



9th Annual HOPE Consortium Virtual Conference

Program Booklet

AUGUST 7-8, 2025

Welcome

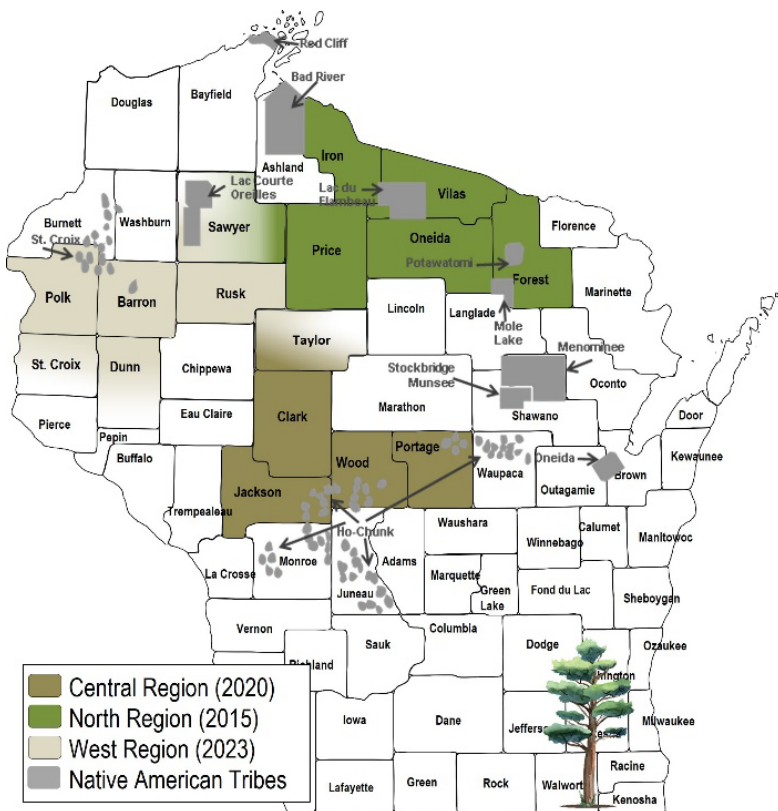
Welcome to the 9th Annual HOPE Consortium Virtual Conference!

Since its formation in 2015, the HOPE Consortium has been a collaborative network of dedicated partners working together to address substance use challenges in rural Wisconsin. Originally established through state HOPE legislation to respond to the opioid crisis in the Northern region, the Consortium expanded in 2017 to include methamphetamine response efforts, and in 2020 and 2023, welcomed the addition of Central and Western regions. The HOPE Consortium is facilitated by Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc. (FHC).

Today, the HOPE Consortium represents over 70 agencies across 16 counties and 5 tribal nations, united by a shared mission to support prevention, treatment, recovery, and risk reduction efforts through evidence-based

practices and a regional recovery-oriented system of care. The Consortium proudly serves rural communities and tribal nations throughout Barron, Clark, Dunn, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Oneida, Polk, Portage, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, Vilas, and Wood Counties, as well as the Forest County Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Lac du Flambeau Chippewa, Sokaogon Chippewa, and St. Croix Tribal Nations.

This year's conference brings together a wide range of professionals—including treatment and recovery providers, criminal justice partners, prevention specialists, human service agencies, healthcare professionals, and community and tribal leaders—for a two-day learning and networking opportunity focused on substance use prevention, treatment, recovery, and risk reduction. We are delighted to offer five tracks this year on: Ethics & Boundaries, Specific Substances, Professional Skills & Development, Community Engagement and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.



We are grateful for the support and input of the HOPE Consortium Steering Committees, the Training Workgroup, and our many partners. We are also thankful for the logistical support provided by the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point Continuing Education team. Finally, a special thank you for conference funding provided in part by FHC and Roots & Wings Foundation.

Thank you for joining us—and for your ongoing commitment to improving lives across rural Wisconsin.

General Information

Evaluation

A link to the conference evaluation will be emailed to participants on Friday, August 8, 2025. The evaluation includes opportunities to provide feedback on the overall conference experience and individual breakout sessions. Your input is highly valued and will help shape future training opportunities. You must complete this in order to access the Continuing Education opportunities.

Website Access for Handouts

Handouts received prior to the conference will be posted on the HOPE Consortium Conference Portal, hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP).

Session Recordings

Recordings of sessions will be available on the HOPE Consortium Conference Portal after the event and will remain accessible to registered attendees for 90 days. Recordings will be posted only for sessions where presenters have granted permission.

For questions regarding recordings or speaker handouts, please contact UWSP Continuing Education at 715-346-3838 or uwspceweb@uwsp.edu

For other questions, contact FHC at familyhealthcenteroutreach@familyhealthcenter.org

Continuing Education (CE) Credits for Certified Substance Abuse Counselors

Certified substance abuse counselors can earn up to 9.0

continuing education credits for attending this year's conference. For certified substance abuse

counselors-in training registered with the Wisconsin Certification Board, these hours may count toward the 360 hours required for certification, provided the individual has completed at least 100 hours of approved education, in accordance with 2017 Wisconsin Act 262. Individuals who are planning to apply for counselor-in training certification may count CE hours from this event toward the initial 100 hours required. Attendees should contact the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services to confirm eligibility.

A four-hour **Ethics and Boundaries** session will also be offered and is eligible for credit for counselors and prevention specialists. Full attendance is required in order to receive credit for this session.*

If you have questions, please contact the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services to verify.

Continuing Education Hours (CEHs)

Continuing Education Hours for this conference are tracked by UWSP Continuing Education. The 2025 HOPE Consortium Conference has applied for 9.0 CEHs through the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Wisconsin Chapter; the UWSP Department of Sociology and Social Work. This course has been approved by Arbor Place, Inc., as a NAADAC Approved Education Provider, for educational credits. NAADAC Provider #206087, Arbor Place, Inc. is responsible for all aspects of the programming. CEHs can be earned only by attending live sessions; recordings are not eligible for CE credit.

On Friday, August 8, 2025, participants will receive an email with a link to an online form where they can indicate which sessions they attended. Certificates of Completion will not be generated automatically; instead, UWSP will review actual attendance records before issuing certificates. Participants will have 30 days to complete the form.

General Information (continued)

Language Matters: Using Non-Stigmatizing and Person-First Language

THESE HURT 	THESE HELP 
Substance Use	
substance abuse	substance use/misuse
alcoholic	person with alcohol use disorder
addict/junkies/druggies/users	person with a substance use disorder
battling/suffering from an addiction	person living with a substance use disorder
former addict	person in recovery
stayed clean	maintained recovery
dirty/clean drug screen	positive/negative urine drug test
relapse	return to use/recurrence
non-compliant/bombed out	chooses not to at this point
needle exchange	syringe services
addicted mom/dad	mom/dad with a substance use disorder
addicted baby	baby with prenatal exposure to substances/ baby experiencing neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)/neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS)
medication is a crutch	medication is a treatment tool
Incarceration	
prisoner/inmate/detainee/offender	person who is incarcerated/person who is in contact with, involved in, or interacting with the criminal legal system
convict/felon/criminal/thug	person with convictions
Mental Health	
crazy/insane/psycho/mentally ill/ emotionally disturbed	person with a mental illness/person with a mental health condition

Adapted 3/28/22 from National Council for Behavioral Health. Toolkit for the Surgeon General's Report on Addiction, <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/surgeon-general-toolkit/language-matters/> Updated 6/2025.

