KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Choosing Love as a Solution

presented by

Scarlett Lewis

The 29th Maine Child Welfare Education Annual Conference

Community Violence: Preparing, Responding and Healing

JUNE 27, 2024 CROSS INSURANCE CENTER 515 MAIN ST., BANGOR, ME

Northern Light Health is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the Northeast Multistate Division Education Unit, an accredited approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

7.00 Contact Hours will be provided pending approval

The Maine Medical Education Trust designates this live activity for a maximum of 7.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Approval for Continuing Legal Education credits and Continuing Professional Education credits for Guardians ad Litem is being sought.
Choosing Love as a Solution

Scarlett Lewis

Scarlett experienced the unimaginable when her 6-year-old son Jesse was murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Before he died, Jesse left a message on the kitchen chalkboard that read Nurturing, Healing, Love. Inspired by this message, Scarlett used what she learned during her own research and healing and created a global movement in schools, homes, and communities to motivate all ages to have the courage to be part of the solution. The Choose Love movement foundation is built on the important life skill of Character Social-Emotional Development (CSED) across the life span. Scarlett will discuss the effects negative bias has on daily functioning, along with how it is exacerbating our problems, and the power of proactive prevention to get ahead of the issues. In a world where fear dominates headlines, how can we Choose Love?

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this workshop:

1. Participants will be able to describe why addressing the root cause of pain and suffering is necessary.
2. Participants will be able to describe the neuroscientific basis of how we think.
3. Participants will be able to describe why the diseases of despair are escalating.
4. Participants will be able to describe how Choosing Love or choosing fear influences our decisions.
## MORNING BREAKOUTS

### WORKSHOP A
**Navigating the Duty to Warn for Health Care Professions** - Ragner Jaeger, Esq

In this pivotal training session, designed for most licensed healthcare professionals operating within Maine, we delve into the complex and critical area of the Duty to Warn. With Maine laws as our guide, participants will explore the delicate balance between maintaining patient confidentiality and the legal obligations to report potential threats to third parties. This training is particularly tailored to address the diverse legal frameworks and ethical considerations across different healthcare disciplines, acknowledging that not all providers are governed by the same rules and perspectives on confidentiality breaches.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this workshop:

1. Participants will be able to describe key aspects of the Duty to Warn rule.
2. Participants will be able to describe how to apply patient/client privacy laws in Duty to Warn situations.
3. Participants will be able to identify when Duty to Warn situations exist and steps to discharge their duty.

### WORKSHOP B
**Who is in Charge? The Law Enforcement Response to a Critical Incident** - Sergeant David Farrar, Bangor Police Department Special Response Team, Commander

When an incident involving a law enforcement response occurs in a community, the primary goals of law enforcement are to minimize threats to the community. This is achieved through protocols involving a response, containment, and control, and ultimately a resolution. This resolution varies dependent on the nature of the incident. However, safety of the community and first responders, maintenance of civil order, and property preservation are all top priorities. To achieve those goals, the police utilize resources and employ some procedures and tactics that the public may not understand. One of those resources is a Special Response Team (SRT), sometimes referred to as SWAT. While not disclosing sensitive information that could jeopardize the success of a police response, this presentation will assist in removing some of the mystery and mis-perceptions of the police response and will assist in educating the public as to what can be expected.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this workshop:

1. Participants will be able to describe at least two types of critical incidents in the community to which an SRT would respond.
2. Participants will be able to describe at least two elements of general SRT protocol to a critical incident that civilians could expect during a critical incident.
3. Participants will be able to identify at least two actions civilians should avoid during a critical incident.

### WORKSHOP C
**To Walk in Humility: Reflections on Culture, Power and Self-Awareness** - John Yasenchak, LCPC, LADC, CCS

Borrowing from the Navajo Blessing Way “To Walk in Beauty”, this workshop will offer an opportunity to explore how we walk with humility through our diverse cultural worlds. Utilizing a “critical incident” approach, we will examine how encounters with people different from ourselves can change us not just intellectually but also emotionally. This method of self-reflection, when practiced with humility, can help us discover bias and open our hearts to the diverse beauty of the human person. Institutionally, this type of communal reflection can help uncover the roots of prejudice, racism, and violence, as well as the abuse of power. Participants will be invited to both explore and share the experience of “walking in humility” through our complex cultural worlds as we open our hearts to the possibility of “the Beloved Community” (Dr. Martin Luther King).

