



HEARTLAND SOCIAL WORK

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

SOCIAL WORK

BREAKS BARRIERS

March 3/4 and March 10/11, 2023

BY 2025 THERE WILL BE A
SHORTFALL OF OVER
10,000 SOCIAL WORKERS.

**OKLAHOMA
NEEDS MORE
SOCIAL WORKERS.**



THE TIME IS RIGHT
FOR SOCIAL WORK



SOCIALWORK.OU.EDU

Master of Social Work
University of Oklahoma



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
ANNE AND HENRY ZARROW
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA



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Welcome

The Heartland Conference is the must-attend event of the year for social workers. The conference brings together participants from across Kansas, Oklahoma and across the nation for 7 days of learning, laughter, and networking. With dynamic speakers, cutting-edge workshops, and engaging special presentations, attendees have the opportunity to earn 42 continuing education credits during the event with the goal to increase the professional growth and development of social workers across the state. Each year, social work ethics is the most requested session. In response, we have interwoven multiple offerings dedicated to ethics in order to provide a more directed application of NASW's Code of Ethics.

To meet the growing needs of our attendees, this year's virtual seminar will be four days, March 3rd, 4th, 10th and 11th. Two sessions will be held each morning, a break will be included to accommodate lunch, followed by two sessions in the afternoon. For additional information on schedules, please refer to the conference schedule included in our conference guide.

Your support by attending our events directly funds the NASW-Oklahoma and NASW-Kansas' student outreach, legislative advocacy, social work policy, and events and programs throughout the year.

Thank you for choosing to attend the 2023 Heartland Conference.

Sincerely

Becky Fast, MSW, LCSW

Chapter Executive, NASW-Kansas

Steven W. Pharris, LCSW, JD

Chapter Executive, NASW-Oklahoma

Let's Talk CEUs...

NASW is committed to helping social workers meet their professional development needs. This year, all of our sessions run over the course of seven days in order to allow attendees with the option of choosing their pathway to obtain the necessary hours for their license.

What programs are NASW CEUs approved for?

NASW-OK CEUs are approved for social workers in 38 states, including the Oklahoma LBSW, LMSW, LCSW-Admin and LCSW-Clinical. We also provide CEU approval for LPCs, LMFT's, LBCs, Certified Behavioral Health Case Managers, and Wellness Coaches. NASW-Oklahoma is also an approved provider for Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (LADC).

NASW-KS CEUs are approved for social work licenses in Kansas and across the country in 38 states.

How does attendance work?

During each session, a roll call will be taken. It is important the name of the webinar matches the name used during registration.

How do evaluations work?

Evaluations links will be sent after each day of the conference. CEUs are issued only in the name of the person registered and cannot be transferred. **CEU certificates will have the Title of the Presentation, Presenter, our Provider Numbers, and the length of session, and type of CEU's.** This will be your documentation for the official CEUs needed.



Let's Talk CEUs...

What if I need a duplicate CEU?

Due to the payment processing systems, duplicate CEUs cannot be easily issued. You can replace your CEUs by sending an email to ceu.naswok@socialworkers.org with your full name, name of event, the dates of attendance and a written request asking for CEU certificates due to the loss of your CEU certificates. After completion, a follow-up e-mail will be sent with the identified CEUs or asking for additional information. A small fee will be required for each CEU needing replaced.

Why choose NASW for your educational needs?

Your attendance at our event is a year long investment. Our programs and services are provided by the generosity of social workers, agencies, and the schools of social work across of Oklahoma and Kansas.

Trusting NASW to deliver programs and services to enhance your professional development is a responsibility not taken lightly by NASW. The costs of events assists social work students and underwrites programming and provides legislative advocacy for laws effecting the profession.

NASW is committed to expanding social work opportunities across the state. We rely on your support to keep NASW strong and make our impact today, and tomorrow, possible.

JOIN NASW

Learn more about NASW membership.

As a social worker, you are a skilled professional who came to the profession to make a difference to those in need. To be the best in your profession requires access to cutting-edge ideas, the most up-to-date information and research, relevant and timely continuing education opportunities, and the highest-quality resources available to social workers.

Automatic Chapter Membership

Get a local connection to the profession.

Ethics, HIPAA, Legal, & Malpractice Resources

Reduce your risk of complaints and violations.
Save on professional liability insurance.