Conference Tracks

Use the grid below to identify breakout sessions associated with each conference track.

	Ethics & Boundaries	Specific Substances	Professional Skills & Development	Community Engagement	Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Session 1: Day 1, 10:15 – 11:15 am	1	2	3	4	5
Session 2: Day 1, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm	6	7	8	9	10
Session 3: Day 1, 1:30 – 2:30 pm	11	12	13	14	15
Session 4: Day 1, 2:45 – 3:45 pm	16	17	18	19	20
Session 5: Day 2, 10:15 – 11:15 am	21	22	23	24	25
Session 6: Day 2, 1:30 am – 12:30 pm	26	27	28	29	30

Day 1: Thursday, August 7, 2025, 8:30 am – 3:45 pm

Welcome and Announcements

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Danielle Luther, MPH, CPS, Director of Grants and Community Engagement, *Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc., Marshfield, WI*

Kaitlin Severson, BS, Program Coordinator, *Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc., Marshfield, WI*

Opening Keynote

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Navigating the Terrain of Change – Dr. Alonzo Kelly, MPA, MHRLR, MBA, PhD, *Kelly Leadership Group, LLC, Green Bay, WI*

This full participatory presentation is designed to assist in creating a welcoming work environment for all. This learning journey will focus on the Professional Development of participants aimed at increasing critical thinking skills, ability to engage in authentic inquiry, problem solve and communicate confidently while fostering more collaborative work environments rooted in authentic relationships. The key concepts of this session include 1) Creating a sense of urgency, 2) Creating a 'culture of accountability' and 3) Crucial Conversations; High Stakes/Strong Emotions/Opposing Opinions.

Objectives:

- Apply critical thinking to change management.
- Engage in authentic inquiry which results in problem solving and conflict management.
- Apply proper actionable steps in strategic thinking, planning, and acting.

Break

10:00 – 10:15 am

Breakout Session 1

10:15 am – 11:15 am

1. Part 1/4: Compassion & Professionalism: Ethics and Boundaries in Practice* – Kate Kipp, MSSW, APSW, *UW-Stevens Point Department of Sociology and Social Work, Stevens Point, WI*

The first part of a four-hour workshop that focuses on ethical considerations and professional boundaries in social work practice, aligned with the social work values and the NASW Code of Ethics. Participants will explore how to professionally manage common practice dilemmas with setting and maintaining boundaries, dual relationships, privacy issues, and the ethical use of technology. The session includes interactive discussions, case studies, and practical applications to enhance understanding and application of ethical principles in real-world scenarios.

Objectives:

- Understand the core principles and values outlined in the NASW Code of Ethics, and their application in social work practice.
- Discuss and apply best practices to professionally and compassionately manage safe boundaries, dual relationships, privacy, and technology use.
- Apply a decision-making model to analyze and resolve ethical challenges in a case study.

2. Part 1: Cannabis-Induced Psychosis – John Puls, LCSW, MCAP, *Full Life Comprehensive Care, Boca Raton, FL*

Cannabis is the most used substance nationwide after tobacco and alcohol with approximately 16 million regular users, the vast majority of whom began using during their teenage years (NIH, 2020). Problems have arisen with the broad legalization of pot, including a failure to account for increased toxicity and the dangerous effects on early teens and young adults. Rapid increases in anxiety, paranoia, and psychosis-related hospitalizations from cannabis are causing alarm. Cannabis has been shown to increase early-onset schizophrenia by 3 years. As well, the spectrum of psychotic disorders, including schizoaffective disorder, schizophreniform disorder, brief psychotic disorder, delusional disorder, and substance-induced psychotic disorder have been stark and concerning. Cannabis is found to be linked to the onset of bipolar disorder with psychotic features and increases in the onset of symptoms of mania.

Objectives:

- Understand and discuss the trends and increase in cannabis use amongst adolescents and young adults.
- Understand and discuss the difference between traditional cannabis and high concentrate THC oil.
- Understand the correlation of cannabis use related to early-onset psychosis and initial psychotic breaks.
- Understand and discuss interventions of cannabis use disorder and how to treat it.

3. Introduction to Motivational Interview in Modern Age (Chatbots, etc.) – Tekia Wells, MS, LPC, ICS, CSAC, Nicolet College, Rhinelander, WI

This interactive training introduces participants to the foundational principles and core techniques of Motivational Interviewing (MI), a collaborative, person-centered communication style designed to elicit and strengthen motivation for change. Through a combination of brief lectures, discussions, and guided virtual case scenarios, participants will explore the "Spirit of MI," the OARS skills (Open-ended questions, Affirmations, Reflective listening, and Summarizing), and strategies for recognizing and responding to change talk. Emphasis is placed on practical application, with participants engaging in virtual case simulations to build confidence and competence in applying MI techniques across various clinical and behavioral health settings.

Objectives:

- Define the core principles and spirit of MI.
- Identify the four processes of MI: engaging, focusing, evoking, and planning.
- Recognize and respond appropriately to sustain talk and change talk in client interactions.
- Apply MI techniques in virtual case scenarios to enhance motivation and support behavior change.
- Reflect on use of MI strategies through structured peer or facilitator feedback following each scenario.

4. Know Your Neuro: The LEO Program – Kathleen Weslowski, MEd, CW Solutions, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Backed by neuroscience, this interactive session will explore The LEO Program, an evidence-based, engaging substance use prevention program that seeks to empower youth to understand their unique brains and quickly improve resilience, adaptability, and fearlessness in a rapidly changing world. Each component of this brain-science program focuses on increasing resiliency and developing strategies to create a natural flow of dopamine that does not depend on external stimuli. In turn, it is expected that individuals are less likely to experiment or regularly use addictive substances because there is no neurological or chemical void to be filled by external stimuli. By promoting higher-brain activation and resiliency through key tools, individuals can reduce stress and anxiety, and improve memory, creativity, self-awareness, and overall quality of life – each of which are key factors in preventing substance use and other high-risk behaviors.

Objectives:

- Learn the basics of brain development and functions of the lower (survival) brain and the higher (rational thinking) brain as they relate to fostering hope and resilience.
- Learn key LEO tools or strategies that promote higher brain activation and aid in developing self-awareness, emotions, communication, and positive thinking.
- Learn how to engage clients in learning and application of brain-based strategies to higher brain neuroplastic growth and development.

5. The Role of Emotional Intelligence Skills in Addressing Trauma and Reducing the Risk of SUD – Elizabeth Power, MEd, EPower & Associates, Inc, Nashville, TN

This session explores the skills common to emotional intelligence and trauma-informed responses. These skills ask participants to consider trauma-responsive emotional intelligence (TREQ) as a foundation in recovery that addresses social determinants of health. The skills people develop in TREQ are helpful for all trauma-exposed individuals who may be at risk for addiction and for people who are deep into their recovery.

Objectives:

- Recognize the relationship among substance use, Emotional Intelligence, and trauma-informed care.
- Discuss how developing skills in identifying strengths, developing self-regulation, and the use of inner connections supports reduction of need to use.
- Recognize mechanisms for building individual and collective sturdiness using the skills taught.

