



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Finding Words/Child First New Jersey Forensic Interview Training Program

October 25 – 29, 2021

October 25, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

October 26, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

October 27, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

October 28, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

October 29, 2021, 8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Department of Children and Families
Child Welfare Training Academy
30 Van Dyke Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901**

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.

Faculty

Assistant Prosecutor Christie Bevacqua is Section Chief of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Special Victims Unit. She has also served in the Juvenile, Trial Team, Special Victims and Homicide Units. AP Bevacqua has tried approximately 50 jury trials to conclusion, including aggravated sexual assault, murder, and official misconduct. She completed a judicial clerkship with the Hon. Barnett E. Hoffman, P.J.Cr. (Ret.). AP Bevacqua graduated magna cum laude from Monmouth College (now Monmouth University) and holds a J.D., cum laude, from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America.

Brett A. Biller, Psy.D. is the Mental Health Director at the Audrey Hepburn Children's House at Hackensack University Medical Center. The AHCH is one of four legislatively designated Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Centers and provides mental health and medical services for five northern New Jersey counties. Dr. Biller has worked in three of New Jersey's RDTCs, including serving as the Training Director at the Dorothy B. Hirsh RDTC. In addition to his clinical responsibilities, Dr. Biller served on the Executive Board and was Chair of the Committee on Legislative Affairs of the New Jersey Psychological Association. He also served as President of New Jersey's chapter of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. Dr. Biller holds an undergraduate degree from Rutgers University and graduate degrees from Pace University.

Dr. Julia A. DeBellis, MD, FAAP is a child abuse pediatrician at the Dorothy B. Hersch 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.

Dr. Nicole Lytle is an Associate Professor of Social Work and Child Advocacy at Montclair State University. Her research interests are in forensic developmental psychology and include examining interviewing techniques used with child witnesses. Dr. Lytle teaches courses on forensic interviewing of children, developmental psychology, and forensic psychology. She received her Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Toledo.

Nicole Ortiz is a Prosecutor's Agent in the Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. She conducts many of the forensic interviews in the Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit. Agent Ortiz holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology and Investigations from West Virginia University.

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

October 25-29, 2021

Agenda

Date	Time	Topic
Monday, Oct. 25	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, Oct. 26	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, Oct. 27	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, Oct. 28	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, Oct. 29	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