

61st State School Social Work Conference

Presented by the:

New York State School Social Workers' Association

November 11 – 13, 2026



**"The New School Social Work Reality:
Supporting Student Mental Health in a Changing and Complex World"**

Meet the Presenters

**Ithaca Conference Center
Ithaca, NY**



Keynote Presenters

Opening Keynote: "School Social Work in the Age of AI " by Marina Badillo-Diaz, DSW, LCSW



Dr. Marina Badillo-Diaz is an experienced social worker, educator, and administrator with a strong background in community mental health and education. She is the founder of MABD Consulting and creator of *The AI Social Worker*, a professional learning brand dedicated to helping social workers and educators ethically and responsibly integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into their practice. To date, Dr. Badillo-Diaz has trained more than 6,500 social workers across the U.S. and Canada on using AI to enhance ethical, efficient, and human-centered practice. She also serves as an adjunct professor, teaching graduate-level courses on AI and Social Work, Mental Health and AI, and School Social Work Practice with AI and Technology. Dr. Badillo-Diaz currently serves as Secretary on the School Social Work Association of America.

General Session: "From Pain to Purpose: Rethinking Co-Occurring Disorders in Youth" by Stephanie Marquesano, JD, Consultant Substance Abuse MH Services Admin Opioid Response Network



Stephanie Marquesano, an Ardsley, NY resident, founded the Harris Project in 2013 after the accidental overdose death of her 19-year-old son, Harris. Co-occurring disorders (COD) - the combination of mental health challenges and substance use issues - affects more than 20 million Americans, yet integrated care remains rare. A national leader in systems transformation, Stephanie is dedicated to advancing co-occurring competency across prevention, treatment, and recovery. She created CODA (Co-Occurring Disorders Awareness), a peer-led prevention effort, and most recently collaborated with leading organizations to develop and implement a first-of-its-kind COD prevention and education curriculum now being utilized in schools and communities. Through federal and state grants, her work has expanded access to evidence-based treatment in Westchester County, while the Harris Project's award-winning campaigns continue to shift public perception and inspire change. Stephanie earned her Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law.

General Session: "Helping Students Overcome the Power of Perfectionism" by Kimberly Morrow, LCSW



Kimberly Morrow is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Erie, PA. She holds a Master's in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Kimberly has been specializing in treating people with anxiety and OCD for over 35 years and teaching other professionals how to treat anxiety for over 15 years. Kimberly is a graduate of the International Obsessive Compulsive Foundation's Behavior Therapy Institute. She is a former board member of the Obsessive-Compulsive Foundation of Pennsylvania and an active member of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, serving on many committees. She is the 2012 recipient of the Clinician Outreach Award, the 2015 Member of Distinction Award, and the 2026 Jerilynn Ross Clinician Advocate award from the Anxiety and Depression Association of America. She is the author of *Face It and Feel It: 10 Simple But Not Easy Ways to Live Well With Anxiety* (2011) and co-author of *CBT for Anxiety: A Skills Training Manual for the Treatment of Fear, Panic, Worry, and OCD* (2018, PESI, Inc.) Kimberly is the co-owner of Anxiety Training, an online platform to provide anxiety training and case consultation to clinicians and schools.

61st NYSSSWA State Conference – Schedule of Events with Bios

Wednesday, 11/11/2026 Pre-Conference (1.5 CEs) [Optional]



6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Registration at **The Hotel Ithaca**

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm "Therapeutic Tools and Self-Care for School Social Workers" by Jill Wojcik Pula, LCSW

Jill Wojcik Pula is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has her 500-hour Registered Yoga Teacher with a focus on Ayurvedic Wellness. Ayurveda is one of the world's oldest alternative medical systems that relies on a natural and holistic approach to physical and mental health. She is a Certified Kids, Youth & Family Yoga Teacher, and is also a Mat & Advanced Apparatus Pilates Instructor. She believes that movement is healing, and a strong mind-body connection creates awareness and space to learn about oneself.

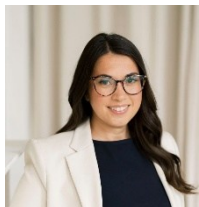
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm **Welcome Reception – Please Join Us at The Hotel Ithaca**

Thursday 11/12/2026 (6 CEs)

8:00 am – 8:45 am Registration & Breakfast Buffet at **the Ithaca Conference Center**.

