, substantial factors are explored that attest to the profound impact that domestic violence has on children, both in immediate outcomes and long-term consequences. Examples consist of developmental delays, poor school performance and truancy, acting-out behaviors such as aggression and drug-taking, early pregnancies, runaways and prostitution, depression and other psychological disorders, sense of a lost childhood, and definite tendencies toward forming violent adult relationships. Lastly, the workshop provides guidelines for resolving parental conflicts that do not harm or endanger children.



# WORKSHOP SESSIONS

## 1E. ABCS OF TESTIFYING IN COURT: HOW MEDICAL PROVIDERS EXPLAIN THE SEEN AND UNSEEN

LOCATION: STUDIO I

### PRESENTERS:

Pak Kouch, Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office  
Sandra Murray, MD, Child Abuse Pediatrician, UCI Medical Center

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

Advocating for justice in suspected child abuse and neglect cases requires vigorously seeking the truth about what happened to a child. The best evidence in physical abuse cases is often medical evidence. Therefore, medical providers share valuable information to both judges and juries about how meticulously evaluating a patient and getting detailed histories from caregivers are critical to obtaining an accurate medical diagnosis. They also facilitate a better understanding of the medical complexities to all members of the child abuse multidisciplinary team. This presentation will prepare you for testifying as experts in court and recognize the dynamics of direct and cross examination. By working through a case example and presenting mock testimony, we will also address how to respond to opposing expert opinions. Law enforcement, social workers, and attorneys are encouraged to attend to gain insight into how medical evidence is presented in court.

## 1F. SUPPORTING ADOLESCENT SURVIVORS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL SETTINGS

LOCATION: STUDIO II

### PRESENTERS:

Typhani Carter, LCSW, Sr. VP of Programs, Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation  
Hilda Aceves, LMFT, ATR, Regional Director of Programs, Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

Family violence has significant impacts on adolescents who experience this epidemic every day. According to the CDC, approximately 64% of U.S. adults report that they had experienced at least one type of adverse childhood experience before the age 18. For most youth, school serves as a primary entry point to access mental health resources, support and intervention services that can minimize the impact of violence and increase protective factors. In this workshop, participants will (1) learn about the impacts of family violence on adolescent development, (2) learn how the impacts of violence present in the school community, and (3) learn culturally sensitive, trauma-informed intervention and prevention practices that can be utilized in school settings to enhance adolescent resilience, growth and empowerment, and mitigate the impacts of violence.

## WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### 1G. EFFECTS OF COERCIVE CONTROL ON CHILDREN: LEGAL AND PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES

LOCATION: STUDIO III

#### PRESENTERS:

Gail Pincus, LCSW

Pallavi Dhawan, Director of Family Violence Legislation, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office

Raymundo Zacarias, MSW

#### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

Children's trauma from Domestic Abuse does not just result from exposure to physical violence, but more often is the product of the coercive control tactics of the abuser. This workshop will discuss the importance of recognizing coercive behaviors to understand fully the trauma and dangerous impacts on children and their protective parents. We will explore the legal framework of coercive control in CA law, and how children experience coercive control. This workshop will examine the conflicts between the law and its application, especially its impact in child custody cases given the Family Court's pro-contact and shared parenting preferences. During this workshop, we will share case histories, will hear from an adult survivor who witnessed gun violence against his mother and sister and how the father's controlling behavior prior to this incident negatively affected his choices in his adolescence and young adulthood. We also will make recommendations for best practices and how to support victims in these situations. Participants will learn how coercive control is fundamental to childhood trauma, how the law has evolved, and effective responses to cases of domestic abuse when children are involved.

### 1H. INSIDE CHILD DEATH REVIEWS: CASE STUDIES: CHILD HOMICIDE OF FOUR CHILDREN BY THEIR FATHER; AND SUICIDE OF AN ADOLESCENT YOUTH

LOCATION: STUDIO IV

#### PRESENTERS:

Michael Durfee, M.D.

Milton Brown

Diane Hong, J.D.

Vanessa Alfaro Zuniga, J.D.

Detective Steve Blagg

Linda E. Weinberger, Ph.D.