Break

11:15 am – 11:30 am

Breakout Session 2

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

6. Part 2/4: Compassion & Professionalism: Ethics and Boundaries in Practice* – Kate Kipp, MSSW, APSW, UW-Stevens Point Department of Sociology and Social Work, Stevens Point, WI

The second part of a four-hour workshop that focuses on ethical considerations and professional boundaries in social work practice, aligned with the social work values and the NASW Code of Ethics. Participants will explore how to professionally manage common practice dilemmas with setting and maintaining boundaries, dual relationships, privacy issues, and the ethical use of

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technology use.

- Apply a decision-making model to analyze and resolve ethical challenges in a case study.

Objectives:

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- Understand the correlation of cannabis use related to early-onset psychosis and initial psychotic breaks.
- Understand and discuss interventions of cannabis use disorder and how to treat it.

8. Marketing with Canva – Char Barwin, BA, *Northeastern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center, Manitowoc, WI*

This hands-on, skills-focused workshop equips non-profit leaders with practical Canva features to immediately enhance their outreach efforts. Participants will learn how to create professional branded materials, transform images using advanced tools, streamline their design process, and simplify their social media workflow. This session is specifically designed for coalition leaders and community organizations looking to amplify their prevention messaging and youth initiatives across platforms with minimal time investment and maximum visual impact.

Objectives:

- Master Canva's Brand Kit to create consistent, professional branded materials that strengthen organizational identity.
- Apply time-saving design features including background removal, magic eraser, and Tidy Up tools to increase productivity and create polished visuals.
- Implement efficient social media sharing workflows to amplify messaging across multiple platforms.

9. Supporting Youth Beyond Sexual Exploitation: Navigating Sex Trafficking in Rural Wisconsin – Renee Keen-Natzke, BS, and Stephanie Pederson, BA, *CW Solutions, Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

In this session, youth case managers and advocates from the ROUTE program at CW Solutions will explore how commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) affects youth and emerging adults in rural Wisconsin. The ROUTE team will also share what they are doing to promote youth voice and self-determination as they support youth and emerging adults who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation to thrive by engaging with their best life.

Objectives:

- Understand what commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking is, and how these experiences affect youth and emerging adults living in rural Wisconsin.
- Broaden scope of knowledge on how youth who have experienced sex trafficking may engage with their environment, and busting myths about "how victims should act."
- Discuss which interventions, case management strategies, and support services promote youth wellness and safety in the ROUTE program.

10. Starting the Conversation: Cultivating Hope and Authentic Connection for Youth Prevention – Jacob Jansen, BBA, and Douglas Darby, *Turning the Page Now LLC, Hales Corner, WI*

This breakout session empowers participants with practical tools and insights to initiate meaningful conversations with young people. Moving beyond surface-level interactions, we will explore strategies for actively listening, building trust, and fostering environments where youth feel safe to share and be heard. Discover how authentic connection serves as a foundational pillar for prevention, helping to cultivate resilience, instill hope, and guide young individuals toward positive choices. Join us to learn how your

Objectives:

- Explain the foundational role of hope and authentic connection in fostering positive youth development and reducing risk factors.
- Apply practical communication strategies, including active listening, trust-building techniques, and methods for creating safe spaces, to initiate and sustain meaningful conversations with youth.
- Utilize learned tools to effectively engage with

conversations can be a powerful force for change, fostering genuine relationships that truly make a difference in the lives of youth. This is the precursor session prior to the T.R.U.T.H. presentation so participants can see the learning objectives in action.

youth in various scenarios, empowering them to envision positive futures and seek necessary support.

Lunch Break

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Breakout Session 3

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

11. Part 3/4: Compassion & Professionalism: Ethics and Boundaries in Practice* – Kate Kipp, MSSW, APSW, UW-Stevens Point Department of Sociology and Social Work, Stevens Point, WI

The third part of a four-hour workshop that focuses on ethical considerations and professional boundaries in social work practice, aligned with the social work values and the NASW Code of Ethics. Participants will explore how to professionally manage common practice dilemmas with setting and maintaining boundaries, dual relationships, privacy issues, and the ethical use of technology. The session includes interactive discussions, case studies, and practical applications to enhance understanding and application of ethical principles in real-world scenarios.

Objectives:

- Understand the core principles and values outlined in the NASW Code of Ethics, and their application in social work practice.
- Discuss and apply best practices to professionally and compassionately manage safe boundaries, dual relationships, privacy, and technology use.
- Apply a decision-making model to analyze and resolve ethical challenges in a case study.

12. Ketamine Therapy – Laura Skinner, MSW, LPC, Navigate Wellness, LLC, Mequon, WI

This presentation explores the intersection of moral injury, childhood trauma, and the internalization of guilt and shame. Attendees will gain insight into how early wounding shapes deep ego development and protective adaptations, often leading to persistent emotional and psychological distress. The presentation will highlight how ketamine-assisted psychotherapy can serve as a powerful tool to soften ego defenses, access wounded parts of the self, and rewire shame-based patterns—creating space for integration, self-compassion, and lasting transformation.

Objectives:

- Understand the relationship between moral injury and childhood trauma and how early experiences of guilt and shame contribute to ego development and internalized belief systems.
- Identify the psychological and neurobiological mechanisms through which moral injury manifests and perpetuates distress in adulthood, particularly in high-functioning or service-oriented individuals.
- Explore how ketamine-assisted psychotherapy can disrupt maladaptive ego patterns and support the integration of shame-based parts through a trauma-informed, neuroplasticity-driven framework.

13. Innovations in Grant Writing and AI as a Tool – Aleks Kladnitsky, BS, Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, Madison, WI

This presentation will provide an introduction and demonstration of using artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT or Microsoft CoPilot to support your grant writing and other work.

Objectives:

- Gain broad understanding of what Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPT) are.
- See a Large Language Model (LLM) GPT such as ChatGPT or Microsoft CoPilot in Action.
- Learn how others have used ChatGPT or CoPilot in their work.

14. Historical Trauma – Colin Cash, CPRS, Pathfinder Solutions, Minneapolis, MN

This session focuses on establishing trust within Native American communities with a culturally respectful and historically informed approach. Trust has often been broken due to centuries of colonization, forced assimilation, broken treaties, and systemic oppression. These experiences have resulted in intergenerational and historical trauma, which continues to impact relationships between Native communities and institutions such as governments, healthcare systems, and researchers.

Objectives:

- Understand the impact of historical and intergenerational trauma on trust dynamics within Native American communities.
- Identify culturally specific practices that support trust-building and community engagement in Native American contexts.
- Demonstrate strategies for establishing respectful, trauma-informed, and collaborative relationships with Native American communities.

15. SUD and Human Milk Feeding – Elizabeth Goetz, MD, *Department of Pediatrics, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI*

This session will explore the benefits and challenges of human milk feeding and SUD.

Objectives:

- Review the science behind breastfeeding and the transfer of substances into human milk.
- Identify contraindications to breastfeeding associated with SUD.
- Gain the ability to provide practical guidance to families with SUD who wish to breastfeed.