8:45 am – 9:00 am Welcome & Opening Remarks

9:00 am – 10:30 am **Opening Keynote: "School Social Work in the Age of AI" by Marina Badillo-Diaz, DSW, LCSW (1.5 CEs)**



Dr. Marina Badillo-Diaz is an experienced social worker, educator, and administrator with a strong background in community mental health and education. She is the founder of MABD Consulting and creator of *The AI Social Worker*, a professional learning brand dedicated to helping social workers and educators ethically and responsibly integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into their practice. To date, Dr. Badillo-Diaz has trained more than 6,500 social workers across the U.S. and Canada on using AI to enhance ethical, efficient, and human-centered practice. She also serves as an adjunct professor, teaching graduate-level courses on AI and Social Work, Mental Health and AI, and School Social Work Practice with AI and Technology. Dr. Badillo-Diaz currently serves as Secretary on the School Social Work Association of America.

10:30 am – 10:45 am Break

10:45 am – 12:15 pm Breakout Sessions A: (1.5 CEs)

A1: "Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth: Tools & Strategies for School Social Workers" by Jack Kavanaugh, LMSW

Jack Kavanaugh is a nonprofit executive, licensed social worker, educator, and elected official based in Amherst, New York. He serves as Executive Director of GLYS: Growing LGBTQ+ Youth Support and the Pride Center of Western New York, where he leads regional LGBTQ+ programs, advocacy, fundraising, partnerships, and organizational growth. Jack also serves on the Amherst Town Board and has taught in social work and nonprofit leadership

10/19/2026

settings. He holds an MSW from the University at Buffalo, a graduate certificate in Public Management from SUNY Buffalo State, and a BA from Goucher College.

A2: "Steps to Attendance: Understanding and Overcoming School Avoidance" by Robin DeLuca-Acconi, Ph.D., LCSW



Robin DeLuca-Acconi, Ph.D., LCSW is a Clinical Associate Professor and the Director of School Social Work Programs at Stony Brook University. She serves as the University Liaison NYSSSWA. Dr. DeLuca-Acconi is a member of the SB Children's Hospital CARE program, providing consultation to schools throughout Long Island.

She hosts the Long Island School Social Work Conference every year, hosting over 150 school social workers, creating community and connections for SSWers/ She was a school social worker from 1999-2019 providing services that have benefited countless students and families. She is passionate about equity in education, publishing several articles and chapters about SSW in a human rights framework as well as the intersection between SSW, systemic burnout and radical self care.

A3: "Tap Into Their Nervous System: Strategies to Bring Balance to Your Students" by Lauren Etu, MS



A 25-year veteran school psychologist, Ms. Etu has worked with students of all ages across Western New York. She grew frustrated with traditional behavior plans, special education referrals, and counseling which rarely seemed to help students to the degree hoped. Tired of bureaucracy and band-aids, Ms. Etu took a deep dive into neuroscience and surfaced with new insights for her students and their teachers.

At the same time, Ms. Etu became a registered yoga teacher as well as a certified trauma-resiliency coach. This training increased her knowledge of the biological foundations behind behaviors. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, Ms. Etu's toolbox grew with new strategies to assist children.

She has shared these tools with teachers not only in her own school but from across the country via presentations and workshops. Ms. Etu has taught students about their own nervous system and ways to find regulation for themselves.

Ms. Etu received her Masters of Science and Certificate of Advanced Studies for School Psychology and School Psychology for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology. She has over 500 hours of training as a certified yoga instructor including yoga for children and mental health. Ms. Etu is trauma-informed and resiliency-focused.

She is passionate about her work and motivates others to implement these somatic tools in the classroom. She founded Ahimsa Yoga 716 to bring the many benefits of yoga to adults and children. Ms. Etu is a self-proclaimed data nerd, book lover, and believer in human kindness.

A4: "Clinical Leadership in Crisis: School Social Workers on the Frontline of Threat Assessment and Crisis Response" by Paul Dischiavo, LCSW-R; Jodi Kapes, LCSW-R; Krystyna Feola, Sergeant; Trish Hoyer, LCSW

Paul Dischiavo, LCSW-R



Paul Dischiavo, LCSW-R, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has worked for over twenty-five years as an elementary social worker in the Sauquoit Valley School District. In addition to his other duties, Paul also heads the district's crisis response team.

