



*21<sup>th</sup> Annual*

# **ELDER ABUSE CONFERENCE**

*See Something. Say Something:*

**INTERVENING IN CASES OF  
ELDER ABUSE**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## **PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Keynote Address and Workshops A and B**

**See Something. Say Something:  
How Bystanders can Intervene to Prevent Elder Abuse**

#### **Alan David Berkowitz**

Alan Berkowitz is an independent consultant with expertise in culture change, gender issues, behavioral health, ending men's violence, and fostering social justice. He has received five national awards for his scholarship and innovative programs on substance abuse and sexual assault prevention, men's role in ending violence against women, gender issues, bystander intervention theory and skills, and diversity.

At Hobart and William Smith Colleges, he developed a model rape prevention program for men that was recently evaluated and found to reduce actual sexual assaults by 75% at 4-month follow-up. Alan is a frequent keynote speaker at national conferences, a co-founder of the social norms approach, the author of a book on bystander intervention theory and skills, and currently serves as a sexual assault prevention and bystander intervention subject matter expert for the US Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force. He received his Ph.D. in Psychology from Cornell University and is a licensed psychologist.

## **Jenny Ackley, MSW**

Jenny Ackley is the Project Coordinator for the Abuse in Later Life Program at Vera House. In this role, she develops services for older victims, works to enhance a coordinated community response, and organizes training for criminal justice professionals, governmental agency staff and victim assistants. Previously, Jenny was the Elder Abuse Educator at Vera House and in that role provided educational sessions to both seniors and professionals in the community. She also serves as the Vera House coordinator for the Syracuse Area Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition's Elder Justice Committee and participates on the Elder Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Jenny has been active with the NYS Elder Abuse Coalition and participated in the 2010 NYS Elder Abuse Summit. Jenny has received several awards for her work in the field of Elder Abuse, including the Onondaga County Department of Aging & Youth's Senior Services Professional Award in 2012 and the 2011 American Red Cross "Women Who Mean Business" honor; and the Vera House Elder Abuse Education Program was honored by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services as "Outstanding Partners in the Protective Services for Adults Delivery Network" in 2011. She graduated from Ithaca College with a BS in Accounting and had a 19 year career in accounting and finance before obtaining her MSW from Syracuse University in 2009.

## **Misty Boldt**

Misty is a licensed Social Worker for the Elder Abuse Prevention Program (EAPP) at Lifespan. In 2016, she earned the Ursula Forem Domestic Violence Program Employee Fellowship through Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. Through this fellowship, Misty has specialized in research, education and direct services in the field of trauma across the lifespan of older adults.

Ms. Boldt has created the Life Event Screening Tool, an instrument designed for professionals to help identify life stressors that have been experienced in the lifespan of an adult as well as single out specific stressors that could contribute to poor health conditions. Combining the use of her new screening tool with the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) questionnaire and a comprehensive biopsychosocial, Misty aims to help older adults find coping strategies for undiagnosed histories of long-term trauma.

Prior to her current position, Misty held a dual role created between EAPP and Eldersource (ES) to bridge the gap between service provision for older adults at risk of abuse. The position was a successful collaboration of programming by initiating another resource for colleagues to brainstorm challenging situations, questions, and strengthen interagency networking.

In 2013, Misty began volunteering for BIVONA CAC and gaining firsthand insight into the impact of childhood traumas traversing into adulthood if not addressed. She provides training to professionals on

the topic of Trauma-Informed Care when working with older adults and was a Keynote Speaker for the Monroe County Mental Health Association Conference in 2017.

Misty is an active member of the Domestic Violence Consortium, Trauma Informed Care Network and a new local Hoarding Task Force of community agencies in Monroe County. Additionally, she co-facilitates a Trauma Support Group Collaborative.

Ms. Boldt holds a Bachelor of Science from State University of New York College at Brockport for Psychology, and a Masters of Social Work from The Greater Rochester Collaborative of Nazareth and State University of New York at Brockport. Misty also recently received a Clinical Certification as a Trauma Professional through PESI. Misty's Social Work focus is in Geriatric Social Work with a trauma-informed care perspective. While earning her graduate degree in social work, Misty was also employed by the Catholic Family Center Adult Guardianship Program.