Free & Discounted Continuing Education

Fulfill license requirements.

Practice Support & Self Care

Save on practice management software, office supplies, and entertainment.

Publications, Tips, & Insights

Enhance your knowledge in social work, do your job better, and champion social change.

Online Research Library

Access more than 25 social science and health databases.

Advocacy and Political Action

Inherent to our mission, NASW-Oklahoma advocates for legislation that advances the social work profession.

Discounts on all CEU Programs and Licensing Test Prep Courses

NASW-Oklahoma hosts many continuing education programs throughout the year, all at a discount to you.

Clinical Alerts & Consultation

For those in clinical roles, NASW-OK's Director is available to consult with members and answer questions related to insurance, licensing, and more.

Social Work Voice Magazine

Launched in 2020, Social Work Voice is a magazine produced by the Chapter and delivered to your mailbox four times each year. Each issue is packed with information and updates related to the Chapter's legislative advocacy and political action, member spotlights, managed care, clinical practice, and continuing education.

Career Services

NASW-OK has resources available to assist members with job searching and career development.

These services include cover letter and resume reviews, and individualized, one-on-one e-consultation and coaching.

Member-to-Member Supervision

Helps LCSW members obtain LICSW supervision not provided at their work sites.

Your NASW membership can provide you with all of these things.
Questions about membership? Contact your local Chapter.

Conference Schedule

March 3

8:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Welcome by NASW-Kansas President

Elizabeth Pflazgraf, LMSW
NASW-Kansas President

08:45 AM - 10:15 AM

**Bowen Family Systems Theory
A Different Lens on Self, Social Work, and
Families**

Director and Co-Founder of the KC Center of Family
Systems
Kansas City Center of Family Systems

1.5 CEUs approved for all professions

10:30 AM - 11:55 AM

**Cultural Considerations in Youth Suicide
Prevention**

Crystal Rose-Bennett, LMSW
CEO
THRYVE, LLC

1.5 CEUs approved for all professions

12:50 PM - 02:20 PM

Introduction to Play Therapy

Leah Schwarz, LCSW, LCSW, RPT
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Hope Esperanza Counseling, LLC

1.5 Ethics CEUs

02:20 PM - 03:50 PM

**Experiences and Coping Mechanisms of Active-Duty Women
Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma Who Sought Mental
Health Services Within the Civilian Sector**

Dr. Carol Meza-Bakke
cPittsburg State University

1.5 CEUs approved for all professions

March 4

08:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Overview by NASW-Kansas President

Elizabeth Pflazgraf, LMSW
NASW-Kansas President

8:45 AM - 10:15 AM

**A Journey Through the DSM: Reviewing Key Diagnoses,
Part 1**

**Diane Bigler, LCSW, LSCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Diane Bigler Training**

1.5 CEUs approved for all professions

10:25 AM - 11:55 PM

**A Journey Through the DSM: Reviewing Key Diagnoses,
Part 2**

**Diane Bigler, LCSW, LSCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Diane Bigler Training**

1.5 CEUs approved for all professions

12:30 PM - 02:00 PM

Nutrition & Mental Health

Cassandra "Cassie" Whitmore, RD, LMNT, Dietitian
Consultant Dietitian

1.5 General CEUs

02:15 PM - 03:45 PM

Ethical Boundaries and Responsibilities to the Client

**Phelica Glass, LCSW, GCCAC, FAAGC, CSOTP
Clinical Social Worker
Private Practice**

1.5 Ethics CEUs

Conference Schedule

March 10

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

NASW Advocacy Efforts

Steven Pharris
NASW-Oklahoma
.5 CEUs General

09:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Grief and Loss in Foster Care and Adoption

Dr. Bonni Goodwin, MSW, LCSW
Associated Professor
Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work

1.5 CEUs approved for all professions

10:40 AM - 12:10 PM

Cultural Humility in Social Work Practice: Honoring and Centering Cultural Unknowns

Dr. Anthony Natale, MSW
Associate Professor
University of Oklahoma

1.5 Ethics CEUs approved for all professions

12:50 PM - 02:20 PM

Moral Injury and Traumatized Ukrainian Refugees

Dr. Lanny Endicott, D.Min., MSSW, LCSW, LMFT
Professor Emeritus
Oral Roberts University

1.5 Ethics CEUs

02:30 PM - 04:00 PM

A.C.E.ing Ethics - Ethical Considerations Relating to Adverse Childhood Experiences

Amber Jewell, MSW, LMSW
Finding Hope, LLC.