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this workshop:

1. Participants will attain a deepened appreciation of self-reflection regarding Cultural Encounters and will be able to describe what that means.
2. Participants will be able to state at least three principles of the cultural-relational approach in the helping professions (counseling, social work, medicine, law, etc.).
3. Participants will be able to articulate how to apply a “critical incident” approach to working with cultural humility.

### WORKSHOP D
**Community Grief & Trauma: Resilience After Tragedy** - Stephanie Cinque, MSW

This presentation will discuss the philosophy, development, and structure of a Resiliency Center after a tragedy. It will also address what individuals need to know about how the brain is impacted by trauma, the importance of making sure all children/youth have one trusted adult and the cost of caring.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this workshop:

1. Participants will be able to describe how the brain is impacted by different types of trauma.
2. Participants will be able to explain how to talk to students about identifying a trusted adult.
3. Participants will be able to recognize and describe the connection between self-care and the success of students.
The following presentation will address the issue of risk assessments of individuals, including examining dynamic vs. static risks, as well as intrinsic and extrinsic factors that can influence risk. Additionally, strategies will be presented to highlight management of such risks, both individually and collaboratively with relevant stakeholders. The content will be presented in both didactic manner as well as case presentations from real life examples.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this workshop:

1. Participants will be able to identify at least three factors that influence risk.
2. Participants will be able to differentiate the difference between dynamic and static risks.
3. Participants will be able to identify at least two tools to manage risks individually and collaboratively with relevant stakeholders.

**Upon completion of this workshop:**

1. Participants will be able to explain the fundamental aspects of MNRI® / Masgutova Method®.
2. Participants will be able to describe the proper development and integration of reflexes, and the effects of damaged reflexes as a result of stress or trauma.
3. Participants will be able to articulate the selected MNRI® / Masgutova Method® techniques that help calm and regulate the nervous system.

**RESILIENCE THROUGH MNRI® REFLEX INTEGRATION - SHANNON DESILETS, PT**

This workshop will provide an overview of MNRI® Therapy (also known as the Masgutova Method®), as well as take away techniques we can all utilize. Reflexes are essential for sensory-motor, behavioral-emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Trauma and stress can affect the function of reflex circuits, resulting in challenges with physical, mental, and cognitive function. The negative protective responses associated with the stress or trauma become anchored in the brain, specifically the areas responsible for fear and worry. During this time together, simple techniques will be provided to help bring more calm for the nervous system. These exercises are simple and can be performed on oneself or with a loved one or client. A therapy background is not at all necessary.

**Supporting Children, Their Families, and Communities in Times of Loss and Grief - SARA ASCH, MA, ET**

Even the youngest of us experience loss when an absence of order or the familiar is felt. The Center for Grieving Children has been supporting children and their families for 37 years, using members of the community as volunteer facilitators in age peer support groups. Long before the terms “ACEs” or “trauma informed practices” were used, the Center implemented a model inclusive of the ideas behind those terms, creating a safe, compassionate, non-judgmental environment to assist those experiencing loss and change. This provides a supportive space where children and adults develop ways to explore and express their feelings in an understanding community, finding their way to integrating the loss into a full, healthy, and meaningful life.

**Preventing Targeted Violence / Maine Threat Assessment Group Overview - SPECIAL AGENT KRISTINA ANGELL**

This presentation will address the concepts of Threat Assessment and Threat Management (TATM) and how to use these methods to prevent acts of targeted violence. It will define many key terms related to TATM principles, as well as provide examples of Pathway to Violence behaviors that offer opportunities for intervention. Case examples are woven throughout, and some content could be considered sensitive. The presentation will also identify what Maine is doing about the prevention of targeted violence.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this workshop:

1. Participants will be able to define what targeted violence is.
2. Participants will be able to identify concerning behaviors indicating someone could be on the Pathway to Violence.
3. Participants will be able to describe what Maine is doing to prevent acts of targeted violence.
**PLENARY #1**

**Building Community Resiliency in the Aftermath of Mass Violence**

*Danielle Parent, JD, LCSW*

Drawing upon the experience of the Maine Resiliency Center, this session will examine the impact of mass violence on communities and explore considerations for building community resiliency in the wake of trauma. The Maine Resiliency Center, operated by Community Concepts Inc, was established in response to the mass shooting in Lewiston, ME on October 25, 2023 and serves as a place for connection and support to those who are impacted by this tragedy.