### **Elaine Brown**

Elaine Brown is currently the Vice President of Operations at ACMG Federal Credit Union in Solvay. As part of her responsibilities, she educates staff on elder abuse and financial exploitation for Bank Secrecy Act compliance. Elaine has worked or volunteered in the credit union industry for over 27 years. Past positions include Risk Management Officer at The Summit Federal Credit Union, Controller of Syracuse Federal Credit Union, and Auditor for the New York State Credit Union League.

Elaine completed her Master of Business Administration degree and Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Le Moyne College, and continues her education by participating in continuing education credit training to maintain her Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist certifications. She is also an active participant of the Elder Justice Committee of the Syracuse Area Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition.

### **Thomas Burgess**

Tom is currently employed as a supervisor in Adult Protective Services (APS), which works to keep individuals over the age of 18 safe from harm when they are unable to care for themselves or are suffering from neglect or abuse by others. He oversees a casework unit to ensure that every effort is made to keep vulnerable adults safe in the community or in the least restrictive alternative environment. In order to do that, Tom collaborates with other community agencies to provide needed services and to assist qualifying individuals and families. He has served as a trainer for a National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life grant and as a member of an inter-agency Elder Abuse Committee, Caring Community Alternatives, Residential Services Provider Group, and Onondaga Community Trauma Task Force. Tom also presents to various community groups, an annual Elder Law Fair, and an annual Elder Abuse Conference on the work of APS. He is a past recipient of an Onondaga

County Volunteer Award for his work with youth and a National Adult Protective Services Association Annual Award for his work on elder justice.

### **Karen Clark, LMSW**

Karen Clark, LMSW, a Social Worker with University Geriatricians of SUNY Upstate, has a wide range of experience caring for seniors, both personally and professionally. Karen is a graduate of St. Lawrence University and Roberts Wesleyan College. She has worked in nursing home and hospital settings, providing personal care as a CNA, and supportive care as a Social Worker. Karen has co-facilitated several support groups for those who are caregivers and have suffered losses on many levels. She lives next door to her parents where she shares the joys and stresses of aging in her own family, giving her practical and personal knowledge, as well.

### **Mary Anne Corasaniti**

Mary Anne Corasaniti is a graduate of Le Moyne College and studied for her Masters of Science in Human Development at the University of Texas at Dallas. She retired from the Alzheimer's Association following ten years as the Executive Director of the Central New York Chapter. Prior to joining the Alzheimer's Association, she was the Director of the Onondaga County Elder Abuse Program. Ms. Corasaniti is a trainer for Hunter College's Brookdale Center on Healthy Aging where she trains Adult Protective Service Workers from around the state of New York on issues of Elder Abuse, Supervision, Hoarding, Self-Neglect, Mental Health, and other issues of aging. Mary Anne also serves as Co-chair of the Syracuse Area Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition's Elder Justice Committee.

### **JoAnne Spoto Decker, MA**

JoAnne Spoto Decker is Director of Community Service Programs and Long Term Care Programs for the Onondaga County Department of Adult and Long Term Care Services. She has been with County Government for 28 years, and has prior experience in non-profits. JoAnne holds a M.A. in Social Policy, from the State University of New York. She has a Certificate in Gerontology from Syracuse University.

JoAnne is the recipient of several awards, including the YWCA Diversity Achiever Award, The Onondaga County Martin Luther King, Jr. Employee Recognition Award, and Special Recognition Award for work in Elder Abuse prevention. Professional awards include recognition for work in Emergency Preparedness for Seniors, and an Aging Innovations Award bestowed by National Association for Area Agencies on Aging. She is past President of the Hearing Loss Association of America/NYS Board of Directors.