1.5 Ethics CEUs approved for all professions

March 11

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

NASW Legislative Efforts

Steven Pharris
NASW-Oklahoma
.5 CEUs General

8:45 AM - 10:15 AM

Strategies to Nurture and Restore Hope with Clients

Dr. Angela Pharris, MSW, LAPSW
Associate Professor
University of Oklahoma

1.5 Ethics CEUs approved for all professions

10:25 AM - 11:55 PM

Crisis and Disaster Mental Health Care Services

Dr. Deborah Johnson, MSW, LMSW-OK, LCSW-FL
Licensed Social Worker

John A. Call, Ph.D., JD, ABPP
Director Emeritus
SRT INC.

1.5 CEUs approved for all professions

12:50 PM - 02:20 PM

Do We Need the Psychopathology? The Difference Between Trauma Therapy and Traditional Approaches to Therapy

Dr. Robert Rhoten Psy. D., LCP, F.A.A.E.T.S.
CEO
Arizona Trauma Institute

1.5 CEUs approved for all professions

02:30 PM - 04:00 PM

Therapeutic Improvisation

Margot Escott, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Private Practice

1.5 CEUs approved for all professions

04:00 PM - 05:00 PM BONUS HOUR OF ETHICS

Ethics from a Multi-State & Multi-Discipline Perspective

Steven W. Pharris, MSW, JD, LCSW
NASW-Oklahoma
Executive Director

1.0 Ethics CEUs approved for all professions

Conference Schedule



Since 1967, Valley Hope has provided patients with effective, compassionate addiction treatment.

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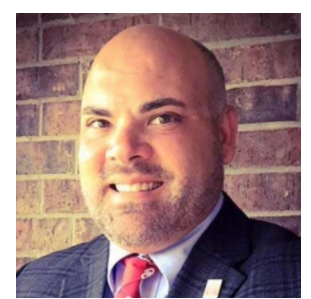
/// Hope for Life. ///


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF
ADDICTION TREATMENT PROVIDERS

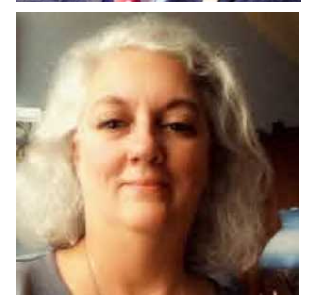
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A break is scheduled between most sessions, be mindful of this when planning your days at the conference. Our goal is to bring you the CEUs you are needing, including the opportunity to receive up to CEUs in one conference, while also gaining knowledge over diverse subjects of your interests.

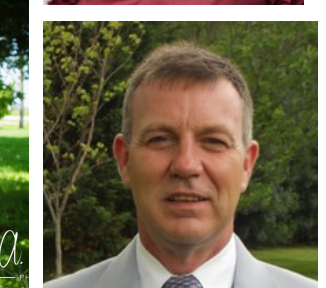
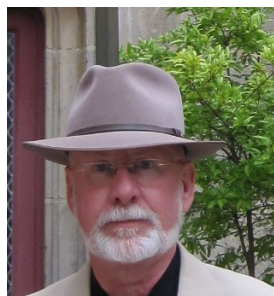
If you have any questions,
please do not hesitate to reach out to
CONFERENCE.NASWOK@SOCIALWORKERS.ORG



*Thank
you!*



**2023
PRESENTERS**



Speaker Bios



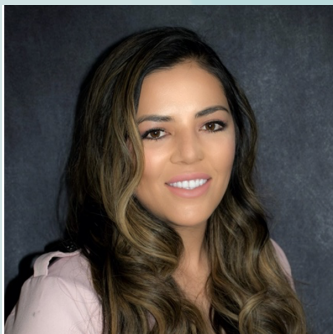
Diane Bigler, LCSW, LSCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Diane Bigler Training

Diane Bigler, LCSW, LSCSW, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Missouri and Kansas with over 25 years of experience in the mental health field. She has held clinical positions as an outpatient and in-home therapist and clinical supervisor. Diane was an Adjunct Professor of Social Work for 10 years at The University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare and a Field Liaison and Field Instructor. She has also held administrative positions as a program Director and Coordinator. Diane is a frequent local and national trainer on a wide variety of mental health and workplace development topics with clinicians and corporations. Diane is most passionate about providing quality professional development to clinicians, employees, and leaders. For fun, Diane loves to spoil her four Dachshunds and rock out to 80's music.



