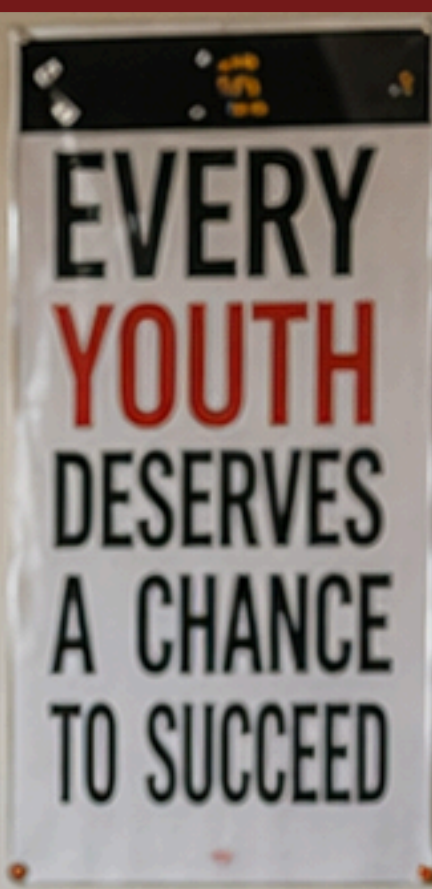




WJCIA

WISCONSIN JUVENILE COURT INTAKE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL WJCIA TRAINING CONFERENCE



23-25 SEPTEMBER 2026

**Kalahari Resort &
Convention Center
in Wisconsin Dells, WI**

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



STEPHEN HILL



DR. RAINEY BRIGGS

CONFERENCE DETAILS

**FULL CONFERENCE COST \$225
ONE DAY REGISTRATION \$100**

Exhibit Space is Available, at a moderate cost
Vendors interested in becoming a Sponsor, reach out to a
Committee Chair

HOTEL INFORMATION

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center Wisconsin Dells, WI

HOTEL RATES

Single - \$101
Double, Triple, Quad - \$139

Hotel Room Reservations

[Book Here](#)

Ask for Block of Rooms under WJCIA
Available through August 23 at State Rate
Reservations: 877-525-2427 Hotel Phone: 608-254-5433

REGISTRATION

Register as an [Attendee](#) - Register as a [Vendor](#)

Cancellations & Changes

A \$50 cancellation fee will be withheld from all refunds if canceling 2 weeks prior to the event.
Anytime prior to the 2 weeks, there will be a \$20 membership fee withheld.

WJCIA Annual Conference 2026

**Learn.
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Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Transforming Youth Discipline & Justice with Restorative Practices

Keynote – Stephen Hill

This impactful presentation shares Stephen's powerful lived experience with substance use disorder, mental health struggles, and recovery. Through honest storytelling, attendees will explore how early exposure to substances, stigma, and missed opportunities for intervention can shape a young person's path. Stephen's journey highlights the devastating impact of addiction while emphasizing hope, prevention, restorative practices, and the reality that recovery is possible. Through practicing gratitude, healthy routines, and changing his mindset to view his challenges as opportunities to inspire others, profound changes began to happen in Stephen's life—he mindfully built a life worth defending.

Resilient Professionals, Thriving Communities: Strategies to Combat Burnout and Support

Well-Being

Brittney Fair

Have you experienced the effects of compassion fatigue on your well-being? Perhaps even in your work? Join this workshop to explore a holistic approach to challenging compassion fatigue, not just at an individual level, but for teams and systems alike. Through dialogue, videos, and reflection activities, this workshop provides a chance to explore the Compassion Resilience Toolkit. This free, user-friendly resource provides participants with a chance to explore expectations, boundaries, staff culture, and practices to support individual well-being. Take some time to tend to your well-being, while exploring how to bring this resource back to your organization.

