

Vermont Summit on Sexual Violence

Wednesday, September 22, 2010
Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont

STRENGTHENING OUR RESPONSE

For more information or to register...

summit.ourhousevt.org



OUR Partners...

- Anti-Violence Partnership at UVM - the Vermont Approach
- Norwich University
- Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
- Sexual Assault Crisis Team
- Vermont Agency of Human Services
- Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services
- Vermont Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Abuse
- Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Vermont State Police

Strengthening Our Response.

We're proud to announce the 2010 Vermont Summit on Sexual Violence! As our theme for this year's Summit suggests, we're picking up where we left off with the 2009 Summit; we're moving forward and *strengthening our response*.

Thanks to the efforts of our great partners, we've recruited an extraordinary group of presenters to deliver a tremendous day for you. CLE and CEUs have been requested and are expected to be available.

However you interact with victims of sexual violence and whether you call it vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, or something else, Abby Tassel has put together a workshop that will help us cope with the often horrifying stories that we hear. Abby will share the latest research and methods that allow us to make our work lives sustainable.

We're thankful for a grant through the Children's Justice Act that allowed us to bring Susan Samuel and Detective James Starks here for this year's Summit. Susan and James are nationally recognized trainers who will start out our day with a case study that illustrates just how valuable teamwork can be. They'll then lead a small group of us through a common issue raised by the defense: alternative explanations for allegations of abuse. Finally, James will share the techniques that allowed him to achieve a 95% confession rate.

Just who are the people who commit acts of sexual violence? What do we know about them? What are we doing about them? You'll find the answers at the Summit! Robert McGrath and Kris Goldstein will share their expertise and insights into the minds of sex offenders, what we are doing to try to help them, and how we go about keeping an eye on them when they're released.

'Holism' or 'holistic' can sound kind of *touchy-feely*. In reality, holism is the goal we are all striving for - it's making all the parts work together. To accomplish holism, our panelists will help us go beyond looking at those we serve in whatever capacity we see them (victims, witnesses, clients, etc.) to look at them as whole persons so that we can better identify their needs and help them overcome their barriers to enable us to perform our jobs as well as possible.



Victims' disclosures of sexual violence can come in many forms - and almost always are a secondary traumatic experience for the person disclosing. No matter what role we play when we respond to a victim, there are things we can do to help make our interaction with a disclosing victim a better one. We'll learn what to expect when a disclosure is made and how responses may differ depending on the role of the person on the receiving end of the disclosure and other variables, such as age.

We are very fortunate to be able to showcase the SafeArt Teen Ensemble. The Ensemble will present a gripping and moving presentation about sexual violence using poetry, music, dance - all created by the teens themselves. In a following workshop, you can also learn about the methods SafeArt employs to help participants recover from trauma from SafeArt's Founder and Director Tracy Penfield.

No matter how you are involved with cases of sexual violence, we're sure you will find this one day training invaluable for enhancing your knowledge and improving your skills. Please join us!

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AGENDA

●	8:00 AM	Registration
●	9:00 AM	Welcome
●	9:10 AM	EARLY MORNING: Plenary/Keynote Jeffrey - A Case Study
●	10:20 AM	Break
●	10:30 AM	LATE MORNING: Concurrent Sessions A Characteristics of Adult Sex Offenders B Creating a Holistic Response to Victims and Survivors (Part I) C Facilitating Communication with Children D What's Behind Door # 3? Exploring Alternative Hypotheses* E The Trauma Exposure Response (Part I)
●	12:00 PM	Lunch
●	1:00 PM	EARLY AFTERNOON: Concurrent Sessions A Sex Offender Treatment in Vermont B Creating a Holistic Response to Victims and Survivors (Part II) C What's Your Comfort Zone?- Disclosures of Sexual Violence (Part I) D Obtaining Confessions or Admissions from Offenders (Part I) E The Trauma Exposure Response (Part II) F The SafeArt Ensemble
●	2:30 PM	Break
●	2:45 PM	LATE AFTERNOON: Concurrent Sessions A Community Supervision and Management of Sex Offenders C What's Your Comfort Zone?- Disclosures of Sexual Violence (Part II) D Obtaining Confessions or Admissions from Offenders (Part II) F SafeArt Methods
●	3:45 PM	CLOSING: Plenary Wrap-up Activity
●	4:00 PM	ADJOURN

* Registration for "What's Behind Door # 3" is limited to 40 participants - To confirm your attendance, you must register for the 2010 Summit online AND send an email to door3@ourhousevt.org. You will receive an email confirming your reservation.