Dr. Lanny Endicott, D.Min.,
MSSW, LCSW, LMFT
Professor Emeritus
Oral Roberts University

With a lengthy and distinguished career in higher education, Dr. Lanny Endicott has dedicated his professional life to social work. He was the Director of the Social Work Program at Oral Roberts University (ORU) for over 47 years. Dr. Endicott continues to be involved in social work education both at ORU and abroad (Russia). His interests besides education include: community planning and development, social services (particularly South Peoria in Tulsa, Oklahoma), workshops in compassion fatigue and burnout, community services for military veterans including soul repair, child welfare (both in Oklahoma and Russia), and family. Lanny has earned a Doctorate of Ministry from the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master of Social Work from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He is affiliated with NASW, NACSW; the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa; the South Peoria Neighborhood Connection Foundation Inc; the South Tulsa Community House and social work in Russia. Recognized by those in the field for his work, Dr. Endicott was awarded Social Worker of the Year in Oklahoma by NASW-OK in 2003. As well as being a Licensed Clinical Social Worker he is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist where he lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In conjunction with his professional interests, Dr. Endicott is a keen runner, having been Head of Cross Country and Track Coach at ORU. Ever a leader, he launched the cross country program at ORU in 1976. Their best season was in 1984 when ORU finished 11th in the NCAA National Cross Country Championships.



Dr. Carol Meza-Bakke, MSW
Pittsburg State University

Dr. Carol Meza-Bakke is a first-generation college graduate and Field Director and instructional professor of social work at Pittsburg State University (PSU). Carol is also an Army combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient. Carol has earned a bachelor's degree in social work with a minor in psychology from PSU, a master's degree in clinical social work from the University of Kansas (KU) and recently received her Ph.D. from Our Lady of the Lake University. Moreover, Carol has 12 years of military experience in addition to experience working in the child welfare field, the Veterans Affairs Benefits Administration, and higher education. Carol enjoys exploring the outdoors with her husband and two children, activities around their farm, fishing, camping, and hunting. Carol's research interests focus on social work in the military, particularly military sexual trauma, as well as mental health and behavioral health resources available for the military population. Recent research includes a mixed-method study regarding the determinant effects of depression, anxiety, and PTSD in young adults residing in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic. Carol also recently conducted a thematic analysis of experiences and coping mechanisms of female active-duty military sexual trauma survivors. Carol's most recent pending publications focus on the experiences and coping mechanisms of Army active-duty women survivors of military sexual trauma who sought mental health services within the civilian sector. Carol's second pending publication focus on the determinant effects of depression, anxiety, and PTSD in young adults residing in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic. Carol's third pending publication focus on preparing social work students for gun violence.

Speaker Bios



Dr. Deborah Johnson, MSW, LMSW
NASW-Oklahoma President

Dr. Deborah Johnson, MSW, LMSW-OK, LCSW-FL is an Industrial/Organizational Psychologist and social worker licensed in Oklahoma and Florida. Dr. Johnson is a Board Member and trainer for the SRT, Inc., a non-profit disaster health services organization. She is a volunteer for the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps and the OKMRC Stress Response Team, co-leading the Tulsa District SRT. Dr. Johnson is the Past-President of NASW-Oklahoma. In addition, she served at the President-Elect of the NASW National Council of Chapter Presidents, a member of the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers, and a member of the Oklahoma State Maternal Mortality Review Committee. Her clinical focus on children and adolescents. She is an MSW graduate of University of Oklahoma and graduated from Iowa State University with her Ph.D. in Psychology. She has held board positions on the Mental Health Association of Collier County, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Collier County, and several other boards in Florida and Oklahoma over her career. She has been a featured speaker at workshops, professional meetings and been featured on radio and TV programs.