Susana Montanez, LCSW

Toai Griffin, LCSW

Peter Sabado, MSW

#### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

The Los Angeles County Inter Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) began the first multiagency Child Death Review Team (CDRT) in the world in 1978. The multiagency team effort has been effective in helping reduce child deaths from the high number of 61 child homicides in 1991 to an average of 11 child homicides in the past 5 years. In addition, over the past 40 years, the Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team (CASRT) and CDRT has gained insight

## WORKSHOP SESSIONS

and promoted inter-agency collaboration and programs to prevent the tragic death of children from homicide or at their own hands. The CDRT has brought to light the high level of risk factors in dysfunctional family systems. In this presentation, the participant will be a part of a child death review where the mother discovered her 4 children and their grandmother were killed by the father during a breakup between the parents. Experts will discuss how violent relationships can lead to child fatalities. As part of lessons learned from the CDRT, the CASRT was developed to focus on the uniqueness and complexity of each child who died by suicide. Every child's death is tragic and has a story to tell, especially those involving suicide. This presentation will dive into an adolescent suicide, and the risk and protective factors for this population. This presentation will also discuss the prevalence of child homicides and youth suicides and highlight the ongoing need for case reviews of these tragedies, not only in Los Angeles County, but also throughout the entire state. Finally, this workshop will provide an update on efforts in creating the Statewide CDRT Network and discuss both trends observed, and initiatives implemented by various counties in the state regarding child homicides and youth suicides.

**Hilda Aceves**

Hilda Aceves is a licensed marriage and family therapist and registered art therapist, with over 10 years in the field providing trauma informed therapy to youth and families who have been exposed to violence. She currently works for the Safe at Home Foundation where she oversees school-based violence prevention and intervention programs in LA County, provides workshops to teachers, parents and the community educating on the impact of trauma and ending the cycles of violence. Hilda's focus is on processing trauma, building coping skills and empowerment, through creative expression, prevention and awareness in areas including family violence, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, bullying, digital abuse and more. Hilda is passionate about her work to help end the cycle of violence for this generation and the future through education, therapy and advocating for creating trauma informed school environments.

**Dr. Estela Andujo**

Dr. Estela Andujo teaches Social Work foundation courses, and Generic and Advanced practice courses within the Suzanne Dworak Peck School of Social Work. Dr. Andujo has more than 30 years of academic and professional experience and worked as a child psychotherapist, outpatient mental health clinical supervisor, outpatient clinical director of programs, clinical consultant, and clinical licensing coach. Dr. Andujo is committed to working with diverse populations, and has focused her clinical practice on engaging nonprofit, inner-city mental health agencies. Linking social work theory and practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Dr. Andujo draws on her extensive clinical practice skills with children, adolescents, and their families and works to integrate theory with clinical practice in her teaching using expressive arts therapy and the creative process to promote clinical social work practices. Dr. Andujo utilizes interactive, real-world applications

in the classroom, promoting a learning environment that enhances a variety of skills, including critical thinking, clinical awareness, evidenced-based practices, and advocacy. Dr. Andujo is a recognized consultant and trainer in child play therapy, law and ethics, group psychotherapy, clinical supervision, expressive arts, trauma-informed practices, and the California Licensing Exam. Her research interests relate to diversity and clinical practice, and the use of creative interventions in conjunction with evidence-based practice models.

**Steve Blagg**

Detective Steve Blagg is a thirty-seven-year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He has been assigned to Homicide Bureau for over sixteen years. In that time, he has been involved in over two hundred investigations including homicides and officer involved shootings. He has been the lead investigator in several high-profile cases including the Monterey Park Mass shooting that occurred in January 2023. Prior to his assignment at Homicide Bureau, he was assigned to the Major Crimes Bureau for eight years where he investigated crimes such as series robberies, murder for hire, kidnapping, cargo thefts and felony fugitive apprehensions.

**Milton Brown**

Milton Brown, is the grandfather of the deceased children. Mr. Brown is a Sergeant for the Department of defense for the past 23 years and will soon be a deputy sheriff for the Kern County Sheriff's Department.

**Ariel Bustamante**

Ariel Bustamante (she/her/hers/ella) is a former Liberty Hill Leader to Watch and American Bar Association Panelist spanning nearly 15 years of volunteer and staff experience working with social justice and social service non-profits including GSA Network, Liberty Hill Foundation, ACLU of Southern California, and

now the Los Angeles LGBT Center. As Senior Manager of Capacity Building, Ariel manages initiatives (training, coaching, technical assistance, consultation, and policy advocacy) focused on improving the safety, wellbeing, and permanency of LGBTQ+ youth. She is an LA native and attended Green Mountain College, an environmental liberal arts college in the rural village of Poultney, Vermont where she self-designed her multi-disciplinary area of study: inequality and oppression studies. As a certified HIV testing and prevention counselor, she worked to increase awareness and access to resources in the small town. Centering an intersectional approach, Ariel has integrated innovative and transformative methods to her work in policy development and advocacy, social/new media, capacity building and professional development, activism, education, equity and inclusion, and leadership development. Ariel has worked to ensure quality in experience, programming, and deliverables, while prioritizing the voices and experiences of those directly impacted.