Please note you should register for both parts of the two-part workshops.

Jeffrey - A Case Study

[Susan Samuel and James Starks](#)

Step-by-step examination of teamwork in a Kentucky case where the thinking went “outside the box” on behalf of a severely injured 5 week old baby. Focus is on the many roles of core team members and how evidence is used to explore alternative explanations. The case is supplemented by a series of field-generated videos documenting the baby’s injuries, the “lie” and the confession. Interactive.

A - Characteristics of Adult Sex Offenders

[Robert McGrath](#)

This workshop will examine what current research tells us about the characteristics of sex offenders, why experts believe individuals commit these types of offenses, and what the implications of these findings are for our efforts to keep our communities safe.

B - Creating a Holistic Response to Victims and Survivors (Part I)

[Bobbi Gagne, Jane Ralph, and Karen Tronsgard-Scott](#)

Session one explores the meaning of holism and offers participants the opportunity to explore the ways in which a holistic approach can result in better outcomes for persons receiving services. Session leaders will use discussion, real life examples and research to increase the awareness of participants.

C - Facilitating Communication with Children

[Cathy Brittis](#)

This workshop will help participants create an environment that supports communication with children.

D - What’s Behind Door # 3?: Exploring Alternative Hypotheses (LIMITED TO 40 PARTICIPANTS)

[Susan Samuel and James Starks](#)

Defense nearly always raises the issue of unexplored alternative explanations for the allegations of sexual abuse. Investigators are often accused of “decision-making by personal bias.” While this accusation may be true in a small number of cases, most investigators “informally” explore at least a few other possibilities. This workshop introduces a systematic process for exploring all possible alternatives and for considering these possibilities until the evidence allows the investigator to rule them out. Two real case examples will be discussed. To register, send an email to door3@ourhousevt.org.

E - The Trauma Exposure Response: Recognizing it and Sustaining Ourselves in its Presence (Part I)

[Abby Tassell](#)

Vicarious trauma, trauma exposure response, secondary trauma, compassion fatigue... there are many terms used to describe the impact of witnessing or hearing about other beings’ traumatic experiences. Whatever we call it, our capacity to empathize and resonate with others can change our world view as though we have directly experienced the trauma we are exposed to indirectly.

Recent developments in trauma treatment and research offer rich insights into how we can manage the impact of trauma exposure, thus making our work less draining and more sustainable. Part I of this workshop will focus on research and intervention approaches while Part II will focus on concrete skills that can be used to transform our relationship to trauma exposure both personally and organizationally.

A - Sex Offender Treatment in Vermont

[Robert McGrath](#)

The Vermont Department of Corrections operates a statewide network of three prison and twelve community sex offender treatment programs. This workshop will describe how these programs work and what we know about their effectiveness.

B - Creating a Holistic Response to Victims and Survivors (Part II)

[Bobbi Gagne](#), [Jane Ralph](#), and [Karen Tronsgard-Scott](#)

Session two defines the specific needs that address the whole of a victim's life, and explores ways in which community partners can collaborate to create a system of seamless services which are available to victims and survivors. Session leaders will use small and large group discussion to help participants increase awareness and knowledge about community resources and collaboration.

Part II should only be attended by participants of Part I.

C - What's Your Comfort Zone? Disclosures of Sexual Violence- Supporting victims of all ages while addressing legal mandates and professional responsibilities (Part I)

[Karen Crowley](#), [Dean Melen](#), [Rebecca Strader](#), [Becky Davis](#), [Kerri Duquette-Hoffman](#), [Jamie Edwards-Orr](#)

The goal of the workshop is two-fold:

- workshop participants will gain an understanding of the complexities of the topic of disclosure (i.e., there are few cut and dried answers!) and
- participants will be armed with more information to deal with these complexities.