### **Lori DiCaprio-Lee**

Lori DiCaprio-Lee is the Elder Advocate/Trainer for the Abuse in Later Life Grant at Vera House. This grant, provided by the Office on Violence Against Women, is designed to develop services for older

victims, enhance a coordinated community response, and organize training for criminal justice professionals, governmental agency staff and victim assistants. She is also a member of the Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Team at Vera House. She previously volunteered at Vera House as a crisis call taker. Prior to her association with Vera House, she worked extensively in the business/legal field specifically in commercial leasing and negotiation. She received her B.S. in Business Administration from LeMoyne College in 1986 and received her J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law in 1989. She is admitted to practice law in New York, Massachusetts, and California. She is a member of the New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

### **Betsy Ferner, LMSW**

Betsy Ferner is a Licensed Master Social Worker currently working as the Coordinator of the Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Team (E-MDT) at Vera House Inc. The E-MDT addresses complex cases of financial exploitation of older adults in Onondaga and surrounding counties. Betsy began with Vera House as a Syracuse University MSW intern in the Elder Abuse Education program and went on to work as a Vera House Abuse in Later Life Advocate and Trainer as well as a domestic violence & sexual assault advocate. Prior to becoming a social worker, Betsy was a Special Education teacher and worked as a Medicaid Service Coordinator providing systems advocacy for adults and families with children with intellectual disabilities throughout Onondaga County.

### **Alejandro Garcia, Ph.D**

Alejandro Garcia, Ph.D., currently holds the position of Jocelyn Falk Endowed Professor, School of Social Work, Syracuse University, where he has taught in the areas of gerontology, social policy, and human diversity for over 35 years. He is a past director of the School of Social Work. He holds a B.A. degree from the University of Texas at Austin; an MSW degree from California State University at Sacramento; and a Ph.D. from the Heller School at Brandeis University.

He is a past Chair of the National Policy Council of AARP. He has also served as a member of the Executive Council of AARP New York. In addition, he is a past-Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Council on Aging. He has also served as a vice-president of the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy (SCAA) and was recently made a Lifetime Honorary Trustee of the Center.

He is the co-editor of three books, including *Elderly Latinos: Issues and Solutions for the 21st Century* (with Marta Sotomayor) (1993), *HIV Affected and Vulnerable Youth: Prevention Issues and Approaches* (1999) (with Susan Taylor-Brown), and *La Familia: Traditions and Realities* (1999) (with Marta Sotomayor). He was invited to write the foreword to John Longres' Men of Color: A Context for Service to Homosexually Active Men (1996) and to Suppes and Wells' The Social Work Experience (2000).

He has also received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Association of Latino/a Social Work Educators, the New York State Social Work Education Association, and the New York State Chapter of

the National Association of Social Workers. For his contributions to the social work profession and those whom it serves, he was named a Social Work Pioneer by the National Association of Social Workers. In 2006, he was named the Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Alumni Association of Syracuse University. He was honored in November 2008 by the National Hispanic Council on Aging with its Special Recognition Award for “outstanding leadership and advocacy on behalf of older Hispanic adults.” In December 2008, he was honored with the Andrus Award, the highest recognition that AARP New York awards for community service. In April 2011, he was awarded the Foundation Award for Outstanding Faculty Member by the SU LGBT Resource Center. In February 2013, he was honored with the Rubenstein Social Justice Award by the School of Social Work. In October 2013, he received the Trailblazer Award for his leadership and contributions to the Latino Community at Syracuse University. In October 2014, he was honored by the New York State Society on Aging for his advocacy on behalf of older persons.

### **Marty Hanlon**

Marty Hanlon is currently a Service Coordinator at the Villa Scalabrini Apartments in Syracuse. He has held positions with local charities and in government. While working for the Department of Community Development he acted as co-chair and administrator of the city of Syracuse Common Council’s Homeless and Housing Vulnerable Taskforce.

### **Beth Hurny**

Ms. Hurny is currently the Executive Director for the Onondaga Council on Alcoholism & Addictions, Inc. d.b.a. Prevention Network, where she has been employed for the past 10 1/2 years. Prior to becoming the Executive Director in September 2014, she served the agency as the Director of Youth & Parenting Services and then as the Director of Services. She is also an adjunct professor in the Human Services Department at Onondaga Community College. Ms. Hurny received a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Services from Cornell University and a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Syracuse University. She is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and a Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC). Ms. Hurny brings over 25 years’ experience in the substance abuse and mental health prevention, treatment, and recovery field. She has worked extensively with youth, adults, families, and communities at large who struggle with these issues.