Becky Fast, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director
NASW-Kansas

Becky Fast, MSW, LCSW is the Executive Director of the NASW-Kansas Chapter.



Crystal Rose-Bennett, LMSW
Clinical Social Worker
THRYVE, LLC

Crystal Rozelle – Bennett, LMSW has been working with youth and families for nearly 20 years. She is committed to empowering, engaging, educating and advocating in order to implement trauma-informed strategies for individuals and communities. Mrs. Bennett earned a Bachelor's in Arts in Psychology from Wells College and went on to complete her Masters in Social Work from Florida State University. During her career, Ms. Bennett has demonstrated a passion in sharing her personal and professional experiences with others to serve marginalized individuals and prevent re-traumatization. She has experience in directing child & youth service programs for the Department of the Navy with a history of providing program oversight and accountability in accordance with the Department of Defense, COA, & BGCA Requirements. Additionally, she has consulted with schools on policy development and has managed residential treatment facilities and foster care programs. Ms. Bennett is a life longer learner and has provided education and support to foster families, facilitated psychoeducation programs for youth, responded to crisis hotline calls for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and trained behavioral healthcare professionals in the areas of Human Trafficking, Suicide Prevention, Child Trauma/Maltreatment, Motivational Interviewing, Racial Trauma, Cultural Competency and serving LGBT youth.

Speaker Bios



Amber Jewell, LMSW
Social Worker
Finding Hope, LLC.

Amber Jewell, LMSW has been a social worker for over 15 years working with children, families, and individuals from all dynamics and life structures. She is a foster parent, adoptive parent, and advocate for child welfare services across the country. She is compassionate, authentic, and cares for the value of all people. Amber believes all people have the ability and right to live a life that helps them be the best versions of themselves. She excels at solution-focused services that build strengths for and within people.



Dr. Angela Pharris, LAPS
University of Oklahoma

Dr. Pharris completed her BSW at Middle Tennessee State University (1998), her MSW at Spalding University (2002), and her PhD in Public Administration from Tennessee State University. Dr. Pharris's professional practice includes work in child welfare training and mental health. Over the course of her career she has been part of implementation of several programs, including a large training program for the state child welfare system in Tennessee, a homeless outreach program, and assisted in the early development of a Mental Health Court in Nashville and Rutherford County, Tennessee. Dr. Pharris's research is focused on policy implementation, specifically state strategies for policy implementation in child welfare. Her dissertation focused on the actions of states to implement programs for youth aging out of foster care, and the impact of political culture on administrative choices. Dr. Pharris is also interested in child welfare workforce and workforce development, and believes the best strategy for a strong child welfare system is a supported workforce. Dr. Pharris has additional research interests in treatment and recovery courts, older youth in foster care and pedagogy of social work education and field education.



Dr. Robert Rhoton Psy. D., LCP,
F.A.A.E.T.S.
CEO
Arizona Trauma Institute

Dr. Robert Rhoton, CEO of Arizona Trauma Institute and President at the Trauma Institute International possesses a rich history of experience in the mental health field. Dr. Rhoton has supervised multiple outpatient clinics, juvenile justice programs, and intensive outpatient substance abuse programs for adolescents, day treatment programs for youth and children, adult offender programs and child and family therapeutic services. Dr. Rhoton served as president of the Arizona Trauma Therapy Network from 2010 through 2012. Dr. Rhoton was a Professor at Ottawa University in the Behavioral Sciences and Counseling Department whose primary interests were training counselors to work with traumagenic family dynamics, child and family trauma, and non-egoic models of treatment. Dr. Rhoton is a Fellowship of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress and collaborates and consults with numerous Arizona agencies fine tuning their understanding of trauma and the impact of developmental trauma on the individual and family. Dr. Rhoton works internationally with organizations to improve the delivery of trauma treatment services. Dr. Rhoton's most recent publications are: • (2021) Trauma Competency for the 21st Century: A Salutogenic "Active ingredients" approach to treatment • (2020) Trauma-Informed Organizational Certificate Program: The Journey to becoming an ascending organization and leader. • (2019) Transformative Care: A Trauma-Focused Approach to Caregiving • July 2017 Journal of Counseling and Development titled; Trauma Competency: An Active Ingredients Approach to Treating Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.

