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## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present*

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

**October 24 – 28, 2022**

**October 24, 2022, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**October 25, 2022, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**October 26, 2022, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**October 27, 2022, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**October 28, 2022, 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. Students will receive the materials on the day of the program.

## *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.

**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. Martin A. Finkel, DO, F.A.C.O.P., F.A.A.P.,** is a Professor of Pediatrics and the Medical Director and co-founder of the Child Abuse Research Education & Service (CARES) Institute at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. The CARES Institute was designated in 2004 as a statewide resource to inform best practices in the delivery of medical and mental health diagnostic and treatment services. Dr. Finkel is an internationally recognized authority on the medical evaluation and treatment children who allege sexual abuse. He was instrumental in developing New Jersey's statewide network of child abuse diagnostic and treatment centers, which provide services for sexually and physically abused children and educate professionals within the medical, child protection, law enforcement, and mental health communities on the evaluation of child victims. Dr. Finkel has been appointed by eight Governors to co-chair with the Commissioner of Children and Families, New Jersey's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Dr. Finkel received his medical degree from Michigan State University and his B.S. from Millersville University of Pennsylvania.

**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 – Municipal Training

## October 24 - 28, 2022

### Agenda

Date	Time	Topic
Monday Oct. 24	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. 25	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. 26	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. 27	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. 28	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