### **Donna Knapp**

Donna is the Team Leader for Community Collaboration & Engagement at Prevention Network. Donna was previously a Community Development Specialist for the Central Region Prevention Resource Center. Donna offers technical assistance, training experience and relationship building abilities to Onondaga County and the surrounding communities. She supervises the Family Support Navigator, Underage Drinking Prevention, and Drug Free Communities programs. Additionally, in recent years

Donna facilitated the implementation of a Cardinal Health General Rx grant providing community education regarding prescription drug use and misuse for the elder and youth populations.

## **David Mariano**

David Mariano currently oversees Transition Coordination and Outreach for the Pathways for Independence Program at The Salvation Army. He currently serves as part of the Homeless Housing Coalition, Residential Service Provider Group, Civility Committee and Caring Community Advocates. David has extensive experience in several areas of Human Services including case management for varied vulnerable populations including seniors, children, and the developmentally disabled. David is a graduate of Le Moyne College where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

## **Anthony Marrone, II Esq.**

Anthony A. Marrone II focuses his practice — and regularly appears in the news and gives public presentations — in the areas of New York elder law, Medicaid, trust and estates, guardianships, and special needs planning. Anthony's elder law practice focuses on Medicaid pre-planning, including the use of trusts to assist clients in protecting assets in advance of incurring long-term care expenses. Anthony also provides crisis planning to clients who are already in the nursing home and have not implemented an advance plan. Anthony also provides Medicaid application assistance and representation through all stages of the Medicaid application process, including fair hearings and appeals of Medicaid denials.

Through his trusts and estates practice, Anthony helps families protect, preserve, and efficiently transfer wealth. He uses the latest tax-savings strategies to avoid or minimize estate, gift and income taxes. This practice also includes the preparation of wills, trusts, health care proxies and powers of attorneys for individuals and families. Additionally, Anthony provides significant post-mortem planning for executors, trustees and estate fiduciaries, and has handled several will and trust contest proceedings.

Anthony's guardianship and special needs planning practice includes guardianship applications for disabled minors and adults with either mental or physical impairments. Additionally, Anthony regularly prepares trusts for individuals with special needs and clients receiving large settlements seeking to preserve government benefit eligibility. Anthony also serves as legal guardian and trustee for individuals with disabilities, so he has first-hand experience assisting clients who have loved ones facing issues in this area. Anthony also regularly speaks to groups of lawyers on social media marketing and is the author of the book, "The Social Media Marketing Blueprint for Lawyers."

Anthony has been recognized by Upstate New York Super Lawyers and by Lawyers of Distinction, has received Avvo's highest honors and ratings, and was the recipient of the 2015 Onondaga County Bar Association Pro Bono Distinguished Lawyer award. Additionally, The Marrone Law Firm was named one

of Central New York's Best Places to Work in 2017. Prior to founding The Marrone Law Firm, P.C., Anthony practiced in the Estate and Elder Law department of a regional Upstate New York law firm.

### **Christopher Norman, NP**

Chris Norman is a Board Certified Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and Holistic Nurse. As a Nurse's Aide, Registered Nurse and now Nurse Practitioner, Chris has loved working with older people since 2004. A native of the Southern Tier, he earned his Master's Degree with Honors at Yale University, completed an Advance Practice Nurse Fellowship in Geriatrics at New York University, and worked with University Geriatricians at Upstate Medical prior to coming to PACE. Chris is Board Certified through the American Nurse Credentialing Center, is a member of the Gerontological Society of America, Nurse Practitioner Association of New York - Syracuse Chapter, and Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing. Chris is currently a clinical preceptor and guest lecturer in Geriatrics for Nurse Practitioner students at the Upstate College of Nursing. He is an active volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association of Central New York, and also instructs yoga at the Infinite Light Center for Yoga &

### **Mary Panighetti**

Mary Panighetti is the Director of Adult Protective Services (APS) and has worked at APS for the last eight years. Previously, she worked for Onondaga County's Long Term Care Resource Center for 7 years, authorizing Medicaid funded home care services to the elderly and physically and mentally impaired. Before this position, she did case work in Cortland County for the Children's division, including foster care and child protective services. She has worked as a case worker for various human service agencies for 16 years. She is an active participant in the Elder Justice Committee of the Syracuse Area Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition and sits on the Syracuse Elder Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Team.