Break

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

Breakout Session 4

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

16. Part 4/4: Compassion & Professionalism: Ethics and Boundaries in Practice* – Kate Kipp, MSSW, APSW, *UW-Stevens Point Department of Sociology and Social Work, Stevens Point, WI*

The final part of a four-hour workshop that focuses on ethical considerations and professional boundaries in social work practice, aligned with the social work values and the NASW Code of Ethics. Participants will explore how to professionally manage common practice dilemmas with setting and maintaining boundaries, dual relationships, privacy issues, and the ethical use of technology. The session includes interactive discussions, case studies, and practical applications to enhance understanding and application of ethical principles in real-world scenarios.

Objectives:

- Understand the core principles and values outlined in the NASW Code of Ethics, and their application in social work practice.
- Discuss and apply best practices to professionally and compassionately manage safe boundaries, dual relationships, privacy, and technology use.
- Apply a decision-making model to analyze and resolve ethical challenges in a case study.

17. DHS Sections, Staff, Teams, & Priorities – Jason Cram, MPA, *Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery, Madison, WI*

Jason Cram, Deputy Bureau Director in the Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), will provide an overview of the substance use programs and initiatives supported by DHS. This presentation will include a summary of supported programs; an overview of funding sources; a brief overview of DHS 75 – Community Substance Use Service Standards; online resources; and the organizational structure of the staff involved in these services. The presentation will also highlight the work DHS has done in collaboration with community partners in the areas of substance use prevention, risk reduction, treatment, and recovery.

Objectives:

- Understand the funding and planning structure of substance use programs that are supported by DHS.
- Understand how to access resources and staff at DHS for specific substance use programs.
- Gain appreciation of the breadth of substance use services, across the continuum, that are supported by DHS.

18. REDCap Made Simple: Tools for Surveys, Research, and Beyond – Leila Deering, BA, *Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, Marshfield, WI*

Curious about REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) and how it can streamline your research workflows? Join Leila Deering—2020 REDCap Consortium MVP and REDCap Administrator at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute—for an insightful session that explores:

- What is REDCap? A quick overview of this secure, web-based platform for building and managing online surveys and databases.
- Out-of-the-box features you can start using immediately to enhance data collection and project management.
- Creative and innovative ways to leverage REDCap beyond traditional research use cases.

Whether you're new to REDCap or looking to expand your toolkit, this session will answer your questions and spark new ideas!

Objectives:

- Understand the core functionality of REDCap.
- Explore built-in features and tools.
- Discover innovative and creative use cases.

19. SMART Recovery – Brittney Brock, RC, CPS, CPPS, and Melissa Labecki, RC, CPS, *Three Bridges Recovery Wisconsin, Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

Support is an essential part of recovery. It is not linear and looks different to everyone. Support groups offer a space for anyone who has been affected by addiction of any kind. They are typically peer-led meetings, meaning they are facilitated by individuals with lived experience. They provide safe, supportive places to openly share experiences without the risk of judgment. Various types of support, and supportive groups exist. They can help reinforce skills to encourage meeting the individuals desired recovery goals. In this session, two SMART Recovery facilitators who are in long-term recovery will discuss the differences and similarities between various recovery meetings. They will discuss in detail what SMART Recovery meetings are, how to access meetings, and the basic steps to becoming a facilitator so you can host your own meetings. Our presenters will share the stigmas and concerns that can come with seeking support and how to remove the barrier. Supportive information and resources will be made available for all session participants and publicly on the conference portal for conference participants not attending the session.

Objectives:

- Identify the different formats and types of recovery meetings.
- Explore some of the stigmas and concerns within recovery meetings.
- Understand the basic steps to becoming a SMART Recovery facilitator.

20. The Impact of Nicotine & Alcohol on Fetal Development – Kyle Mounts, MD, MPH, *Wisconsin Association of Perinatal Care, Madison, WI*

This session will review the potential physical and neurodevelopmental impact of nicotine and alcohol during the fetal period. It will explore specific toxic effects of the substances and fetal vulnerabilities to the effects.

Objectives:

- Describe the potential toxicity of alcohol during fetal development.
- Describe the potential toxicity of nicotine during fetal development.
- Describe factors that increase fetal developmental vulnerabilities.

Day 2: Friday, August 8, 2025, 8:30 am – 2:45 pm

Welcome and Opening Reflection

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Rachel Stankowski, PhD, Community Health Strategy Director, *Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc., Marshfield, WI*

2025 HOPE Consortium Innovation Tank Winner

Arbor Place Women & Children's Treatment Initiative: Compassionate Care for Generational Recovery

Jill Gamez, MSPH, MBA, CSAC, PS, Executive Director, *Arbor Place, Inc, Menomonie, WI*

Opening Keynote

9:00 – 10:00 am

T.R.U.T.H. (Teaching Resilience Using Trust & Honesty) – Jacob Jansen, BBA, and Douglas Darby, *Turning the Page Now LLC, Hales Corner, WI*

We believe it's not TRUTH OR DARE, it's TRUTH AND DARE, giving multiple perspectives at different times in the student's education. While students are introduced to the D.A.R.E. program in 5th grade, the T.R.U.T.H. presentation is directed towards middle and high school students. We are looking to offer a different scope of prevention with aligning objectives and encouraging the students to do research themselves. By bringing different perspectives, it encourages students to be more engaged in the programming already in place and ask for help more often.

Objectives:

- Explain the foundational role of hope and authentic connection in fostering positive youth development and reducing risk factors.
- Apply practical communication strategies, including active listening, trust-building techniques, and methods for creating safe spaces, to initiate and sustain meaningful conversations with youth.
- Utilize learned tools to effectively engage with youth in various scenarios, empowering them to envision positive futures and seek necessary

Break

10:00 am – 10:15 am

Breakout Session 5

10:15 am – 11:15 am

21. 5 Core Skills – Elizabeth Power, MEd, *Epower & Associations, Inc., Nashville, TN*

Is everyone impacted by traumatic events? And if so, how is knowing that helpful? How do these traumatic events impact children and families? And what are five simple skills everyone can practice to reduce the injury that traumatic events cause? We'll help you with these questions and leave you with five tools everyone can use. A social determinant of health perspective shifts the lens from treatment to learning and includes everyone. Solidly trauma-informed and trauma-responsive.

Objectives:

- Describe how "universal exposure and unique reaction" support optimal healing.
- Recognize how the impact of trauma shows up in relationships at work, and at home.
- Demonstrate at least two of five skills taught that simultaneously improve emotional intelligence (EQ) and decrease the impact of overwhelming experiences.

22. Advancing Risk Reduction: The Impact of Public Health Vending Machines – Bryar Drexler, CHES, *Portage County Division of Public Health, Stevens Point, WI*; Rhianna Schmidt, MPH, CHES, *Taylor County Health Department, Medford, WI*; Mollie Olson, MPH, *Jackson County Public Health, Black River Falls, WI*; and Pamela Lee, RC, CPS, *Wood County Health Department, Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

Join representatives from multiple Wisconsin counties for a presentation on public health vending machines, an innovative approach to public health. This session will explore how these machines provide easy access to essential supplies like naloxone, drug testing technologies, and risk reduction products, directly addressing substance use challenges in communities. Presenters will discuss the development and deployment of these machines, sharing successes and lessons learned in reducing stigma and enhancing access to care. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue, sharing best practices and ideas for integrating risk reduction strategies in their own areas. Come explore how public health vending machines can transform community health and foster safer environments across Wisconsin!