**Learning Objectives:**

**Upon completion of this workshop:**

1. Participants will be able to describe the community impact of mass violence.
2. Participants will be able to describe how to build community resiliency.
3. Participants will be able to describe the role of the Maine Resiliency Center.

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**PLENARY #2**

**Choosing Love Over Fear for Safety, Health, and Well-Being**

*Scarlett Lewis*

Our personal power as humans is in the choices we make each day. Scarlett understood this as she faced the worst day of her life and had to choose how she moved forward. Love, or fear and anger? As we look at the state of our world, we can focus on 'choice moments' and how we are taking care of ourselves, which allows us to help others, thereby changing the world. Pain is a powerful connector, but so is love. Scarlett will discuss how we can move forward with a new message of how we're treating ourselves and others. This is not limited to a school shooting or Choose Love and can have a tremendous impact in everyone’s lives.

**Learning Objectives:**

**Upon completion of this workshop:**

1. Participants will be able to describe the Choose Love Formula, including how its design returns your Locus of Control to you.
2. Participants will be able to describe how the purpose of pain relates to a redefining of the negative impact of stress.
3. Participants will be able to describe what actions we can take today to become the best versions of ourselves and help solve the problem of community violence.
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FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE POSSIBLE
PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Scarlett Lewis:

Scarlett founded the nonprofit Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement after her six-year-old son’s murder in the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012. She became part of the solution to the issues in society -- and that also caused the tragedy -- and advocates for social-emotional learning and character education. She’s the author of Nurturing Healing Love: A Mother’s Journey of Hope & Forgiveness, a memoir of her journey toward choosing love and forgiveness, and From Sandy Hook to the World. How the Choose Love Movement Transforms Lives, an in-depth look at how Scarlett founded the Movement and its impact around the world today. The Choose Love programming is extended into homes, communities, athletics, and the workplace, and has been accessed in all 50 states and 120 countries, serving over three million children. Speaking across the US and internationally to diverse audiences, Scarlett urges everyone to become part of the solution, dedicating her life to helping children and adults around the world to thrive mentally, socially, and emotionally, and she has been instrumental in changing legislation to incorporate SEL into schools. In 2021, Scarlett was named a Forbes 50 over 50 Impact Honoree, one of 50 women leading the way with impact and changing their communities and the world in ways big and small through social entrepreneurship, law, advocacy, and education.

Ragner Jaeger, Esq:

Prior to joining K & G, Ragner was a Deputy Attorney General for the State of New Jersey, and most recently the Associate General Counsel and Compliance Officer for Perobscot Community Health Care. He has extensive experience working on transactional issues and litigation matters involving health care and regulatory compliance, privacy, employment, contracts, payor reimbursement issues, licensing, grant funding, real estate, and other health law related issues. Ragner works with clients in a variety of matters, including health care, corporate, compliance, and administrative law matters. Ragner has particular expertise in the following areas of practice:

• Advising clients on a variety of healthcare compliance issues, including compliance program effectiveness reviews, conducting billing investigations, payor source related audits, policy drafting, Medicare and Medicaid rules, EMTALA, HRSA, 340B Drug Practicing Program, and other internal program risk management assessments for FQHCs, RHCS, Critical Access Hospitals, and other licensed provider practices.

• Litigation and appeals involving licensing, certification, enrollment, certificates of need, and Medicaid/MaineCare reimbursement/collection.

• Complex contract drafting, review and negotiation, including grant agreements including employment contracts, agreements related to the 340B Drug Pricing Program, and complex multi-party agreements.

• HIPAA/HITECH/42 C.F.R. Part 2 privacy, security and health information technology issues, including HIPAA compliance audits and breach notification.

• Employment and human resource law applicable to health care organizations.

• General Health Law, including providing advice on Stark laws, anti-kickback statute, false claims act, audit repayment obligations, and self-disclosure/ negotiations before DHHS, OIG, CMS, etc.

• Compliance, privacy, and mandated reporter trainings; including trainings on Stark laws, Anti-Kickback statute, and Civil Monetary Penalties including trainings on: the Duty to Warn, Stark laws, Anti-Kickback statute, and Civil Monetary Penalties.

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS:

Admitted to practice law in Maine, New Hampshire, and New Jersey. Ragner is also admitted in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and the Federal District Court of New Jersey.