Paul co-authored the OHM BOCES School Crisis Response plan that is used by their local and regional component school districts. He is one of the founder's of the OHM BOCES Regional Crisis Response Team and provides crisis training and support to many local districts.

Paul operates his own practice where he specializes in working with children, teens, and young adults with anxiety, and behavioral issues.



Jodi Kapes, LCSW has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for more than 25 years. She spent the first half of her career working with children both in schools and residential settings. For more than the last decade she has worked as the Director of Behavioral Health at two different health systems developing their behavioral health programs. She is a trauma specialist and trained in yoga and meditation.



Tricia Hoyer, LCSW **Trish Hoyer, LCSW**, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified School Social Worker with more than 30 years of experience supporting children and adolescents in school and clinical settings. A two-time Syracuse University graduate, she serves as the high school social worker at New Hartford Senior High School, where she chairs the department of school social workers and psychologists and supervises LMSWs pursuing clinical licensure. co-leads the district's crisis response team. Trish serves a leadership role in both New Hartford Central School District Crisis Response and the OHM BOCES Crisis Response Team, providing crisis support and training to schools throughout the Mohawk Valley. From 2017–2025, she served on the NYSSSWA Executive Board and as a Regional Representative.

Seargent, Krystyna Feola

A5: "Putting the 'Good' in Goodfellas"/ "Empowering Young Men. Strengthening Mental Health. Building Connection" by Paul Thompson, LMSW



Paul Thompson, LMSW, is a licensed Master of Social Work and high school social worker at Hamburg High School, where he specializes in male student empowerment and breaking down mental health barriers. Prior to his career in education, Paul served in the U.S. Army, an experience that shaped his dedication to service and community. Following his military career, he earned his Master of Social Work and later obtained an Advanced Certificate in Sports Psychology and Social Work from the University of Michigan.

Driven by a passion to support young men, Paul founded Goodfellas, an all-male empowerment club at Hamburg High School designed to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health among male students. At this conference, he will share insights from the program, offering practical strategies to engage male youth and foster emotionally resilient environments.

Beyond his clinical and school work, Paul is deeply involved in youth development through sports, drawing on his experience as a former collegiate lacrosse player. He actively coaches both hockey and lacrosse. Paul lives locally and is the proud father of five boys.

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch Buffet, Ruth Schwartz Award

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Breakout Sessions B (1.5 CEs)

B1: "AI and Youth Mental Health" by Marina Badillo-Diaz, DSW, LCSW



Dr. Marina Badillo-Diaz is an experienced social worker, educator, and administrator with a strong background in community mental health and education. She is the founder of MABD Consulting and creator of *The AI Social Worker*, a professional learning brand dedicated to helping social workers and educators ethically and responsibly integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into their practice. To date, Dr. Badillo-Diaz has trained more than 6,500 social workers across the U.S. and Canada on using AI to enhance ethical, efficient, and human-centered practice. She also serves as an adjunct professor, teaching graduate-level courses on AI and Social Work, Mental Health and AI, and School Social Work Practice with AI and Technology. Dr. Badillo-Diaz currently serves as Secretary on the School Social Work Association of America.

B2: "The Stickers Aren't Working: Moving Beyond the Failed Reward Chart.: Social Work Behavior Modification for Students" by Stephanie Columbia, Ed.D., LCSW-R, BCBA, LBA



Dr. Stephanie Columbia, EdD, LCSW, BCBA, LBA, brings over 25 years of public education experience as a former school social worker and district administrator. Drawing on a multidisciplinary background bridging clinical mental health and applied behavior analysis, she operates a full-time private practice and serves as graduate adjunct faculty at two local universities. Additionally, Dr. Columbia works as a consultant for school districts, providing professional development and hands-on training for educators in behavioral management and intervention planning. She frequently presents on translating complex behavioral principles into sustainable, trauma-informed, and practical classroom strategies that support multidisciplinary teams and diverse learners.