Objectives:

- Enhance Community Awareness: Educate attendees on the benefits of public health vending machines, highlighting how they can provide accessible health resources, such as naloxone, hygiene products, and risk reduction products, to improve community overall health and wellness.
- Demonstrate Successful Models: Present case studies from multiple Wisconsin counties that have successfully implemented public health vending machines, showcasing their impact on local health outcomes, community engagement, and the importance of collaboration between public health officials and local stakeholders.
- Encourage Participation and Support: Engage local communities and officials in discussions on how to advocate for and support the deployment of public health vending machines, emphasizing strategies for funding, location selection, and integrating these initiatives into existing health programs for maximum outreach and effectiveness.

23. Microsoft Excel Tips for Data Evaluation & Analysis – Lori Schmitz, BA, BS, *Iowa State University, Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute, Ames, IA*

Working in prevention or evaluation, you're tasked with managing data, tracking program outcomes, and reporting results — and Excel can be one of your most powerful tools. This practical session is designed to help prevention and evaluation professionals streamline their work using Excel's most effective features. We'll begin with essential Excel tips and shortcuts to save time and improve accuracy, followed by a focus on data analysis techniques tailored to prevention and evaluation work. Learn how to organize, clean, and interpret data using functions, PivotTables, conditional formatting and basic charts. We will also touch on the importance of visualizing data to share a story.

Objectives:

- Learn time-saving Excel tips and formulas for everyday tasks.
- Understand strategies for organizing and cleaning evaluation data efficiently.
- Use PivotTables, conditional formatting, and charts to analyze survey results and visualize trends.

24. Effective Data Collection Strategies in Rural Communities Impacted by Substance Use & Opioid Use Disorders – Stephen Crowe, MSW, *JBS International, Inc., North Bethesda, MD*

The HRSA-funded Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Technical Assistance (RCORP-TA) team will provide an overview of data collection platforms and effective data collection strategies. Attendees will understand the value and importance of collecting good quality data for programmatic success, how to apply a data mindset by reviewing strategies for collecting data and developing effective data management systems, and learn about common data collection platforms.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate the value and importance of collecting good quality data for programmatic success.
- Apply a data mindset by reviewing strategies for collecting data and developing effective data management systems.
- Provide an overview of various data collection platforms that can be used by staff working in substance use programs and services.

25. Reducing Risk in Pregnancy – Tanya Kraege, LCSW, CSAC, WI CPS, *Safe Communities MDC, Madison, WI*

This session explores the application of risk reduction principles in the context of pregnancy and substance use. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how risk reduction strategies can support the health and autonomy of pregnant women, reduce stigma, and promote better outcomes for both parent and baby. Through evidence-based discussion and real-world examples, attendees will learn practical approaches to care that prioritize safety, respect, and compassion over judgment or punishment. This session is ideal for healthcare providers, social workers, and community advocates seeking to enhance their skills in nonjudgmental, trauma-informed care.

Objectives:

- Understand the principles of risk reduction and how they apply specifically to pregnant women who use substances, including the distinction between risk reduction and abstinence-only approaches.
- Identify at least three risk reduction strategies that can be safely implemented during pregnancy to support maternal and fetal health.
- Demonstrate increased confidence in communicating nonjudgmental, evidence-based care practices when working with pregnant women who use substances.

Break

11:15 am – 11:30 am

Breakout Session 6

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

26. 42 CFR Part 2 – Meghan Mead, JD, *The Network for Public Health Law, Santa Fe, NM*; and Susan Fleurant, JD, MPH, *The Network for Public Health Law, Woodbury, MN*

This session will provide an overview of 42 CFR Part 2, and how it applies to behavioral health providers. Attendees will also learn about the 2024 updates to Part 2. Information will include practical case studies with a focus on real world implementation.

Objectives:

- Describe basic requirements of 42 CFR Part 2 and understand recent changes to 42 CFR Part 2.
- Recognize how to apply recent changes through case study examples representing common scenarios.
- Define practical steps for implementing recent changes.

27. Current and Historical Drug Trends – Timothy Gensler, Special Agent, *Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, Wausau, WI*

This presentation will offer an overview of current and historical drug trends known to law enforcement.

Objectives:

- Understand current drug trends and how they have changed in recent years.
- Understand law enforcement's role in enforcing controlled substance laws.
- Understand current controlled substances and drug paraphernalia in common use.

28. Critical Thinking for Leaders – Alonzo Kelly, MPA, MHRLR, MBA, PhD, *Kelly Leadership Group LLC, Green Bay, WI*

This full participatory presentation is designed to assist in recognizing, understanding, and applying more intentional thought to service delivery, conflict resolution, and strategic planning. This learning journey will focus on the Professional Development of participants aimed at increasing knowledge and ability to utilize critical thinking skills to make authentic inquiry, apply appropriate meaning to terms and phrases, problem solve, communicate confidently, and foster more collaborative work environments rooted in authentic relationships.

Objectives:

- Apply critical thinking to decision making, conflict resolution, and/or strategic thinking.
- Create and sustain cultures of accountability.
- Demonstrate mastery of the elements of thought and key questions for clarity.

29. Recovery Residences – Thomas Vonck-Baudraz, MS, *Wisconsin Association of Sober Housing, Waukesha, WI*

The National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) was formed over 15 years ago to address gaps in accountability for recovery housing operators nationwide. Today over 30 states have an affiliate organization whose role is to act as the accrediting body, overseeing statewide housing according to shared quality standards. As the Wisconsin state affiliate, the Wisconsin Association of Sober Housing (WASH) certifies recovery residences, works with recovery organizations to increase awareness of quality standards in their communities, provides technical assistance, facilitates conversations between networks to break down geographical barriers to housing operators, and acts as a liaison between operators at a state level and the conversation around best practices nationwide. In this session, attendees can expect to gain a foundational understanding of recovery housing's role in the continuum of care for SUD, quality standards in recovery housing, WASH's affiliation with NARR, and the current state of recovery housing in Wisconsin.

Objectives:

- Understand recovery residences operating with the social model of recovery and their place in the SUD continuum of care.
- Understand the quality standards for recovery housing and WASH's role as the Wisconsin state affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR).
- Increase awareness of the state of recovery housing in Wisconsin and across the country.

30. Perinatal Health in Indigenous Communities – Angie Sanchez, ILC, IFSD, *Sacred Waters Collective, Lansing, MI*

Creating communities of care and connection while countering systemic challenges is the root of the work we do at Sacred Waters Collective. During this session we will discuss ways in which history affects the individual and community health of Indigenous people, specifically in the context of perinatal health. Additionally, we will learn how to foster relationships with Indigenous families and birth workers and take a peek into the cultural and Indigenous ways of knowing as it pertains to pregnancy, birth and breast/chest feeding.

Objectives:

- Learn how intergenerational trauma affects the perinatal health of Indigenous people.
- Learn 3-5 ways in which to build relationships with Indigenous clients to support them during the perinatal period.
- List 5 different sacred medicines and or birth traditions utilized by Indigenous communities.