The panel members will be provided with scenarios that depict various situations related to disclosure. The scenarios will be set across the lifespan and differ in other ways that help to illustrate the difference that factors, such as age, can make in the appropriate response to disclosures. Each panel member will be asked to reflect on questions related to the scenario at hand. The scenarios and questions have not yet been finalized but will tease out the differences that disciplines experience in their ethics codes, policies, legal mandates, etc. Each panel member will be asked to reflect on questions related to the scenario that have been designed to tease out the difference in disciplines experience in their ethics codes, policies, legal mandates, and other forms of regulation.

Parts 1 & 2 flow into one another and require that participants sign up for both—not one or the other.

D - Obtaining Confessions or Admissions from Offenders (Part I)

[James Starks](#) with [Susan Samuel](#)

Recent research demonstrates that the CONFESSION, rather than the child interview or the court preparation is the pivotal element in achieving successful outcomes (a safe child AND an accountable offender) in child sexual abuse cases. Relationship of the confession to the safety of the child; offender denial; confession v. admission; separating remorseful from non-remorseful offenders-an interview strategy; interview prep; using the offender's own denial to obtain the admission (multiple case examples, videos, demonstration, and exercises).

E - The Trauma Exposure Response: Recognizing it and Sustaining Ourselves in its Presence (Part II)

[Abby Tassell](#)

F - SafeArt Teen Ensemble

[Tracy Penfield](#) Director, [The SafeArt Ensemble](#)

This show will focus on sexual violence prevention/intervention. With their usual mix of drama, dance, music and poetry, they will engage the audience in a shared experience that will bring us all to a place of optimism and committed pro-activism. There will be plenty of time for an interactive conversation after the performance.

A - Community Supervision and Management of Sex Offenders[Kris Goldstein](#)

This workshop will describe the strategies that Vermont probation and parole officers use to supervise and manage adult sex offenders in our communities. Topics will include supervision conditions, collaboration with victim services, polygraph monitoring, and re-offense warning signs and intervention strategies.

B - What's Your Comfort Zone?- Disclosures of Sexual Violence- Supporting victims of all ages while addressing legal mandates and professional responsibilities (Part II)[Karen Crowley](#), [Dean Melen](#), [Rebecca Strader](#), [Becky Davis](#), [Kerri Duquette-Hoffman](#), [Jamie Edwards-Orr](#)**C - Obtaining Confessions or Admissions from Offenders (Part II)**[James Starks](#) with [Susan Samuel](#)**F - SafeArt Methods for Working Across the Spectrum in Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery**[Tracy Penfield](#)

This workshop provides expressive tools for professionals and practitioners working with groups or individuals. Ms. Penfield will briefly talk about the neurology of trauma; mainly focusing on how to access the limbic system (where trauma gets stuck) and how to connect it with the cerebrum (where resistance builds).

Wrap-up Activity[Will Roberts](#)

Join Will for a brief get together to close-out the day.

Please join us for a day of great training!



Photo Courtesy David Orrick

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Cathy Brittis [Biographical information forthcoming - also available online]

Karen Crowley has worked with children and families for the last 30 years in a variety of settings. She is the Child Victim Treatment Director at DCF Family Services and is currently working on the implementation of legislation to develop a more comprehensive system of response to sexual abuse. She has particular interests in the areas of trauma and co-occurring mental health and substance abuse conditions.

Becky Davis, RN, NCSN. I have worked in Pediatric Nursing for over 30 years, and have experience in both hospital based and community maternal and child health nursing. After 18 years of School Nursing, I "retired" to spend time with grandchildren and family. I currently work per-diem as a triage nurse in the Pediatric Practice of Joseph Hagan, MD, and Jill Rinehart, MD. I have served on the Board of Trustees at both the Lund Family Center and the Women's Rape Crisis Center.

Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, MSW has been has been the Domestic Violence Program Coordinator at WomenSafe for eight years. She has a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Vermont, and has worked in the field of Violence Against Women for more than thirteen years. She also serves as adjunct faculty for UVM in the Social Work Department, and an instructor at the Community College of Vermont. She is an active member of the Addison County Domestic Violence Task Force and the Vermont Network Legislative Task Force.