### **Sarah Reckess, Esq.**

Sarah Reckess is the director at the Center for Court Innovation's Syracuse office, where she oversees multiple projects that seek to improve the justice system and reduce recidivism. Since 2013, Ms. Reckess has led the planning and implementation of the Near Westside Peacemaking Project, which provides free community-based restorative justice services to residents of Onondaga County. Cases are diverted out of the justice system and back to the community for healing and resolution; over 60 community members have been trained by Native American peacemaking experts to provide restorative justice services to the community. In 2017, 44 peacemaking sessions were held with over 70 disputants and 32 community support people.

## **Olive Sephuma**

Olive Sephuma was appointed the Director of the Center for New Americans at InterFaith Works in February 2016. In this role, Olive oversees the agency's refugee resettlement work, providing an array of resettlement and integration services to hundreds of New Americans annually. Olive previously served as director of community grantmaking at the Central New York Community Foundation and as director of foundation relations at Syracuse University. An immigrant from Botswana, she has 24 years' experience in philanthropic, non-profit and governmental sectors in both African and the United States. Ms. Sephuma holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Botswana and an Executive Masters in Public Administration degree from Syracuse University's Maxwell School. She is a 2004 graduate of Leadership Greater Syracuse and lives in Syracuse with her husband and two daughters.

## **Tyler Sliker, LMFT**

Tyler Sliker, LMFT is a License Marriage & Family Therapist currently working as the Clinical Program Coordinator at Vera House, Inc. In this role, Tyler oversees the programmatic and administrative functioning of the clinical program. He also carries a caseload of clients affected by domestic and sexual violence, including older adults. Before stepping into this leadership role, Tyler began his work at Vera House in 2013 as a clinical intern and eventually joined the team as a full-time therapist. Tyler sits on the Onondaga County Trauma Task Force and the PRIDE Coalition, a group of community members focused on fostering healthy relationships among the LGBTQ+ community.

## **Morgan Thurston, Esq.**

Morgan Thurston is an Assistant Welfare Attorney with the Onondaga County Department of Law where he serves as the attorney for the Chronic Care and Protective Services for Adults Units. He previously served as the Administrative Director for Onondaga County Protective Services for Adults. Morgan is part of the training team on the Abuse in Later Life Grant and has assisted in training members of law enforcement and victim service providers. He also has been involved in training Adult Protective workers in New York State at the Adult Abuse Training Institute. Morgan is a founding partner of Moen & Thurston, a general practice firm with a primary emphasis on estate planning, real estate and income taxation. He is a member of the Estate Planning Council of Central New York, New York State Bar Association's Elder Law Section and Co-chair of the Syracuse Area Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition's Elder Justice Committee and sits on the Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team. He was admitted to practice law in New York in 1994. He graduated cum laude from Syracuse University College of Law in 1993 and summa cum laude from SUNY Cortland in 1990.

## **Christopher Norman, NP**

Chris Norman is a Board Certified Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and Holistic Nurse. As a Nurse's Aide,

Registered Nurse and now Nurse Practitioner, Chris has loved working with older people since 2004. A native of the Southern Tier, he earned his Master's Degree with Honors at Yale University, completed an Advance Practice Nurse Fellowship in Geriatrics at New York University, and worked with University Geriatricians at Upstate Medical prior to coming to PACE. Chris is Board Certified through the American Nurse Credentialing Center, is a member of the Gerontological Society of America, Nurse Practitioner Association of New York - Syracuse Chapter, and Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing. Chris is currently a clinical preceptor and guest lecturer in Geriatrics for Nurse Practitioner students at the Upstate College of Nursing. He is an active volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association of Central New York, and also instructs yoga at the Infinite Light Center for Yoga & Wellness in Jamesville.

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