Special Agent Kristina Angell:

Kristina Angell became a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2019. She has been an agent in the Portland, Maine Resident Agency out of the FBI Boston Field Office since that time and has been the Threat Management Coordinator, as well as the Behavioral Analysis Unit Coordinator for the state of Maine since 2022. SA Angell grew up in New England where she received her bachelor’s degree in psychology, ultimately joining the United States Army, where she served for four years in the Pacific Northwest, as well as in a deployed environment. She also received her master’s degree in forensic psychology in 2017. Since becoming the Threat Management Coordinator for the FBI in Maine, she has developed and chairs the Maine Threat Assessment Group (MTAG), a multi-disciplinary team designed to identify and assess individuals who are exhibiting behaviors indicating they are on the Pathway to Violence and providing mitigation strategies to manage these individuals.

John Yasenchak, Ed.D., LCPC, LADC:

John is contributing faculty in the School of Counseling, Walden University. Previously, he served as Assistant Professor for Graduate Counseling, Husson University, adjunct faculty at the University of Maine, and philosophy instructor at Loyola Baltimore. John has served as Clinical Director for the Penobscot Indian Nation, President of the Maine Counseling Association, and Chair of the North Atlantic Region American Counseling Association. He has a background in philosophy and theological studies, and currently serves on the editorial board of Counseling and Values (Association for Spirituality, Ethical, Religious and Values Issues in Counseling). John has studied with Bhaktivedanta College, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, and with a variety of teachers. John has worked in the addictions and mental health field for nearly forty years, providing direct service and training for clinicians on topics related to spirituality and religion in counseling, digital ethics and AI, Yoga as an adjunct to treatment, and various other topics.

Stephanie Cinque, MSW (she/her):

Stephanie is the Founder and Executive Director of The Resiliency Center of Newtown which was opened in response to the Sandy Hook School shooting on December 12, 2012. Stephanie also works as the Resiliency Program Director for One World Strong and consults with Sandy Hook Promise. Much of her work focuses on responding to communities after a mass violent attack and prevention. Prior to opening the center, Stephanie was a forensic social worker and worked for the Legal Aid Society and CT Division of Public Defender Services. Her background is in the field of trauma, grief, and mass violence response. Her educational expertise includes a master’s degree in social work from Columbia University School of Social Work and a certification in the Neurosequential Model in Education.

Danielle Parent JD, LCSW:

Danielle serves as the Director of the Maine Resiliency Center operated by Community Concepts Inc (CCI). The Maine Resiliency Center was developed in the aftermath of the Mass Shooting that occurred in Lewiston Maine on October 26th, 2023, and serves as a resource for victims, first responders and the community. Danielle has extensive experience in the development, implementation and operations of programs and services particularly in the...
PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

field of mental health and served as the Chief Growth Officer for Sweetser prior to joining CCI. She completed the Hanley Health Leadership Development course in 2020 and was the 2019 recipient of NAMI Maine’s Mental Health Leader award. Danielle graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a Masters in Social Work and a Juris Doctorate in Law. She is a licensed independent clinical social worker.

Dr. Anthony Ng:

Dr. Ng is a board-certified psychiatrist who is the current medical director of Community Services for Northern Light Acadia Hospital. Previously, he served as the medical director of East Region Behavioral Health Network and prior to that, senior physician executive for Northern Light Acadia Hospital. During his previous tenure as senior physician executive, he helped to spearhead the development and implementation of the telepsychiatry program to the various emergency departments throughout the state. Dr. Ng brings with him a breadth of knowledge of the significant challenges facing psychiatric patients in crisis in Maine and has been active in collaboration with other state stakeholders in helping to address the challenges. Dr. Ng has a long history in crisis and emergency psychiatry. He is the past chair of the Coalition for Psychiatric Emergencies. Dr. Ng was also the former president of the American Psychiatric Association for Emergency Psychiatry. Dr. Ng has presented numerous lectures and written extensively on disaster mental health, emergency psychiatry, crisis management, cross-cultural issues, homelessness, substance abuse issues, and other community mental health issues, both domestically and internationally. He has had numerous recognitions for his contributions including the Dr. Ulrich B Jacobsohn Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians, the Mary Floyd Cushman Award for Exceptional Humanitarian Service as Medical Volunteer from the Maine Medical Association, and the Bruno Lima Award and Special Presidential Commendation from the American Psychiatric Association. He was appointed by Governor Mills to be a member of the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine and more recently a member of the Independent Commission reviewing the 2023 Lewiston Mass Shooting.

