

Connecticut Restraint & Seclusion Prevention Initiative Partnership

Conference Biographies

Presenters

Janice LeBel, Ed/D / PhD, ABPP

Dr. Janice LeBel is a licensed, Board-Certified Psychologist with more than thirty years experience in the public sector working primarily in mental health but also with child welfare, juvenile justice, and intellectual and developmental disability populations. She oversees a statewide system of inpatient, secure residential and community-based care for children and adolescents representing \$270M in contracted services. Dr. LeBel leads the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health's nationally-recognized Restraint/Seclusion (R/S) Prevention Initiative and an Interagency Initiative with the same focus involving all child-serving state agencies (7) and the public and private special education schools in the state. She is a founding member of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors' Office of Technical Assistance Center's (OTA) teaching faculty, co-authored an evidenced-based curriculum on R/S Prevention, and works to implement trauma-informed care and R/S prevention efforts throughout the United States and internationally.

Dr. LeBel was awarded the Governor's *Carballo Award* for her work, which is the highest public service award in Massachusetts. In 2009, Dr. LeBel and her team received the *Gloria Huntley Award* from National Alliance for the Mentally Ill for their statewide R/S prevention effort. In 2010, the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration awarded the MA DMH Child/Adolescent Statewide System, its first *Restraint/Seclusion Reduction Recognition Award*. Dr. LeBel has provided expert testimony at Congressional Briefings and legal proceedings. She has researched and published on seclusion and restraint-related issues and presented at many national and international forums. Dr. LeBel also serves as a peer reviewer for several journals.

Julian Ford, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.

Dr. Ford is a board certified clinical psychologist and tenured Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine where he is the Director of the Center for Trauma Recovery and Juvenile Justice and Northeast Regional Director for the Complex Trauma Treatment Network in the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. At UConn Health, he also is Director of the Center for Trauma Response, Recovery, and Prevention and the Child Trauma Clinic. Dr. Ford serves as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Trauma and Dissociation* and the *European Journal of Psychotraumatology* on the Board of Directors and as Vice President of the International Society for Traumatic

Connecticut Restraint & Seclusion Prevention Initiative Partnership

Conference Biographies

Stress Studies, and as Chair of the Presidential Task Force on Child Trauma for the American Psychological Association Division of Trauma Psychology. In addition to authoring more than 200 published articles and book chapters describing his clinical research and practice, he has authored/edited books include *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, 2nd Edition* (2015, Elsevier), *Treating Complex Trauma: A Sequenced, Relationship-Based Approach* (2013, with C. Courtois, Guilford), *Treating Complex Traumatic Stress Disorders in Children and Adolescents: Scientific foundations and therapeutic models.* (2013, with C. Courtois, Guilford), *Treating Complex Traumatic Stress Disorders: An Evidence-Based Guide* (2009, with C. Courtois, Guilford), and *Treating Traumatized Children: Risk, Resilience, and Recovery* (2008, with D. Brom and R. Pat-Horenczyk, Routledge). Dr. Ford developed and has conducted randomized clinical trial and effectiveness field trial studies on Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET© University of Connecticut), which has been disseminated to more than 200 behavioral health, criminal justice, child welfare, educational, advocacy, and human services organizations internationally. Dr. Ford is co-owner of Advanced Trauma Solutions, Inc., the sole licensed distributor of the TARGET model. He co-developed the Developmental Trauma Disorder proposed diagnosis for children and youth and is principal or co-principal investigator of two national DTD field trial studies.

Thomas Zwicker, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA

Dr Zwicker received his Ph.D. in Developmental and Child Psychology from the University of Kansas, specializing in the sustained use and dissemination of effective behavioral interventions. He is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst – Doctoral level, a Licensed Behavior Analyst (NY) and currently heads an organization he founded, ZABA Therapy, which specializes in home and school-based ABA services to improve lives in Connecticut and New York.

Dr Zwicker has applied his skills to a diverse host of organizations and people, from helping the FAA change the way it oversees the nation's airlines resulting in zero fatalities for the past 11 years, to leading Easter Seals Coastal Fairfield County to establish diagnostic and behavioral treatment services for children, adolescents, and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. In recent years he has strongly advocated to the state legislature, parent groups, schools, and across agencies to ensure every individual gets the high quality behavioral intervention needed to help them improve their lives and reach their potential.

Connecticut Restraint & Seclusion Prevention Initiative Partnership

Conference Biographies

Panel Members

Ariana Cardozo

Ariana Cardozo is an individual who experienced restraint, seclusion and forced medication during inpatient mental health treatment, both as an adult and a young adult. She has been in recovery for seven and a half years, and has been working in the Mental Health field for six years.

Ariana is a certified Recovery Support Specialist (Peer Support Specialist) for the State of Connecticut and works in that role for Western CT Mental Health Network in Waterbury on a Community Support Team. She also facilitates a Hearing Voices Network Group.

She has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Barnard College (2001) and will complete her Master's Degree in Social Work from UConn in May of 2016.

She hopes to ultimately obtain her LCSW and bring a much needed trauma sensitivity and recovery oriented approach to her work with other individuals who contend with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Paul Acker

Acting Executive Director, Focus on Recovery

Richard Liburdi

BA 1984 Bates College

MA 2006 Wesleyan University

Mr. Liburdi is currently a Children's Services Unit Supervisor at DCF's Solnit Children's Center, South Campus, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for adolescent girls. The facility consists of three 8-bed units.

He has worked at the facility since 1986 in direct care and leadership roles, and has been involved in development and training of therapeutic milieu and residential programming throughout his years with the facility. He enjoys the privilege of working within a truly exceptional PRTF team, where authentic collaboration between the staff, the girls, and program leaders has resulted in both the near-elimination of restraint and seclusion, and the development of a program culture organized around girls' quality of life and future success.