### **Typhani Carter**

Typhani Carter has nearly 20 years of experience in the field of mental health, specializing in working with populations that have experienced complex trauma. Her work experience has focused on direct clinical practice, supervision of staff, program development and administration, and training. As Sr. Vice President of Programs at the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation (J TSAH), she provides clinical, administrative and programmatic oversight for multiple trauma-informed, school-based programs across the nation, and ensures that the J TSAH provides services that adhere to the tenets of trauma-informed and healing-centered practices. She has provided training nationally to both clinical and non-clinical practitioners, educators, and other interested parties on trauma-related topics. Besides working at J TSAH, Typhani is a Senior Lecturer at Columbia University School of Social Work (CSSW). She received her B.A. in Clinical Psychology and Child

Development from Tufts University and her master's degree from CSSW.

### **Maria Contreras**

Maria Contreras is the Community Policy Associate for the Collaborative Responses to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Initiative at the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL). In this role, Maria aims to ensure that state policy and practice to identify and serve youth impacted by CSE are driven by community and lived experience expertise. Prior to joining NCYL, she worked as a Youth Advocate at Westcoast Children's Clinic serving youth involved in Alameda County foster care and Juvenile Justice systems and used her lived experience to advocate with and on those youth. She obtained her B.A. in Political, Legal and Economic Analysis and Ethnic studies and master's in public policy from Mills College.

### **Pallavi Dhawan**

Pallavi Dhawan currently serves as the Director of Family Violence Legislation. She spent 13 years in the L.A. County District Attorney's Office specializing in domestic violence and child abuse prosecutions, for which she received the 2019 LACBA prosecutor of the year award. She has written and trained extensively on domestic violence policy and law and is the Associate Editor of the Domestic Violence Report, a nationally recognized publication. She works to develop best practices in the domestic violence field, including drafting California Senate Bill 1141, 2021 legislation that added the definition of coercive control to the Family Code definition of domestic violence and Senate Bill 910, 2014 legislation which expanded the scope of criminal protective orders for child abuse victims. She also contributed to the development of SB 331, Piqui's Law: Keeping Children Safe from Family Violence Act (2024). She is the 2023 recipient of the city of L.A.'s Dr. Marjorie Braude award for innovative collaboration in the domestic violence field. Pallavi received her J.D. and



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

B.A. from UCLA.

### **Michael Durfee**

Michael Durfee, M.D. is a Board-Certified Adult and Child Psychiatrist and is the Chief Consultant for the LA County Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN). He was Chief Resident in Child Psychiatry for USC LA County Hospital where he finished his training. He built child abuse prevention programs in the Department of Health, Public Health, Mental Health and DCFS. He created a drug abuse program in the U.S. Army Korea. Dr. Durfee was psychiatrist and later medical director at McLaren Hall. He has provided expert testimony in courts throughout the state. His model for Multiagency Review of Child Deaths in 1978 has spread to all states and multiple countries. He provided on site consultation in multiple states and several countries. His work includes special programs for treatment of children including those who survive severe abuse. His present project involves a system to systematically serve over 1000 newborns a year reported at risk of child abuse. Dr. Durfee's work with fatal abuse includes addressing the trauma and grief of survivors of fatal family violence, including young children who witnessed their parent or sibling killed.

### **Ana Estevez**

Ana Estevez is a passionate advocate for children, crime victims, and child safety. With over 27 years of experience in education, she has served as a teacher, elementary school principal, district administrator, and currently serves as a Director. Ana was honored by the State Assembly as the 2019 California Woman of the Year, recognized by Nexstar as a 2024 Remarkable Woman, and is a United States Army veteran. She has appeared on the Dr. Phil Show, Good Day LA, and has testified before the California Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees. She has been instrumental in major child safety legislative initiatives at both the state and federal levels, most recently with the passage

of Senate Bill 331—Piqui's Law—in October 2023. However, most meaningfully, she is known as Piqui's momma