Speaker Bios



Steven W. Pharris, MSW, JD, LCSW

NASW-Oklahoma
Executive Director

Steven W. Pharris, MSW, JD, LCSW is the Executive Director of NASW-Oklahoma.



Tara Wallace, MSW, LSCSW,
CTF-CBT/PSB, RYT, SLC
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Private Practice

My name is Tara D. Wallace. I am a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker. I hold certifications in trauma therapy; cognitive behavioral therapy; movement trauma, and diversity, equity and inclusion. I am also a registered yoga teacher and certified spiritual life coach.



Leah Schwarz, LSCSW, LCSW,
RPT

Leah Schwarz, LSCSW, LCSW, RPT earned her Bachelor's in Social Work from Bethel College in North Newton, KS in 2013 and her Masters in Social Work from University of Kansas in 2016. She has experience working with children and families in a community mental health setting, working with adults and children in a domestic violence shelter, and is now in her third year of private practice. She is bilingual in English and Spanish and is passionate about working with and supporting immigrant families. She uses various modalities in her work including EMDR, sand tray therapy, attachment-based play therapies, and CBT techniques.

Speaker Bios



Dr. Bonni Goodwin, LCSW
University of Oklahoma

Bonni Goodwin, Ph.D., LCSW, is an Assistant Professor at the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma. She has worked in the field of Social Work for the past 20 years with children and families, empowering them to overcome challenges toward hope and stability. Bonni has worked in various positions with at-risk children and families, including juvenile justice, victim services with the court system, child welfare prevention services, and providing clinical services to children, families, and groups through an adoption-specialized counseling center. She currently serves with the Oklahoma Human Services child welfare division as the Statewide Coordinator of Adoption Preservation Services. In this role, Bonni conducts research and trains child welfare and mental health professionals on the unique and complex needs of children in foster care and those who have been adopted from state custody. Bonni's research focus is on permanency through adoption and post-adoption support and services. She continues to examine the needs and gaps of services for children and families in post-adoption and is committed to pursuing best practices in responding to adoptive families' needs.



John A. Call, Ph.D., JD, ABPP
Director Emeritus
SRT INC.

John A. Call, Ph.D., J.D., ABPP is a psychologist, an attorney, and a Diplomate in Forensic Psychology of the American Board of Professional Psychology and the American Board of Forensic Psychology. Dr. Call is also a trained emergency medical technician with a specialty in disaster pre-hospital medical care. He interned in the United States Air Force, served in the Strategic Air Command, and is a member of the Society of Air Force Psychologists. For almost 20 years, Dr. Call served as the psychological consultant for the Oklahoma City Police Department. Dr. Call has also served as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, as a member of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Protection of Children from Violence in the Media, and as a consultant on disaster psychology to the Oklahoma Department of Health, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Oklahoma City County Health Department, the Oklahoma Department of Homeland Security, the Memorial Institute for Prevention of Terrorism, the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps, and the Terrorism and Disaster Center. He is currently the Coordinator of the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps Stress Response Team and is a Director of SRT, Inc. a Not-for-Profit disaster health services organization. Dr. Call has extensive experience in researching and applying psychological principles to meet individual and community needs post disaster and has provided training on these topics locally, nationally and internationally. Recent awards presented to Dr. Call for his work in disaster services include the Distinguished Contribution by a Psychologist in the Public Interest, Oklahoma Psychological Association, 2013; Award for Exceptional Service, Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps, 2013; Certificate of Recognition, Regional Health Administrator, U.S. Surgeon General and Region VI MRC Coordinator, 2013; Certificate of Recognition, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2015; Recognition Service Award, Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps, 2015; and Certificate of Appreciation, FEMA IA Branch Chief, 2015.



Phelica Glass, LSCSW, GCCAC,
FAAGC, CSOTP
Social Worker

Phelica Glass is a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker with a successful psychotherapy practice in Topeka, KS. Graduate of Washburn University with a bachelor's in Behavioral Sciences. Graduate of Tulane University of New Orleans with a Masters in Clinical Social Work and certification of Gerontology. Through further education Phelica has attained certification in Child And Adolescent Grief Counseling, Sex Offender Treatment , Ecotherapy and Anger Management.