Lunch Break

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Closing Keynote

1:30 – 2:30 pm

How We Speak Matters – Andrew "AJ" Schreier, ICS, CSAC, LPC, *Community Medical Services & New Life Resources, INC., Waukesha, WI*

Language is important. How we speak to and about individuals is ultimately how we treat them. The language we use is vital when it comes to prevention, education, treatment, and recovery from those experiencing problems with substance use, mental health, gambling and other areas of need, care, and services. The use of some language continues to be outdated, not based on clinical application, stigmatizing, and even harmful. Unfortunately, this common language continues to be used in various settings. The language we use is evident in our collaboration efforts, engaging with communities, documentation, and in direct services we provide individuals. Professionals may not realize the impact language may have on the people they serve.

Objectives:

- Summarize the importance of language and the words we use towards people who are seeking help for problems related to substance use, mental health, gambling, and other areas of need.
- Identify 5 or more common words/ phrases that are outdated, stigmatizing, and harmful but continue to be present in the helping industry.
- Describe 2 strategies for speaking to, talking about, documenting, and otherwise using language to engage with individuals and provide them with a safe space for healing.

Day 2 Closing Remarks

2:30 – 2:45 pm

Melanie Kretschmer, AAS, Program Assistant, *Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc., Marshfield, WI*

Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speakers



Douglas Darby, *Turning the Page Now LLC, Hales Corner, WI*

Douglas Darby is a survivor in long-term recovery, committed to igniting the very spark in a person that will help change the world we live in. In 2013, Douglas co-founded Rise Together, a program that has a mission to create communities where today's youth can be heard, loved, and inspired to live in hope. Now a distinguished motivational speaker, he has educated over 270,000 people across the nation. Former Cofounder of Rise Together, Douglas found a new business partnership, and more importantly a new friendship, in Jacob Jansen. Together they established Turning the Page in 2020, with the mission to bring different educational programs into mental health, substance use, connection and hope. Douglas speaks out with passion, heart, and a powerful deliverance of redemption that not only motivates people across the nation but also has helped to save the lives of our community's youth by going out and asking the youth what they need most and giving them a platform to share their voice through connection and hope. Douglas takes on the real understanding that programs do not fix communities, but relationships do.



Jacob Jansen, *BBA, Turning the Page Now LLC, Hales Corner, WI*

Jacob Jansen is a person in long-term recovery, creating change and better resources within the recovery industry. After getting clean in 2010, Jacob found a passion for helping people find their path to recovery. In 2011 Jacob started My Recovery Project which focuses on interventions, recovery coaching, a web radio show and public speaking while simultaneously going back to UW-Milwaukee and graduating with a Business Administration degree in 2012. In 2015 Jacob started Addiction Recovery Environment Homes LLC, sober homes for women in Waukesha, WI. From 2017 to 2019 Jacob became a CBRF administrator and built The Ladders Recovery Community (now Bethany House). Seeing a need for better substance use disorder education in the community, Jacob and Douglas formed Turning the Page (TTP) in March of 2020. In June of 2022 Jacob was Pardoned by Tony Evers and the state of Wisconsin for his past drug charge. In 2024, TTP expanded and took on Department of Corrections (DOC) contracts. In 2025, TTP is moving toward nonprofit status.



Alonzo Kelly, *MPA, MHRLR, MBA, PhD, Kelly Leadership Group LLC, Green Bay, WI*

Dr. Alonzo Kelly is a dynamic Executive Coach, Professor, 3x Best Selling Author, and Radio Host who has gained international and global attention as a premier consultant and strategist. Alonzo has served over 1,000 individuals through personal and professional development; delivered training and consulting services to a plethora of Fortune 500 Companies, College and Universities, Foreign Countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, Guam), and nonprofit organizations; and is consistently retained to be the keynote speaker and facilitator of choice at large and small events across the country. He holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting, three master's degrees (Public Administration, Human Resource & Labor Relations, Business Administration), and an Honorary PhD in Business & Entrepreneurship, and is currently in the process of earning his second Doctorate in Business Administration. He serves on the National Board of Directors for the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) representing the State of Wisconsin, the Fire and Police Commission for the City of Howard, the Board of Directors for Family Services of Brown County, and the Women's Fund Grants Team through the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation. Find more at www.alonzokelly.com.



Andrew "A.J." Schreier, ICS, CSAC, LPC, Community Medical Services & New Life Resources, INC, Waukesha, WI

Andrew J. Schreier is an Independent Clinical Supervisor, Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor, Licensed Professional Counselor, Board Approved Clinical Consultant, and International Certified Gambling Counselor – II. Mr. Schreier graduated from Ottawa University with a Master's Degree in Counseling and Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Human Services. He is the Director of Clinical Services in Wisconsin & Minnesota for Community Medical Services that provides medication-assisted treatment for individuals with opioid use disorder. He provides oversight and guidance for all clinical and behavior health services. Mr. Schreier also works at New Life Resources, Inc. that provides individual counseling/therapy, children and adolescent services, couples/marital counseling, group therapy, and consultation. Experiences over the years include working in group home, halfway house, residential, medication-assisted treatment, and outpatient treatment settings. He presents on various topics related to substance use, mental health, gambling, clinical supervision, and ethics.

Speakers

Char Barwin, BA, Northeastern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center, Manitowoc, WI

Char Barwin is a relationship-centered leader with over 16 years of nonprofit experience who currently serves as the Interim Executive Director at Northeastern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (NEWAHEC). As a Communication & Program Support Specialist, Char increased NEWAHEC's website utilization by 139% through user-focused redesign and grew their social media following by 100% through authentic storytelling. A naturally curious lifelong learner, Char brings a communications perspective and a belief in the power of noticing to help nonprofit organizations enhance their visual communication strategies. Char holds a Bachelor of Arts & Sciences in Communications from Michigan State University and recently completed the Marketing Director Course through Next MBA.

Brittney Brock, RC, CPS, CPPS, Three Bridges Recovery Wisconsin, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Brittney Brock is 33 years old and proudly approaching three years of sobriety this August. She has been with Three Bridges for the past two years, where she has grown both personally and professionally. In June 2024, she stepped into the role of Peer Worker Supervisor and Community Advocate—a position that allows her to support others on their recovery journeys while continuing to build stronger, more connected communities.

Colin Cash, CPRS, Pathfinder Solutions, Minneapolis, MN

Colin Cash, an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, is an advocate for recovery and community empowerment. He is best known as the founder of Sober Squad, a grassroots recovery movement that began in 2016 during his own early recovery journey. Motivated by the opioid crisis affecting Native communities, Colin initiated Sober Squad to support individuals in recovery and promote healthier communities. The movement has since expanded across Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin, establishing multiple chapters and training peer recovery specialists. Beyond his work with Sober Squad, Colin serves as the Director of Tribal Development at Pathfinder Solutions and holds board positions with Governors Advisory Board on Substance Use Disorder and the Minnesota Recovery Policy Alliance. He is also a board member of Juel Fairbanks. His dedication to recovery advocacy has been recognized with awards, including the Peer Recovery Award from the Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (MARRCH).