### **Jerome Front**

Jerome Front, LMFT, is a year-round Adjunct Faculty in the Graduate School of Clinical Psychology at Pepperdine University since 1999, creating a Graduate Course called "Mindfulness & Psychotherapy." He has been an invited Mindfulness Presenter at many clinical forums including UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center, LA County Psychologists, American Assoc of Pediatrics So Cal, USC Graduate School of Social Work, National Institute for Clinical Behavioral Medicine, and the UCLA Mindfulness & Psychotherapy Conference featuring Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. Since 1994, Jerome has had a private practice. He also teaches two weekly Zoom meditation classes with opportunities for helping professionals to sit-in, for free. For 29 years he has led One-day CE Mindfulness Training Retreats in Los Angeles. For more information on these innovative CE Mindfulness Trainings and Mindfulness Retreats: [www.JeromeFront.com](http://www.JeromeFront.com)

### **Toai Griffin**

Toai Griffin, LCSW joined Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services in 2005, to help promote awareness and sensitivity toward the substance abuse, mental health and domestic violence population. She transferred to Department of Children and Family Services and served in various administrative roles, including as the Quality Services Review, and Children and Family Services Review Program Manager. She is currently with ICAN, as the Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team Administrator.

### **Diane Hong**

Diane Hong, J.D. joined the Los Angeles District Attorney's (LADA) Office in 2012 and is currently assigned to the Family Violence Division. During her career with LADA, she has tried very serious domestic violence



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

cases and sexual assault/abuse cases involving minors and adult victims. Prior to joining LADA's Office, Ms. Hong served in the United States Army for 6 years on active duty. Vanessa Alfaro Zuniga, J.D. joined the LADA's Office's in 2012. During the course of her career with LADA, she has tried several misdemeanor and felony cases throughout the county. She is currently assigned to the Family Violence Division in Downtown Los Angeles where she handles some of the most serious felony domestic violence cases. While assigned to the Family Violence Division, she also assists the Complex Child Abuse Section by seeking justice for some of the most vulnerable victims.

### **Pak Kouch**

Pak Kouch is an Assistant Head Deputy in the Family Violence Division of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, in charge of the East Region and the Complex Child Abuse Section. She has been a prosecutor since 2000 with various assignments and has conducted numerous complex jury trials. She has trained locally, nationally, and internationally on child abuse, homicides, domestic violence, multidisciplinary teamwork, and courtroom testimony for experts.

### **Dr. Michael Levittan**

Dr. Michael Levittan is recognized expert on domestic violence, child abuse, anger management, PTSD. He is a licensed psychotherapist and the director of the batterers' treatment program, T.E.A.M. Dr. Levittan serves as an expert witness for the courts and has been providing seminars for UCLA Extension, National Alliance Mental Illness, International Conference Violence, Abuse, Trauma, L.A. Superior Court, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse Neglect, California Association Marriage Family Therapists, U.S. Marines, Women's Shelters. His media appearances include Tyra Banks, Inside Edition, ABC News, Starting Over, Bad Girls Club, Montel Williams, Robert Irvine Show, Politico.com, Hollywood 411, and the documentary "Golden Opportunity Child Development." Dr. Michael's

publications include "The History of Infanticide" in Violence in Society, a chapter on Suicide and Domestic Violence in the IVAT volume; and a chapter on "Male Conditioning" in the book "Her Story, His Story." He launched the Global Peace Committee for National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence. Podcasts include "Fathers Raising Daughters," "Me Too" Movement, "Gender Expectations in the 21st Century." Dr. Michael chairs a Gun Violence Prevention committee. His passion is evident in writings, presentations, media appearances.

### **Jasmine McDonald**

Jasmine McDonald has worked for Saving Innocence for over 9 years and is currently the Assistant Director of Clinical Programs. In her role, Jasmine supervises Advocates that respond to crises, provide victim-witness testifying support, and intensive case management for youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking. She coordinates services to meet the child's needs and offers support to the families. Jasmine also completes all referrals to Saving Innocence and connects youth to the best-fit Advocate. In addition, Jasmine facilitates nationwide training to advocate and spread awareness of this topic.

### **Susana Montanez**

Susana Montanez, LCSW has worked with Los Angeles County DCFS since 2001. She began her career as a Child Welfare Worker and spent most of her time at DCFS as a Dependency Investigator and as a supervisor at Emergency Response Command Post. In 2016, she began working as a Children Services Administrator for the Bureau of Operational Supportive Services, QI Section, as a Certified State Reviewer conducting county wide Child and Family Service Reviews. In 2019, she joined ICAN, where her current roles include coordinating the Multi Agency Child Death Review Team meetings and the review of all child deaths in the County, as well as, compiling child death reports and providing Policy recommendations for county partners

and stakeholders.