B3: "Building Resilience in a Complex World: Practical School-Based Strategies from Polyvagal Theory" (Self Regulations and De-escalation) by Laurie Belanger LCSW-R



With over 25 years of clinical social work experience, **Laurie M. Belanger, LCSW-R**, has deep expertise in trauma, sensory processing, chronic pain and neurodiversity. She is an approved EMDRIA Consultant and Education Provider, professionally trained in Trust-Based Relational She is an approved EMDRIA Consultant and Education Provider, professionally trained in Trust-Based Relational Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development, and an Official Safe and Sound Protocol (SSP) Clinical Mentor for Unyte. Laurie delivers national translating complex neuroscience and Polyvagal Theory into relatable, impactful practice. She specializes in enhancing clinician attunement, cross-disciplinary education, and safely integrating trauma-informed interventions across diverse school and community learning environments successfully.

B4: "Burnout-Proofing the Work: Sustainable Self-Care & Ethical Boundaries for School Social Workers" by Jennifer Schwytzer, LCSW, PLLC



Jen Schwytzer is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with more than 20 years of experience in trauma-informed mental health care. As a foster and adoptive parent, she's also lived the realities of trauma, attachment, and caregiver burnout firsthand. Her work speaks to professionals who carry both the complexity of supporting kids with trauma histories and the emotional toll of being the person everyone else relies on. Jen offers trauma-informed tools for the students they serve, and sustainable resilience for themselves. No generic self-care advice, just honest, practical tools from someone who's been burned out and rebuilt.

B5: "Human Trafficking – Assessing, Assisting, and Advocating" by Christina Diaz, LMSW & Molly Johnson, M.Ed.



Christina Diaz, MSW, MPA began her career with the Westchester County Department of Social Services in 2005. For 10 years Mrs. Diaz worked in the Safe Harbor Program, gaining extensive experience in child safety, family assessment, crisis intervention, and connecting families with needed resources. She is currently the Supervisor of the Safe Harbor Program, where she is committed to supporting youth who are at risk of or experiencing human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Her extensive experience in child welfare, human trafficking, and social services continues to guide her work in supporting youth and families and strengthening community responses to exploitation.



Molly Johnson, MEd, Guidance and Personnel Services brings more than a decade of experience working with vulnerable youth impacted by or at risk of human trafficking. She joined The Greater Mental Health of New York in 2006 and has been a member of the Westchester County Department of Social Services Safe Harbor Program since its inception in 2013. Throughout her career, Ms. Johnson has focused on advocacy, education, prevention, and trauma-informed support for young people navigating complex and challenging experiences. Her experience provides a practical

perspective on identifying vulnerabilities, connecting youth to resources, and building supportive pathways toward restorative healing.

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm Break

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm General Session: "From Pain to Purpose: Rethinking Co-Occurring Disorders in Youth" by Stephanie Marquesano, JD, Consultant Substance Abuse MH Services Admin Opioid Response Network (1.5 CEs)



Stephanie Marquesano, an Ardsley, NY resident, founded *the harris project* in 2013 following the accidental overdose death of her 19-year-old son, Harris. The organization is the only national nonprofit dedicated to co-occurring disorders (COD), the combination of mental health challenges and substance use issues. Stephanie has become a national leader advancing prevention, early intervention, integrated treatment and systems transformation for individuals and families impacted by COD.

Stephanie created CODA (Co-Occurring Disorders Awareness), a youth-led prevention movement, and developed the first Co-Occurring Disorders Prevention Curriculum in collaboration with

Partnership to End Addiction, now implemented in schools and communities. She also advances access to Encompass, an evidence-based integrated treatment model for adolescents and young adults with COD.

As co-chair of Westchester County's Co-Occurring System of Care Committee, Stephanie works across mental health, substance use, education, government and community systems to break down silos and strengthen co-occurring capability. She serves as a national consultant to the Opioid Response Network and is a former member of the New York State Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board. Under her leadership, *the harris project's* award-winning national campaigns continue to advance awareness and understanding of COD. Stephanie earned her BA from Brooklyn College and JD from New York University School of Law.