Jamie A. Edwards-Orr, ACSW, LICSW is a therapist in private practice in Shelburne. In addition to her 23 years of private practice, she has also worked in social service agencies in Vermont and Wisconsin, and taught at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, and Trinity College of Vermont. She has worked with victims of trauma for the past 27 years.

Bobbi Gagne is the Executive Director of the Sexual Assault Crisis Team and holds a B.A. majoring in Clinical Counseling Psychology. She is a member of the Northeast Ritual Intelligence Association, the Washington County SART/SIU Response Team, and the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. She has worked with victims of sexual violence for over eighteen years and has supervised, trained, and educated law enforcement officers, various professionals, survivors, and the public. Bobbi has spoken throughout the United States and internationally on the topics of Sadistic Abuse, Incest, Underground Pornography and Prostitution Rings, and Sexual Assault.

Kris Goldstein is a Probation and Parole Officer in Burlington, Vermont and is a member of the Sex Offender Supervision Team. Prior to her employment with the Vermont Department of Corrections, she provided case management services through the Howard Center for Human Services to individuals involved with the criminal justice system who suffer with major mental illness and substance dependence disorders. Ms. Goldstein also managed cases for the Chittenden County Drug Treatment and Mental Health Courts.

Robert McGrath is Clinical Director of the Vermont Department of Corrections sex offender treatment programs. Among his publications, he is co-author of the book *Supervision of the Sex Offender*. He has consulted to sex offender programs throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

Dean Melen is a full time (K-5) School Counselor at Chamberlin Elementary School in the South Burlington School District. Dean has been working with school children, ages 5-11, since 1996. Prior to this work, Dean was an adult group facilitator in Burlington, Vermont working with parents through Prevent Child Abuse Vermont.

Tracy Penfield founded SafeArt in 2000, after 20 years as an Artist and Educator, working in the fields of Fiber Arts and Dance. Having survived an abusive relationship from the ages of 14-29 years, Tracy personally experienced the healing powers of creative expression and developed methods to utilize them in education, recovery and social activism. SafeArt's mission is to engage the transformative power of the arts to prevent and heal abuse and other traumas, with a particular focus on sexual violence. Tracy teaches and performs in schools, colleges, at conferences and other venues, solo and with the SafeArt Teen Ensemble. She has developed Tracing, a somatic practice for self-expression and healing, which is available for individuals, families and groups. Altus Healing Arts in Chelsea, Vermont, is SafeArt's home, with movement and visual arts studios. Tracy is also an associate at the Center for Integrative Health in Hanover, New Hampshire, where she offers Tracing sessions by appointment.

Rev. Jane Ralph is Executive Director of the Clarina Howard Nichols Center which works to eliminate sexual and domestic violence in Lamoille County. Jane holds a Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and her work has been primarily with individuals and families experiencing sexual and domestic violence, homeless women, child abuse prevention, anti-oppression work with a particular focus on racism, sexism and heterosexism as well as a commitment to non-violent direct action as a movement of social change. Jane also serves on the board of Lamoille County's Special Investigation Unit and is currently Co-Chair of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Board.

Will Roberts has been the Training Specialist at the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services for the last 8 years. During the five years prior, he was the Children's Program Coordinator at the Clarina Howard Nichols Center, a battered women's shelter in Lamoille County.

The SafeArt Ensemble. This troupe is comprised of teens living in Orange County, Vermont. They perform original drama, dance, music and poetry in schools and other venues, to address sexual and family violence and co-occurring issues such as substance abuse and bullying. Shows are followed by guided discussions that enrich communities. Hope and humor provide balance for the difficult aspects of these forums. They shed light on dark topics with the belief that normalizing the conversation will build a culture of proactive youth and adults working to solve these issues.



Susan Samuel has been in the child abuse field for 28 years. Her longest tenure was with the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children where she conducted more than 2000 investigations of child maltreatment. She also worked for the Office of the Kentucky Attorney General assisting prosecutors in establishing community multidisciplinary child abuse teams (MDTs) and for the Bluegrass Mental Health Board conducting reviews on child protection investigations of maltreatment of children in the foster care system. Currently, with [Detective Starks](#) she conducts child sexual abuse investigation training for MDTs and is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC).