## **Sandra Murray**

Sandra Murray, M.D. attended both medical school and pediatric residency at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). She completed her fellowship in Family Violence at the Chadwick Center for Children in San Diego. She is board certified in general pediatrics and in the sub-specialty child abuse pediatrics. She was the medical director of the Riverside Child Assessment Team in Riverside County, the Child Abuse Service Team in Orange County (CAST), and the Child Abuse and Protection Team at Miller Children's and Women's Hospital in Long Beach. She was also a professor of pediatrics at the UCI. She is now retired. However, she is still working as a child abuse pediatrician at UCI Medical Center, Children's Hospital of Orange County, and CAST.

## **Erin French Nafekh**

Erin French Nafekh was most recently an attorney for the National Center for Youth Law's Collaborative Responses to Commercial Sexual Exploitation Initiative. Erin's work is focused on developing and improving policies, protocols, and practices to better identify and support children and youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. Prior to her role at NCYL, Erin worked to address the issue of child sex trafficking in South Asia and spent time working with children and youth impacted by trafficking in Los Angeles. Erin received her J.D. from UCLA School of Law, with specializations in both Public Interest Law & Policy and International & Comparative Law, and her undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley with highest honors in American Studies.

## **Gail Pincus**

Gail Pincus has been working in the field of domestic violence since 1984. She began her work while a graduate student at USC School of Social Work where she was tutored by two professors above and beyond her regular

course work for her MSW. She has worked with men who batter their female partners, female victims of domestic violence, children who have witnessed and been subjected to the on going emotional abuse and control of their mothers abusive partner. She designed and implemented an emergency response team with LAPD for victims of domestic violence in 1994 and continues this program to this day. This is an on scene immediate crisis intervention at the time of the abuse. Gail has worked as an expert witness since 1989 in the field of domestic violence for both prosecution and the defense as well as in Dependency Court and Family law and civil suit arena.

## **Peter Sabado**

Peter Sabado, MSW has worked with Los Angeles County DCFS since 2002. He began his career as a Child Welfare Worker and in 2009, he began working as a supervisor where he implemented specialized.

## **Linda E. Weinberger**

Linda E. Weinberger, Ph.D. earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology at University of Houston. She completed her internship at California Atascadero State Hospital, and post-doctoral fellowship in Forensic Psychology at University of Southern California (USC), School of Medicine. She is "Professor Emerita of Clinical Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences" at USC. Currently she is a consultant for USC Institute of Psychiatry and Law and is an esteemed member of Los Angeles County Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team. She authored numerous studies in scholastic publications including articles on "Suicide in a large, urban area: psychological, demographic, and situational factors", "Meeting the needs of those persons with serious mental illness who are most likely to be criminalized," and "Evolution of the Psychological Autopsy: Fifty years of experience at the Los Angeles County Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office."

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Raymundo Zacarias**

Raymundo Zacarias after having served 5 yrs in prison received his Masters in Social Work from the University of Southern California and has worked with both high-risk youth and reentry adults for the past 19 years. He has held the following positions: Executive VP of Programs for Communities In Schools of the San Fernando Valley Greater Los Angeles Area from 2010-18, in charge of supervising case management and providing service to the largest Gang Reduction & Youth Development contract for the city of Los Angeles, co-supervised/trained MSW interns from five California Universities: UCLA, USC, CSULA, CSUDH, and CSUN on case management, counseling gang youth/reentry adults. He has lead a Domestic Violence/Gang Nexus training committee regarding the co-relationship of gang violence and domestic violence. Mr. Zacarias worked at Project 180 a forensic services agency as the Program Manager for a prop 47 diversion pilot program out of the Los Angeles city attorneys' office that was featured in Los Angeles Times as one of the most effective prop 47 programs. This program helped Justice Impacted unhoused people with Mental health and Substance Abuse issues find housing. He was the Director of Programs of the Coalition for Engaged Education that provide intensive mobile case management to justice impacted and foster youth throughout the Los Angeles County. He taught 4 1/2 years as a part-time Lecturer at the University of Southern California teaching about adolescent gang intervention work. Currently he is the Project Manager for the American Rescue Act Plan for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Office of Violence Prevention.

### **Vanessa Alfaro Zuniga**

Vanessa Alfaro Zuniga, J.D. joined the LADA's Office's in 2012. During the course of her career with LADA, she has tried several misdemeanor and felony cases throughout the county. She is currently assigned to the Family Violence Division in Downtown Los

Angeles where she handles some of the most serious felony domestic violence cases. While assigned to the Family Violence Division, she also assists the Complex Child Abuse Section by seeking justice for some of the most vulnerable victims.