Ethics, Values, and Boundaries in Youth Justice Social Work: Navigating Complex Cases

Janet Holter

This session will focus on ethics, values, and boundaries issues practice in Youth Justice, particularly in complex youth justice cases. Through collaborative/active discussion, and case studies, attendees will address current ethical and boundary concerns in complex cases including work with systems, professionals, families and youth. Discussion will include policies that may be impacting our clients, particularly when these are contradictory to social work values. Participants will apply the NASW Code of Ethics to social work situations, focusing on issues related to youth justice and navigating complex cases.

Sextortion, AI Based Sex Crimes and Internet Safety

Maradith McQuillan

In an increasingly digital world, exploitation and online victimization are evolving faster than ever. This eye-opening presentation takes a closer look at the growing dangers of sextortion, AI-generated exploitation, and technology-facilitated crimes impacting youth and families today. Attendees will explore the basics of sextortion through a real Wisconsin case review while gaining insight into current Wisconsin laws and pending state and federal legislation. The session will also examine emerging AI-related crimes, child sexual abuse material (CSAM), and non-consensual intimate imagery, including an overview of the Federal ENFORCE Act and TAKE IT DOWN Act. Participants will leave with practical internet safety strategies, guidance on supporting victims, information on Sex Offender Registry notifications and tools, and available training opportunities related to offender registry resources.

Teens, Tech & Tragedy

John DeMay & Brittney Bird

Two families. Two heartbreaking journeys. One urgent message. In this powerful and deeply personal presentation, two families share their experiences with the devastating crime of sextortion and the unimaginable loss of their teenage sons. Through candid storytelling, they speak openly about grief, the lasting impact on their families and communities, and the difficult realities they have uncovered while seeking answers and justice. This emotional and impactful session serves as both a warning and a call to action. They will talk about their tireless advocacy they did to pass Bradyn's Law in WI and Jordan D's Law in Michigan.

Safety Planning for Youth who Engage in Harmful Sexual Behaviors

Valerie Gonsalves

Creating effective safety plans after harmful sexual behavior can feel overwhelming for families and professionals alike. This informative workshop offers practical strategies for developing realistic, developmentally appropriate safety plans for youth who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviors. Participants will learn how to assess risk and protective factors, address high-risk situations, support caregiver involvement, and implement supervision strategies in both intrafamilial and extrafamilial settings. Through case examples and practical tools, attendees will leave better prepared to create adaptable safety plans that promote accountability, treatment progress, and long-term safety.

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Thursday, September 24, 2026

Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use

John Puls

Cannabis is the most used substance nationwide after tobacco and alcohol (NIH, 2020). Approximately 16 million Americans report regularly using cannabis (NIH, 2020). The vast majority of cannabis users begin using during their teenage years (NIH). Problems have arisen with the broad legalization of cannabis, 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. This presentation will seek to highlight the growing risk of cannabis induced psychosis and related issues.

Structuring the Environment and Training Caregivers as the Primary Agents of Behavior Change with High Risk Youth

Lesley Chapin

Frequently, youth with complex and high risk behaviors can be difficult to engage, are skeptical or resistant to therapies offered, and do not see their behaviors as being as problematic as the adults around them. For providers and caregivers, the sometimes oppositional or disengaged experience of young people who are also in perpetual crisis can be especially demoralizing and scary. Behavioral training for caregivers can be one potential solution to address such problems.

Overview of Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Benefits

Alex Brandl

It's never too early to start planning for a secure retirement. In this presentation, learn what Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefits are available to you and how best to maximize them, and walk away with a better understanding of how the WRS works

Access to Educational Services and Supports: Three Things to Know

Julie Incitti & Eva Shaw

When advocating for students with disabilities, it's important to start with a strong foundation. This session will cover three essential topics: the basics of special education, compulsory school attendance, and student discipline. Each topic will include practical takeaways and highlight key Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction resources you can use in your daily work. Walk away better equipped to collaborate with schools, ask the right questions, and make informed decisions that support youth and families.