James Starks retired from the Kentucky State Police after 27 years of service. He had been a general investigations detective, hostage negotiator, undercover narcotics detective, undercover organized crime detective, uniform trooper and a dispatcher. During his last 15 years with State Police he specialized in sex crimes against children. Detective Starks had a greater than 95% confession rate and therefore was able to assist the prosecutors in plea bargaining for exceptionally long prison sentences. He now owns and operates a private investigations business and with [Susan Samuel](#) trains MDTs to conduct court-worthy child sexual abuse investigations.

Rev. Rebecca Strader has been a Presbyterian minister since 1981. Prior to that time, she worked in residential treatment facilities with children and youth. For eleven years, she directed an interfaith ministry with low-income people in Burlington. Since 2005, she has coordinated the Vermont State PINS (Partners in Service) program between faith communities and professionals who work with children, youth, and families involved with Vermont's Department for Children and Families.

Karen Tronsgard-Scott, MA is the Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, a feminist organization committed to eradicating domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change. Tronsgard-Scott, whose career in working with non-profit organizations began in the mid-1980s when she volunteered for a school serving children with developmental disabilities in Colombo, Sri Lanka, has a Masters degree in Political Science with a Certificate in Public Administration from Ohio University. She has worked in the movement to end violence against women for the past fifteen years, serving as the director of a community-based domestic and sexual violence services organization, and teaching and training about the intersection of oppression and violence against women. Tronsgard-Scott served as a member of the faculty at West Virginia University's Division of Social Work where she taught courses on grant writing and public policy. She lives in Hinesburg, Vermont with her partner, son and many pets, and where she serves as a member of Hinesburg's Recreation Board and the Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington.

Abby Tassel has been working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence for 20 years. Since 2005, she has been the Assistant Director at WISE in Lebanon, New Hampshire, the Upper Valley's domestic and sexual violence support center. From 1996 to 2000, Abby coordinated WISE's Youth Awareness Program and served as the Sexual Abuse Awareness Program Coordinator at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, from 2001-2005. Abby is in her third year of Somatic Experiencing Practitioner training and has been applying the principles of body-mind trauma healing to groups since 2006, including survivor groups that use horses as a regulation tool for participants. In addition, Abby is on the faculty of Praxis International Advocacy Learning Center.

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Registration Form

Please complete and return this form with your payment - or register online at:

summit.ourhousevt.org

Workshop Selections:

Early Morning 9:00 - 10:15

Plenary/Keynote - *Jeffrey: A Case Study*

Late Morning 10:30 - 12:00

- A - Characteristic of Adult Offenders
- B - Creating a Holistic Response to Victims and Survivors (Part I)
- C - Facilitating Communication with Children
- D - What's Behind Door #3? Exploring Alternative Hypotheses*
- E - The Trauma Exposure Response (Part I)

Early Afternoon 1:00 - 2:30

- A - Sex Offender Treatment in Vermont
- B - Creating a Holistic Response to Victims and Survivors (Part II)
- C - What's Your Comfort Zone? Disclosures of Sexual Violence (Part I)
- D - Obtaining Confessions or Admissions from Offenders (Part I)
- E - The Trauma Exposure Response (Part 2)
- F - SafeArt Teen Ensemble Presentation

Late Afternoon 2:45 - 3:45

- A - Community Supervision and Management of Sex Offenders
- C - What's Your Comfort Zone? Disclosures of Sexual Violence (Part II)
- D - Obtaining Confessions or Admissions from Offenders (Part II)
- F - SafeArt Methods

Registrant Information

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Your County/Region

Addison
Bennington
Chittenden
Essex/Orleans
Franklin/Grand Isle
Lamoille
Orange
Rutland
Washington
Windham
Windsor
Other/Statewide

Make checks payable, and mail, to:
O.U.R. House of Central Vermont, Inc.
38 Summer Street
Barre, VT 05641

\$75 Individual Registration
\$65 Group Member Registration
*Groups are four or more registrants paying together.
(Includes lunch and refreshments)*

Please call us by September 10 if you have any special needs.