Jason Cram, MPA, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery, Madison, WI

Jason Cram is the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery (BPTR) for the State of Wisconsin – Department of Health Services. He is responsible for overseeing the overall operations budget and strategic plan. In his role, he provides statewide leadership to Wisconsin's community mental health and substance use delivery system. He also supervises the six sections within BPTR, including Children, Youth, and Family; Integrated Services; Performance Management; Mental Health; Substance Use; and Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery. Jason's passion is large-scale system evaluation, implementation, and development. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration and has over 30 years of experience in the human services field, including 20+ years with the State of Wisconsin. In his free time, he enjoys spending time in nature, canoeing Wisconsin's lakes and rivers with his loyal dog companion.

Stephen Crowe, MSW, JBS International, Inc., North Bethesda, MD

Stephen Crowe is a Technical Expert Lead and Data/Evaluation Liaison with JBS International, Inc., working with the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)-Technical Assistance team since 2021. He has nearly 25 years of experience in risk reduction, drug user health, HIV prevention and treatment, LGBTQIA+ services, quality improvement, technical assistance, and program development. Stephen previously served as Opioid Program Manager for the New York State Department of Health's Office of Drug User Health and worked with several nonprofits in New York City and Boston, including Harlem United, the National Harm Reduction Coalition, and Fenway Health.

Leila Deering, BA, *Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, Marshfield, WI*

Leila Deering is an Application Analyst Specialist at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute (MCRI), where she supports research teams by optimizing workflows and building tailored REDCap solutions. A 2020 REDCap Consortium MVP, Leila has been instrumental in expanding REDCap's use at MCRI, including launching a support work group during the pandemic and founding the annual REDCap Day event. She has presented at REDCapCon annually since 2017, sharing innovative applications that push the platform's boundaries. Her work blends communication, analysis, and creativity to drive research efficiency and collaboration.

Bryar Drexler, BS, CHES, *Portage County Health and Human Services – Division of Public Health, Stevens Point, WI*

Bryar Drexler serves as the Community Health Educator at Portage County Health and Human Services – Division of Public Health, where she facilitates health education and advocates for mental health and risk reduction in underserved and rural communities. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Public Health Community Health Education from UW-La Crosse and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). Bryar is passionate about substance use prevention and public health equity.

Susan Fleurant, JD, MPH, *The Network for Public Health Law, Woodbury, MN*

Susan Fleurant, JD, MPH, is a staff attorney with the Network for Public Health Law's Mid-States Region Office. She assists public health attorneys, practitioners, and advocates to use law to protect the public's health by providing legal technical assistance, training, and practical tools. Her work focuses primarily on public health authority and legal issues related to data sharing and privacy. Before joining the Network, Susan practiced disability rights law. She received her law degree and Master of Public Health in Health Management and Policy from the University of Michigan and her undergraduate degree from Colby College. Susan is licensed to practice law in Minnesota.

Timothy Gensler, Special Agent, *Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, Wausau, WI*

Tim Gensler is currently employed as a Special Agent for the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation (WI DOJ/DCI) and has more than 12 years of law enforcement experience. Over half of his law enforcement career has been in full-time investigations. Prior to joining the WI DOJ/DCI, he supervised a narcotics task force in north central Wisconsin.

Elizabeth Goetz, MD, MPH, IBCLC, *Department of Pediatrics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI*

Elizabeth Goetz is a pediatrician at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has dedicated her career to caring for newborns in their first days of life and works to improve the health and well-being of new families across Wisconsin.

Renee Keen-Natzke, BS, *CW Solutions, Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

Renee is a dedicated human services professional with over ten years of experience working with teens and young adults. She currently serves as a Case Manager supporting youth who experienced sex trafficking prior to age 18. Her work is grounded in a trauma-informed approach, with a strong emphasis on building trust, resilience, and empowerment. Passionate about advocacy and systemic change, Renee is pursuing her Master of Social Work at the UW-Green Bay.

Kate Kipp, MSSW, APSW, *UW-Stevens Point Department of Sociology and Social Work, Stevens Point, WI*

Kate Kipp joined UW-Stevens Point's Department of Sociology and Social Work in 2015. She has an advanced practice certification as a social worker and is trained in substance use disorders. Kipp continues to facilitate groups for children and youth receiving CCS services. She spent nearly 15 years as a child welfare social worker in Dane and Marathon counties. Kipp also serves on the board of Marathon County Head Start and volunteers for the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes.

Aleksandr Kladnitsky, BS, *Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, Madison, WI*

Aleksandr Kladnitsky has served in his role as Director of Data, Analytics, and Security at Wisconsin Primary Health Care (WPHCA) since May of 2018 and has worked at WPHCA for over 16 years. In this role, Mr. Kladnitsky leads WPHCA's internal Azara Data Reporting and Visualization System (DRVS) team and manages all related contracts, oversees WPHCA's compliance with HIPAA, manages a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to designate areas of Wisconsin as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), helps Health Centers gather community health needs data for grant applications, and provides clinical quality improvement technical assistance. Prior to this role, Mr. Kladnitsky served as WPHCA's Data Analyst and Program Manager. Mr. Kladnitsky holds a bachelor's degree in Marketing and Supply Chain Management.

Tanya Kraege, LCSW, CSAC, WI CPS, *Safe Communities MDC, Madison, WI*

Tanya Kraege is the Director of Peer Services at Safe Communities MDC. With 16 years of experience in mental health and substance use, she supports people navigating trauma, incarceration, substance use during pregnancy, and recovery. She oversees multiple programs using Recovery Coaches and Certified Peer Specialists in Wisconsin and has launched impactful initiatives such as Preg2Recovery, Jail2Recovery, and Treatment Court2Recovery. Tanya also developed a Salesforce-based management system that enhanced productivity and community reach. A Clinical Social Worker, Certified Peer Specialist, and Recovery Coach, Tanya leverages her lived experience to advocate for stigma reduction and recovery support nationwide.

Melissa Labecki, RC, CPS, *Three Bridges Recovery Wisconsin, Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

Melissa Labecki is a Certified Peer Specialist with six years of continuous sobriety. Since July 2024, she has been proud to work for Three Bridges Recovery, where she offers peer support and facilitates SMART Recovery meetings. Melissa draws on both her lived experience and professional training to help create a supportive, empowering environment for individuals navigating their own recovery journeys.

Pamela Lee, RC, CPS, *Wood County Health Department, Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

Pamela Lee is a Community Health Worker and Certified Peer Specialist with the Wood County Health Department. As someone with lived experience in mental health and substance use disorder, Pamela brings a powerful perspective to her work. She oversees six public health vending machines in the county and supports other risk reduction and recovery resources in the community.

Meghan Mead, JD, *The Network for Public Health Law – Mid-States Region, Sante Fe, NM*

Meghan Mead is the Deputy Director in the Mid-States region at the Network for Public Health Law. She has expertise in data sharing and privacy laws, including extensive experience with HIPAA. Her interests and areas of expertise also include social determinants of health such as housing and food security, public benefits, guaranteed income, and housing instability and evictions. Prior to her work at the Network, Meghan served as the Director of Law and Policy at New Mexico Appleseed, where she advocated for solutions to child and family poverty at the local, state, and federal levels. She also spent nearly a decade in private law practice providing legal advice to healthcare providers. Meghan is a graduate of Stanford Law School and holds a bachelor's degree in history and economics from Mount Holyoke College. She is licensed to practice law in New Mexico and California.

