



Missouri Juvenile Justice Association

CONNECTING CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AND DELINQUENCY

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

“Bridge over Troubled Waters”

SEPTEMBER 16, 9AM - 12PM
SEPTEMBER 17, 1PM - 4PM

2025



LIVE ON
ZOOM

FREE
EVENT

The conference focuses on exploring various facets of trauma affecting healthy childhood development and examines how these experiences shape behavior that often leads to legal encounters. Through engaging discussions and informative presentations, we strive to enhance the understanding of these critical issues among juvenile professionals.

PRESENTERS



Sarah Hayes

Topic: “Compounding Trauma: Rural Poverty – What We Don’t Talk About”



Dr. Tashel C. Bordere

Topic: “Compounded Loss, Trauma, and Suffocated Grief among Youth and Families”



Dr. Nathan Stephens

Topic: “Complex Trauma: Growing Up Black, Brown, Male, Poor & At-Risk”



Dr. Steve Bryant

Topic: ‘Traumatized, Bullied, and Put to Shame: LGBTQ-IA Why can’t I be myself?’

REGISTER NOW: *Visit the link or scan the QR Code*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/QuNgEIRfT6Gn6WA6uaQ1zA>



AGENDA



Day 1 - September 16, 2025

9:00AM - 9:10AM Opening Remarks

9:10AM - 10:25AM Sarah Hayes: *'Compounding Trauma: Rural Poverty – What we don't talk about'*

10:25AM - 10:30AM Break

10:30AM - 11:45AM Tashel C. Bordere: *"Compounded Loss, Trauma, and Suffocated Grief among Youth and Families."*

11:45AM - 12:00PM Closing Remarks

Day 2 - September 17, 2025

1:00PM - 1:10PM Opening Remarks

1:10PM - 2:25PM Dr. Nathan Stephens: *"Complex Trauma: Growing Up Black, Brown, Male, Poor & At-Risk"*

2:25PM - 2:30PM Break

2:30PM - 3:45PM Dr. Steve Bryant-Collier: *"Traumatized, Bullied, and Put to Shame: LGBTQIA—Why Can't I Be Myself?"*

DAY 1 - PRESENTERS



Sarah Hayes

Senior Instructor, Northwest Missouri State University - School of Health Sciences & Wellness; Mental Health counselor (PLCP-Missouri)

Topic: “Compounding Trauma: Rural Poverty – What We Don’t Talk About” is an interactive discussion/presentation connecting rural experiences including a focus on such traumatic childhood experiences as poverty, incest, unprepared parenting, inadequate foster care arrangements, and access to care. This session employs small group discussions, open-floor talk, interactive learning, and pertinent toolbox data for juvenile professionals.



Dr. Tashel C. Bordere

Internationally known scholar, author, speaker, consultant, and grief researcher; Dr. Robert Fulton Founder’s Award for Outstanding Professional Service in Death, Dying, and Bereavement

Topic: “Compounded Loss, Trauma, and Suffocated Grief among Youth and Families”. In a largely death-denying, grief-blind broader culture, social media and national movements have been pivotal in bringing widespread attention to the hidden traumas, complex losses, and the profound grief of youth, families, and professional communities simultaneously coping with the aftermath of trauma and losses (death and non-death losses) that occurred in the Covid-19 pandemic, ongoing violence (gun violence, sexual violence) afflicting communities, and sociopolitical grief. This presentation will address ways that historical patterns of ambiguous, compounded loss, disenfranchisement, and suffocated grief were further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and persistent systemic inequities around which losses matter, who gets to grieve, and who deserves grief literacy and support. Drawing from social justice-based grief theories, longitudinal research with bereaved youth, and case examples, we will examine contextual issues in trauma and loss, opportunities for dismantling systemic impediments to coping among youth and families, and ways to promote healing and prosocial coping through grief enfranchisement of youth, families, and helping professionals (e.g., educators, social workers, law enforcement, parents) in various institutions. Implications for trauma and grief-informed practices and policies in schools, clinical settings, juvenile justice, community organizations, and youth programming will be addressed.

DAY 2 - PRESENTERS



Dr. Nathan Stephens

Minority Male Mentoring; Univ. Witwatersrand- Johannesburg's Academic Dev. Program- Indigenous African Social Work Practice; Nat'l Assoc. of Black Social Workers; Leonard G. Dunston Nea Onnim Circle for African Centered Social Work.

Topic: "Complex Trauma: Growing Up Black, Brown, Male, Poor & At-Risk" is a presentation that shares some of the experiences of boys of color in the last two-decades in America. What impact, if any, has the criminalization of boys of color had on their childhood trauma? And how has complex trauma influenced their behavior and risk for delinquency? Using a healing-centered engagement framework, the presentation provides actionable steps that parents/caregivers, educators, youth service workers, juvenile professionals, law enforcement officials, and others can use tools to promote accountability, restorative processes, and moves youth forward on their path to healing and self-actualization.



Dr. Steve Bryant

Student Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board Coordinator; National Pan-Hellenic Council Advisory; Phi Beta Sigma Frat. Inc., Northwest Institute for Social Justice, Founder.

Topic: 'Traumatized, Bullied, and Put to Shame: LGBTQ-IA Why can't I be myself?' explores how questions of sexual identity, bullying, and rejection can deepen childhood trauma and increase risks for disengagement and juvenile justice involvement. This session highlights the critical role educators and justice professionals play in building bridges of understanding and belonging for LGBTQIA youth. Participants will gain trauma-informed tools to affirm identity, disrupt cycles of shame and delinquency, and create environments where young people can own their story and move toward healthy, positive futures.

Thank You

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