Shannon Desilets, PT:

Shannon’s professional journey has always been a path of supporting others. She is an MNRI Core Specialist and Instructor, providing therapy to children and adults both nationally and internationally. She was appointed by and worked directly out of the office of Governor Chris Sununu in August of 2018 as Program Director of the Choose Love Movement. Her expertise in brain-based trauma therapy is what first introduced her to the Choose Love Movement, as she has provided MNRI therapy to the Newtown/Sandy Hook CT community for the last 11 years. She is a member of the School Safety Preparedness Taskforce, working directly with NH and US Homeland Security. Further, under her direction, New Hampshire has become the first in the nation to launch Choose Love for Caregivers (designed for foster caregivers and workers in the field), as well as Choose Love in Corrections. She is a published author for STRIVE magazine, sharing what NH has made happen with the Choose Love Movement. In addition, she serves as the Choose Love liaison for governmental departments nationwide. Her current position, Community Wellness Administrator, is now located in the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Behavioral Health. While serving her state in this position, she continues to provide post trauma therapy to those in need, including the Lewiston tragedy’s survivors and their loved ones.

Sara Asch, MA, ET:

Starting as in intern at the Center for Grieving Children in Portland, Maine 19 years ago, Sara now holds responsibility for identifying volunteer training needs, developing the training curriculum to meet those needs, and co-facilitating initial, ongoing, and topical facilitator trainings throughout the year at the Center. As a gifted and knowledgeable public speaker, with years of service to the community for crisis response and education through webinars, newsletters, workshops and trainings, Sara also hosts Wednesday night in person and Monday night virtual Bereavement Peer Support groups at the Center. Having developed an interest in art therapy while working as a K-12 art teacher through witnessing the ways students naturally processed their experiences through their artwork, Sara obtained a Master’s Degree inExpressive Therapies/Counseling from Lesley University with an emphasis in art therapy. In her private practice offering support to children, teens and adults during bereavement and other life transitions, Sara employed expressive modalities to give clients a way to explore and express feelings. Additionally, she has worked as a clinician in a group home setting for adolescents struggling with severe developmental and mental health challenges, using art to help them safely express their feelings when words failed them. One of seven siblings, Sara is forever grateful to the unwavering loving dedication and tremendous effort her parents put into raising their “brood”. They were both grieving children themselves, having each experienced the death of their own mothers and subsequently, the upheaval of their homes and families when they were very young. The more immersed Sara has become in this work, the more she has realized how their losses and grief impacted the way she was raised, recognizing the lifelong impact of childhood grief.

Sergeant David Farrar, Bangor Police Department, Special Response Team Commander:

Sergeant Farrar has been actively employed by the Bangor Maine Police Department since 2011, following by graduating the Maine Criminal Justice Academy’s Basic Law Enforcement Training Program the following December. He has held multiple specialized positions and assignments within the Bangor Police Department including: evidence technician, forensic crash reconstructionist, field training officer, honor guard, less lethal/chemical munitions instructor, active threat response instructor, Special Agent with the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, and Special Response Team member. He currently is assigned as the Commander of Bangor’s Special Response Team (SWAT), and as a lead active threat response instructor.
ABOUT THE VENUE

• No outside food or drink is permitted inside the Cross Insurance Center. Any food or drink must be consumed before entering. This includes coffee and bottled water.

• Visitors to the Cross Insurance Center are subject to security checks, including metal detectors.

• Parking is available adjacent to the venue or in the parking garage across Main Street.

• The staff of the Cross Insurance Center have exceptional culinary skills and capabilities to satisfy a wide range of needs. Please use our information to understand our processes as we work with you to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of your food. If you require food items that are allergen friendly (i.e. dairy free, gluten free, shellfish/fish free, nut free, etc.), please make sure to notify us so we can pass this information along to the Cross Insurance Center. Please keep in mind that the Cross Insurance Center will do everything possible to satisfy all needs, and if they cannot, appropriate warning will be provided.

HOTEL AVAILABILITY

• A block of rooms have been reserved at the Fairfield Inn, 300 Odlin Road, Bangor. The cost is $139 and includes breakfast.
JUNE 27, 2024
8:00 AM - 4:45 PM
(Doors open at 7:15am)

REGISTRATION COST:

$119

Note: You must be pre-registered to attend.
Registration deadline June 14, 2024.
Registration fee is non-refundable, but is transferable.

PLEASE EMAIL ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE CONFERENCE TO:
MaineCWE@gmail.com

Follow @mainechildwelfareeducation on Facebook for more information.

Handouts and reference materials will be available on the Wings website one week prior to the conference. Please print them if you'd like a hard copy.

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