Kyle Mounts, MD, MPH, *Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care, Madison, WI*

Kyle Mounts has over 30 years of experience in perinatal care. He has a specific professional interest in the impact of mental health and substance use on fetal and infant development within the social-ecological context. He has actively participated in Wisconsin CONNECT's substance use educational programming and contributed to the American Public Health Association's policy statement, *An Equitable Response to the Ongoing Opioid Crisis*. Currently, Kyle serves as an Associate Director with the Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care.

Mollie Olson, MPH, *Jackson County Public Health, Black River Falls, WI*

Mollie Olson is a Public Health Strategist at Jackson County Public Health. She earned her bachelor's degree and Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Since joining the department in March 2024, she has supported efforts to increase naloxone saturation and led implementation of a public health vending machine. Her work focuses on community-centered approaches to risk reduction and youth substance use prevention.

Stephanie Pederson, BA, *CW Solutions, Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

Stephanie Pederson is a Case Manager with CW Solutions, a private human services agency. Stephanie pursues authentic connection with each youth she works alongside to intentionally meet them where they are at. She also provides community mental health services to individuals of all ages with a variety of mental health diagnoses. Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from UW-La Crosse and is currently pursuing her Master of Social Work from UW-Green Bay.

Elizabeth Power, MEd, *EPower & Associates, Inc., Nashville, TN*

Nashville-based Elizabeth Power is a subject matter expert on trauma-informed change, resilience, and emotional alignment work with individuals and organizations. She helps people master applied emotional intelligence through a trauma-informed lens, building skills that foster recovery and buffer chronic stress. Her work is used on every continent except Antarctica. Elizabeth is a Fulbright Specialist in Trauma-Informed Care and serves as an adjunct instructor at Georgetown University Medical Center, where she teaches TI-Med, an evidence-based trauma-informed program she helped create.

John Puls, LCSW, MCAP, *Full Life Comprehensive Care, Boca Raton, FL*

John Puls began working with individuals living with substance use disorder and acute mental illness in 2013 in a support staff role. During this time, he completed his bachelor's degree in social work from Florida Atlantic University while working as a case manager. He later earned his MSW through their advanced standing program and is now a licensed clinical social worker and master's level certified addiction professional (MCAP). John owns a private psychotherapy, crisis intervention, and case management practice in Boca Raton, FL, and also teaches as an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University.

Angie Sanchez, MBA, ILC, IFSD, *Sacred Waters Collective, Lansing, MI*

Angie Sanchez, Crane Clan, is Grand Traverse Band Ojibwe and Odawa from Michigan. She is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography, Environment and Spatial Sciences at Michigan State University (MSU) and holds both a BA in Communications and an MBA from MSU. Angie's research focuses on increasing access to breastfeeding support in Indigenous communities. She received a \$338,000 MHEF grant to bring Indigenous Breastfeeding Counselor Training to six communities and co-authored a \$100,000 grant to support the Sacred Bundle Birth Worker Collective. In her free time, she

enjoys attending ceremonies, camping, and traveling with her husband and son.

Rhianna Schmidt, MPH, CHES, *Taylor County Health Department, Medford, WI*

Rhianna Schmidt Public Health Strategist at the Taylor County Health Department in Medford, WI. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse and her Master of Public Health in Health Promotion from Northern Illinois University. Her day-to-day includes working on risky behavior and suicide prevention initiatives, community outreach on various public health topics, and managing the department's social media. While not working, she enjoys staying active with her family, reading, and perfecting her sourdough bread loaves.

Lori Schmitz, BA, BS, *Iowa State University, Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute, Ames, IA*

Lori Schmitz is a dedicated data analyst with a strong commitment to supporting education and community-based initiatives through data-driven insights. With experience across higher education and the energy sector, Lori blends technical proficiency in tools like Excel and Power BI with a collaborative, service-oriented mindset. She is passionate about serving local and regional communities, particularly in education, prevention, and public health. Lori enjoys preparing data for reporting and presentation and helping others hone their data analysis and evaluation skills.

Laura Skinner, MS, LPC, *Navigate Wellness, Mequon, WI*

Laura Skinner is a licensed professional counselor, educator, and founder of Navigate Wellness—a practice redefining mental health care through a mind-body-spirit lens. With expertise in EMDR, DBT, hypnotherapy, and ketamine-assisted therapy, she specializes in trauma and substance use. Laura also designs mental health curriculum, supervises emerging clinicians, and speaks on trauma-informed care, psychedelic integration, and building values-driven private practices.

Thomas Vonck-Baudraz, MS, *Wisconsin Association of Sober Housing, Waukesha, WI*

Tom Vonck-Baudraz is a person in long-term recovery from substance use disorder and other process addictions. He has served as the project director with the Wisconsin Association of Sober Housing (WASH) since 2021. Prior to this role, he worked with organizations such as Meals on Wheels, where he continues to volunteer. Tom is a strong advocate for all pathways to recovery and believes every individual has the potential to live a fulfilled life. He earned a B.A. from Michigan State University and an M.S. in Community and Organizational Leadership from the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point.

Tekia Wells, MS, LPC, ICS, CSAC, *Nicolet College, Rhinelander, WI*

Tekia Wells is the program coordinator for the Substance Use Disorder Counseling program at Nicolet College and an active clinician. She holds licensure as a professional counselor (LPC), is an independent clinical supervisor (ICS), and is a certified substance abuse counselor (CSAC). Tekia has worked in the helping professions for over 15 years.

Kathleen Weslowski, MEd, *CW Solutions, Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

Kathleen Wesolowski, LEO Program Team Lead with CW Solutions, brings a wealth of experience and passion for empowering young people to enhance their lives through personal reflection, community engagement, and leadership development. Kathleen holds a master's in Higher Education Leadership and Administration from Canisius College (Buffalo, NY) and a bachelor's in Communication and Media Studies from St. Norbert College (De Pere, WI). She has developed and implemented several successful programs, in both higher education and human services, aimed at fostering positive relationships and supporting youth as they navigate adolescence. Kathleen's professional experience extends to campus residence hall operation, facilitation of training and workshops, intentional youth programming initiatives, student organization advisement, event planning, and conduct adjudication. With over 10 years of serving young people, Kathleen has had the privilege of making a positive impact on middle schoolers, high schoolers, college students, parents, schools, and professionals through her highly engaging and dynamic work. She is committed to empowering the next generation of youth with a focus on bringing them hope and resilience-building skills to face the ever-changing world that lies ahead.

Notes

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Schedule at a Glance

Day 1: Thursday, August 7, 2025

8:30 – 9:00 am	Welcome and Announcements
9:00 – 10:00 am	Opening Keynote
10:00 – 10:15 am	Break
10:15 – 11:15 am	Session 1
11:15 – 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Session 2
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Session 3
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 – 3:45 pm	Session 4

Day 2: Friday, August 8, 2025

8:30 – 9:00 am	Welcome and Announcements
9:00 – 10:00 am	Opening Keynote
10:00 – 10:15 am	Break
10:15 – 11:15 am	Session 5
11:15 – 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Session 6
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Closing Keynote
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Closing Remarks

Learn More
www.hopeconsortium.org

This conference is funded in part by Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc. and Roots & Wings Foundation.