Speaker Bios



Dr. Anthony Natale, MSW
Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Oklahoma

Anthony P. Natale, MSW, PhD is an Associate Professor, joining the faculty in 2005. Dr. Natale was the Graduate Coordinator in Social Work for 6 years and Assistant Director for 3.5 years. He left that position to serve as the Graduate College Faculty Fellow for Inclusive Excellence. In this role, he supervised programs and initiatives designed to support underrepresented graduate students in all phases of their academic experience - recruitment, admission, retention and graduation. He consulted with academic units to develop inclusive excellence plans for individual students as well infusing promising practices for inclusion and diversity in student policies, procedures and practices. In 2018, Dr. Natale took a new role as Executive Director for the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies.



Stacey Blaylock, MSW, LCSW
President NASW-Oklahoma
Oral Roberts University

Stacey R. Blaylock is Director of the Social Work Program & Assistant Professor of Social Work at Oral Roberts University. Stacey has practiced as a medical social worker for six years, most recently at St. John Medical Center as the Trauma Social Worker. A returning alumna, she earned her BSW from ORU, as well as her MSW from the University of Oklahoma and is an Oklahoma Board-approved and -licensed Clinical Social Worker. Regarding teaching, Professor Blaylock says, "My classroom philosophy centers on experiential learning and information retention. Experiential learning cultivates an environment of engaged learning, rather than a passive learning environment as traditionally implied in higher education. I deliver course content in a way that provides students with a personal learning experience, resulting in students retaining and recalling information more effectively. Witnessing students apply the concepts from the classroom into their practicum is rewarding." Outside of the classroom, her accomplishments include: Winner of the 2019 Innovation in Online Teaching Award; lecturer at the 2019 Marketplace Leadership Institute (MLI) in Singapore, presenting on Emotional Intelligence and Cultural Sensitivity in the Marketplace and Ministry; annual presenter at the NASW Oklahoma State Conference with presentations focused on the ethical use of social media in social work, as well as the non-traditional role of Police Social Work; served as the NASW Tulsa Branch President from 2013 to 2014; current member of the NASW Oklahoma.



Elizabeth Pflazgraf, LMSW
President of NASW-Kansas
NASW-Kansas

Elizabeth Pflazgraf, LMSW is the President of the NASW-Kansas Chapter Board of Directors.

Speaker Bios



Margot Escott, LCSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Private Practice

Margot Escott LCSW has been in practice in Naples, FL for over 35 years. She was named social worker of the year by FL NASW in 2001 for her workshops on "preventing Medical Errors in Behavioral Health". She has been using improvisational theatre interventions for over a decade with her clients with mood disorders. For over 7 years she has taught Improvisational Theatre Games to people with Parkinson's disease and their care partners. She currently holds these classes on line with students from around the country. For many years she hosts a podcast called Improv Interviews and had produced 140 sessions with therapists, actors and improvisers around the world. You can listen to these podcasts on her website.



Cassandra "Cassie" Whitmore,
RD, LMNT
Dietitian
Consultant Dietitian

Cassandra "Cassie" Whitmore, RD, LMNT has been a practicing dietitian for more than 10 years. She received her bachelor's degrees in Public Health Nutrition and Dietetics from Kansas State University. After starting her career working in acute care and inpatient eating disorders in Kansas City, she moved on to management in a critical access hospital. Most of her career has been spent working in Long Term Care at various facilities throughout the state of Nebraska, which included time as an Employee Wellness Dietitian. She has also worked as an outpatient dietitian with a focus on diabetes education and eating disorders and has notable experience in hospice and mental healthcare. She is currently self-employed as a Consultant Dietitian and speaker. She is based in Lincoln, Nebraska where she lives with her husband, son, and dog.



Margaret Otto, LSCSW
Director and Co-Founder of the
Kansas City Center of Family
Systems

Margaret Otto, LSCSW is the Director and Co-Founder of the KC Center of Family Systems since its inception in 1996. She has been learning and applying Bowen family systems theory for over twenty years, which includes studying under Murray Bowen, MD and Michael Kerr, MD through the programs offered at the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family. She earned a Masters in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis and then obtained clinical licensure in Kansas and Missouri. She began her study of Bowen family systems theory at the Menninger office in Kansas City. She has a full time private clinical practice as a family therapist in addition to carrying local and national responsibility for leadership of the KC Center in representing Bowen family systems theory.

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