Building Bridges: Overcoming and Working with Your School Community after a Viral Moment

Dr. Rainey Briggs

Building Bridges is not a policy lecture, it is a story. Through video footage and honest narration, Dr. Briggs walks participants through the incident in real time: the confrontation on stage, the decision to finish the evening, and the long drive home. He names what many will recognize as the weight of being a Black leader in a predominantly white institution, and the profound loneliness of carrying a public role through a personal wound. The session then moves from crisis to response to recovery. Participants learn how Dr. Briggs communicated across stakeholders in the days that followed, how the board issued an unequivocal statement of support, and how the district built long-term structures for healing including civil rights training, superintendent advisory committees, and sustained professional development. Along the way, Dr. Briggs introduces four practical frameworks: The Beloved Community, Intent vs. Impact, the Interrupt-Question-Educate-Echo bystander model, and a nine-step crisis leadership protocol he tested and refined in real time. The session closes with a challenge drawn from a simple parable: Whose job is it? Every participant leaves with a specific commitment and a concrete next step.

Assessing and Treating Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors

Mary Simon

This interactive "Town Hall" style session invites participants to engage in open discussion and shared learning around adolescents with problematic sexual behaviors. Drawing from decades of experience, you will be provided an overview of psychosexual evaluations, risk and protective factors, current best practices in assessment and trauma-informed treatment, and evolving trends impacting youth in today's digital world. The session will also explore treatment considerations for challenging populations, including youth on the autism spectrum, sibling sexual abuse, safety planning, reunification, and reparative approaches with families. Participants will leave with practical knowledge, updated research insights, and opportunities for collaborative discussion through real-world case examples.

YASI Refresher

Lindsay Ebben

This YASI Refresher session fulfills the annual YASI Booster/Refresher requirement for eligible professionals who have completed CaseWorks 1 & 2 and YASI Booster 1 & 2. Open to all interested professionals, focusing on quality assurance and effective use of the assessment and case planning tools. Topics may include assessment item scoring review, ABCD screening and family/youth feedback, priority and target selection, case planning goals and action steps, and YASI CaseWorks software. Bring a case with to follow along - online or printed.

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Thursday, September 24, 2026

The Importance of the Youth's Developmental and Cognitive Background During Intake

Dr. Shameka Stewart

Understanding how youth think, communicate, and process information is critical when working within the justice system. This informative session explores cognitive and language development, the impact of cognitive and communication disorders, and why recognizing these challenges is essential during the youth intake process. Attendees will examine how communication and cognitive difficulties can influence behaviors, decision-making, and justice system involvement while gaining insight into the important role of speech-language pathology. The presentation will also highlight effective interventions and supports that can create meaningful, long-term outcomes for youth with learning, cognitive, and communication disorders.

The Intersection of Victims and Youth

Offenders: Complex Factors that Contribute to Criminality and Collaborative Interventions that Support Healing

Abbey VandenBush & Nicole Ostrowski

Research shows a significant victim-offender overlap in the youth justice system, meaning many offenders have a history of trauma and victimization. Prioritizing the restorative justice practices in the youth justice system, as opposed to modeling aspects of the adult court system, is crucial to provide appropriate and adequate intervention. A collaborative system response is necessary to promote trauma-informed interventions that are effective in reducing recidivism.

JIPS Cases: The History Behind Them, the Options they Present, and Some of the Challenges they Create

Kevin Rathburn

Dive into the history and purpose behind JIPS cases, while given practical strategies. Participants will examine jurisdictional pathways, discuss the benefits and challenges of each category, including competency and apply it to real-world case scenarios.

Friday, September 25, 2026

Relationships Matter- Cultivating Meaningful Connections

Keynote - Dr. Rainey Briggs

Relationships are the cornerstone of educational success. They shape the culture of our schools, communities, influence student achievement, and create environments where every individual feels valued and supported. In this presentation we will explore why relationships matter and how intentional connections can transform schools and create a more beloved community that creates a sense of belonging and empowerment.

