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## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present*

### **Finding Words/Child First New Jersey Forensic Interview Training Program**

**September 20 – 24, 2021**

**September 20, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**September 21, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**September 22, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**September 23, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**September 24, 2021, 8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Morris County Public Safety Training Academy  
500 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Plains NJ, 07950**

#### ***Program Summary***

Finding Words/ChildFirst® New Jersey is an intensive five-day training course in which students learn the skills required to conduct a competent investigative interview of a child abuse victim using the ChildFirst forensic interview process. The interactive course combines lectures with demonstrations and hands-on practice. Students will interview a child about a non-abuse event and an actor playing the role of an abused child and receive feedback from an expert forensic interviewer. FW/CF NJ will provide prosecutors, law enforcement officers, mental health clinicians and child welfare investigators with skills that enhance their ability to speak to and for abused children.

#### ***Eligibility***

This program is open to assistant prosecutors, deputy attorneys general in the Division of Criminal Justice and the Division of Law's DCF Practice Group and law enforcement officers employed by county prosecutors' offices and municipal police departments who have been invited to attend. Students will receive the materials on the day of the program.

## *Faculty*

**Anthony V. D'Urso, Psy.D.** is a graduate professor of psychology at Montclair State University and the Director of Child First/Finding Words – New Jersey. Dr. D'Urso is also the supervising psychologist at The Audrey Hepburn Children's House, the Northern Regional Diagnostic Center for Child Abuse and Neglect located at Hackensack University Medical Center. For over twenty years, Dr. D'Urso has directed mental health programs for maltreated children at three major New Jersey hospital systems. Dr. D'Urso is the former chairman of the New Jersey Child Fatality/Near Fatality Review Board, which reviews all New Jersey child fatalities and recommends preventative measures. Dr. D'Urso has been a longtime member of the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect and co-founded the New Jersey Child Sexual Abuse Training Institute, a funded initiative of the Task Force, for training and development of multi-disciplinary practices in the investigation and management of criminal and civil child abuse cases. Dr. D'Urso's professional expertise includes forensic psychology and the evaluation of child abuse within familial settings, as well as the assessment and risk propensity for sexual offenders. He received a doctorate in psychology from The Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University.

**Dr. Julia A. DeBellis, MD, FAAP** is a child abuse pediatrician at the Dorothy B. Hersh Regional Child Protection Center at Saint Peter's University Children's Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She is board certified in pediatrics and child abuse pediatrics and has contributed to the field of child abuse medicine through research, education, and advocacy. Dr. DeBellis is a member of the Helfer Society and the American Academy of Pediatrics. She served on the boards of the American Professional Society for Abused Children in both New Jersey and Illinois and as a member and co-chairperson on the New Jersey Governor's Task Force, Protection Subcommittee. She has lectured to a wide variety of professionals in the field of child abuse and has is qualified as an expert in child abuse in both criminal and family courts in several jurisdictions. She previously served as Medical Director of the Audrey Hepburn Children's House/Northern Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Center. Dr. DeBellis earned a medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine, completed her pediatrics internship and residency at Montefiore Medical Center/ Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and her child abuse fellowship at Cornell University/ New York Hospital.

**Jason J. Dickinson** is a professor of psychology at Montclair State University. He is an internationally recognized expert and scholar on children's eyewitness testimony and forensic interviewing and co-director of the Talking Lab. The lab is developing recommendations for interviewing fresh complaint witnesses to improve the reliability of hearsay testimony in child maltreatment investigations. The lab's ongoing National Science Foundation supported research on tele-forensic interviewing has been instrumental in shaping policy and training initiatives for safely conducting forensic interviews with children during the Covid-19 pandemic. Professor Dickinson works with the interviewing community to help translate research into practice and is a contributor to the forthcoming update of the Practice Guidelines of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. He earned his Ph.D. in legal psychology from Florida International University.

**Christopher J. Freid** is a Senior Assistant Prosecutor in the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit. He advises the unit's investigative team on child physical and sexual abuse cases and prosecutes these cases in court. Prior to joining the PCPO, Mr. Freid was an Assistant

Prosecutor in the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, serving in the Domestic Violence Unit. He is also an adjunct professor at Montclair State University's Center for Child Advocacy. Mr. Freid holds a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University in New York and a J.D. from Quinnipiac University School of Law in Hamden, Connecticut.