WJCIA is aware there are numerous dietary needs, and we aim to work closely with the Kalahari to be mindful of this. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we cannot guarantee all special dietary needs can be met. We will once again, have an option to receive a vegan meal, which must be selected during registration. If you have additional dietary needs (i.e. low salt, low carb, keto, dairy-free, etc), you may wish to make alternative meal arrangements.

Reviewing the Records: What to Look For, Prepare For, & Focus on the Youth's Academic & Medical Records

Dr. Shameka Stewart

Academic and medical records often tell a deeper story about a youth's needs, strengths, and challenges. This presentation explores the importance of reviewing records through a clinical lens to better guide intake, preparation, intervention, advocacy, and legal recommendations. Attendees will learn what to look for in IEPs and academic records, how to recognize concerns that extend beyond behavior, when additional specialists may be needed, and how key findings and "green flags" can help support more informed decision-making and effective advocacy for youth.

Story, Trust, and Youth Engagement Across Systems

Anthony Alvarado

Young people are more connected than ever, yet many feel increasingly isolated, misunderstood, and hesitant to ask for help. This interactive workshop explores how trusted relationships, storytelling, and lived experience can strengthen engagement, build trust, and improve outcomes for youth navigating challenging circumstances. Drawing from more than 13 years of work through RISE TOGETHER, a peer-reviewed partnership with Penn State College of Medicine, and direct experience engaging hundreds of thousands of young people nationwide, participants will examine why connection remains one of the most powerful protective factors in a young person's life. Through real-world examples, audience interaction, and practical application, attendees will leave with actionable strategies to create meaningful conversations, strengthen rapport, reduce stigma, and foster environments where young people feel seen, heard, and supported.

WJCIA Annual Conference 2026

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Tuesday, September 22, 2026

3:00 pm

Final 2025 – 2026 WJCIA Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

7:30 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Breakfast

9:00 am – 9:30 am

Announcements by WJCIA President & Presentation of WJCIA Recognition Award

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Transforming Youth Discipline & Justice with Restorative Practices

–Stephen Hill

10:30 am – 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Transforming Youth Discipline & Justice with Restorative Practices

–Stephen Hill

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Annual Business Meeting of WJCIA / Complimentary lunch for all attendees

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm

Resilient Professionals, Thriving Communities: Strategies to Combat Burnout and Support Well-Being
–Brittney Fair

Sextortion, AI Based Sex Crimes and Internet Safety
–Maradith McQuillan

Ethics, Values, and Boundaries in Youth Justice Social Work: Navigating Complex Cases
–Janet Holter

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

Break – small snack & refreshments available

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Teens, Tech & Tragedy
–John DeMay and Brittney Bird

Safety Planning for Youth who engage in Harmful Sexual Behaviors
–Valerie Gonsalves

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Hospitality – Condo to be announced

Thursday, September 24, 2026

7:30 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Breakfast

8:30 am – 10:15 am

Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use
–John Puls

Structuring the Environment and Training Caregivers as the Primary Agents of Behavior Change with High Risk Youth
–Lesley Chapin

Overview of Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Benefits
–Alex Brandl

10:15 am – 10:30 am

Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Building Bridges: Overcoming and Working with Your School Community after a Viral Moment
–Dr. Rainey Briggs

Assessing and Treating Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors
–Mary Simon

YASI Refresher
–Lindsay Ebben

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Complimentary lunch for all attendees

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm

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The Intersection of Victims and Youth Offenders: Complex Factors that Contribute to Criminality and Collaborative Interventions that Support Healing
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2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

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JIPS Cases: The History Behind Them, the Options they Present, and Some of the Challenges they Create
–Kevin Rathburn

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Hospitality & Corn Hole Tournament – same Condo as Wednesday

Friday, September 25, 2026

7:30 am – 8:30 am

Registration and Breakfast

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Relationships Matter – Cultivating Meaningful Connections

–Dr. Rainey Briggs

10:00 am – 10:15 am

Break – Final Raffle Items

10:15 am – 12:00 pm

Relationships Matter – Cultivating Meaningful Connections

–Dr. Rainey Briggs