**Giselle Henriquez** is the Director of the Passaic County Child Advocacy Center for the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. She is also a Bilingual Child Interview Specialist, conducting forensic interviews of potential child abuse victims. Ms. Henriquez is a member of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the Passaic County Special Commission on Missing and Abused Children, and the Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council. She holds a certification as a child interviewer from the American Prosecutor's Research Institute. Ms. Henriquez received a Bachelor's in Social Work degree from Ramapo College of New Jersey.

### *CLE Credit*

**NJ CLE Credit:** This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 36.8 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

# Child First/Finding Words NJ – Municipal Training

## September 20- 24, 2021

### Agenda

Date	Time	Topic
Monday Sept. 20	7:30am - 8:15am	Registration & Pre-Test
	8:15am - 9:00am	Welcome & Overview of Training
	9:00 am - 10:00 am	Effective Interviewing
	10:00 am - 10:10 am	Break
	10:10 am - 12:00pm	How Children Experience Sexual Abuse
	12:00 pm - 1pm	Lunch
	1:00 pm - 2:20 pm	Child Development
	2:20 pm - 2:30 pm	Break
	2:30 pm - 3:05 pm	Process of Disclosure
	3:05 pm - 3:15 pm	Break
	3:15 pm - 4:55 pm	Questioning Children
	4:55 pm - 5 pm	Daily Evaluations & Announcements
Tuesday Sept. 21	8am - 9:30 am	ChildFirst Forensic Interview Protocol
	9:30am - 9:40am	Break
	9:40am - 11am	ChildFirst Forensic Interview Protocol
	11 am - 11:15am	Break
	11:15am - 12pm	ChildFirst Forensic Interview Protocol
	12 pm - 1 pm	Lunch
	1 pm - 2:00 pm	Review of the Process
	2:00 pm - 2:10 pm	Break
	2:10 pm - 3:30 pm	Anatomical Dolls
	3:30 pm - 3:40 pm	Break
	3:40 pm - 4:55 pm	Blocks & Block Removal in the Interview Process
	4:55 pm - 5pm	Daily Evaluations & Announcements
Wednesday Sept. 22	8am - 9:30am	Corroboration
	9:30am - 9:40am	Break
	9:40am - 11:00 am	Testifying in court
	11:00 am - 11:15 am	Break
	11:15 am - 12:15am	Hearsay & The Child Victim: Getting Out-of-Court Statements into Court
	12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch
	1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	Preparing the Child Witness for Court
	2:15pm - 2:30 pm	Break
	2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Medical Evaluations
	3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Daily Evaluations & Announcements

Date	Time	Topic
Thursday Sept. 23	8am - 10 am	Potential Sources of Error in Children's Eyewitness Testimony
	10 am - 10:15am	Break
	10:15 am - 10:30am	Skill Building Exercise: Crossword Puzzle
	10:30 am - 11am	Course Review
	11am	Break into Small Groups
	11am - 11:10am	Actor Interview instructions
	11:10am - 11:55am	Exercise: Student Interview # Feedback #1
	11:55am - 12:40 pm	Exercise: Student Interview # Feedback #2
	12:40 pm - 1:40 pm	Lunch
	1:40pm - 2:25pm	Exercise: Student Interview # Feedback #3
	2:25pm - 3:10pm	Exercise: Student Interview # Feedback #4
	3:10pm - 3:20pm	Break
	3:20pm - 4:05pm	Exercise: Student Interview # Feedback #5
	4:05pm - 4:50pm	Exercise: Student Interview # Feedback #6
	4:55pm - 5pm	Daily Evaluations & Announcements
Friday Sept. 24	8:15am - 9am	Exercise: Student Interview # Feedback #7
	9am - 9:45am	Exercise: Student Interview # Feedback #8
	9:45am - 10am	Break
	10am - 10:45am	Exercise: Student Interview # Feedback #9
	10:45am - 11:30am	Exercise: Student Interview # Feedback #10
	11:30am - 1:00 pm	Lunch/Study
	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Final Exam
	2:00pm - 2:30pm	Closing Ceremony & Awarding of Certificates
	2:30pm - 3pm	Overall Evaluations