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Hors d'oeuvre Reception, Network, Prizes and more... at The Ithaca Hotel

Friday 11/13/2026 (5.5 CEs)

7:30 am – 8:30 am Breakfast Buffet the Ithaca Conference Center

8:00 am – 8:30 am NYSSSWA Annual Meeting

8:30 am – 10:00 am General Session: "Helping Students Overcome the Power of Perfectionism" by Kimberly Morrow, LCSW (1.5 CEs)



[Kimberly Morrow](#) is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Erie, PA. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Master's in Social Work, Kimberly has been specializing in treating people with anxiety and OCD for over 30 years and teaching other professionals how to treat anxiety for over 15 years. Kimberly is a graduate of the International Obsessive Compulsive Foundation's Behavior Therapy Institute. She is a former board member of the Obsessive-Compulsive Foundation of Pennsylvania and an active member of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, serving on many committees. She is the 2012 recipient of the Clinician Outreach Award and the 2015 Member of Distinction Award from the Anxiety and Depression Association of America. She is the author of *Face It and Feel It: 10 Simple But Not Easy Ways to Live Well With Anxiety* (2011) and co-author of *CBT for Anxiety: A Skills Training Manual for the Treatment of Fear, Panic, Worry, and OCD* (2018, PESI, Inc.) Kimberly is the co-owner of [AnxietyTraining](#), an online platform to provide anxiety training and case consultation to clinicians and school staff.

10:00 am – 10:15 am BREAK

10:15 am – 11:45 pm Breakout Sessions C (1.5 CEs)

C1: "Ethics Part 1: Establishing & Maintaining Appropriate Professional Boundaries: Licensing, Ethical Standards, Boundaries: by Courtney Hill, LCSW, CSWM; (contributions by Christopher Scoville, JD & Deena Mikhail, JD) **(Need both sessions to fulfill New York's Ethics/ Boundary requirements.)**

Courtney Hill is NYSUT's Social Services Specialist, and a licensed clinical social worker with a history of working in child welfare and the health care industry. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and criminal justice from Canisius College, a master's degree in social work from the University at Albany, and a graduate certificate in palliative care from Smith College. She is experienced in short-term counseling, crisis intervention, family mediation, victim assistance and advocacy, motivational interviewing, and identifying strengths and needs to assess appropriate service referrals. She has provided training and mentoring in the areas of compassion fatigue, secondary trauma, problem-solving skills training, and managing chronic illness.

C2: Part 1: "Advancing Prevention and Awareness of Co-Occurring Disorders: Implementing and Supporting the COD Curriculum in High School Settings" by Stephanie Marquesano, JD, Consultant Substance Abuse MH Services Admin Opioid Response Network (Must attend Part 1 & 2)



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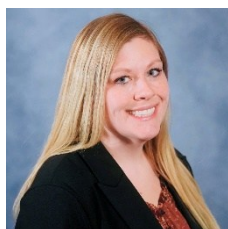
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C3: "Functional Assessment and Behavior Intervention Planning: Behavior Management Uncovered" by Stephanie Columbia, Ed.D., LCSW R, BCBA, LBA



Dr. Stephanie Columbia, EdD, LCSW, BCBA, LBA, brings over 25 years of public education experience as a former school social worker and district administrator. Drawing on a multidisciplinary background bridging clinical mental health and applied behavior analysis, she operates a full-time private practice and serves as graduate adjunct faculty at two local universities. Additionally, Dr. Columbia works as a consultant for school districts, providing professional development and hands-on training for educators in behavioral management and intervention planning. She frequently presents on translating complex behavioral principles into sustainable, trauma-informed, and practical classroom strategies that support multidisciplinary teams and diverse learners.

C4: "It Takes a Village: The Role of the Attorney for the Child, and How We Can Work Together to Advocate for Children" by Rebecca Considine, Esq, Rachel Ritzenthaler, LMSW; Clare Smokowski, Esq, Katharine Noonan, BSW, MSW Student



Rebecca Considine, Esq. is the Executive Director of Attorneys for Children of WNY, Inc. Prior to this role, she was the Chief Attorney of the Attorneys for Children Unit at the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, where she worked for over a decade. As Executive Director of AFCWNY she leads a multidisciplinary team of attorneys, social workers, and child advocates representing children in neglect, abuse, custody, visitation, and juvenile delinquency matters. She provides direct legal representation for youth and supervises the representation of thousands of children and young adults in Erie County Family Court each year. She has devoted her career to giving youth a voice and protecting their

rights and interests of children and families. She specializes in child welfare matters subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and is an active participant in the Erie County Court Improvement Project through her work on the Better for Families committee. Rebecca holds a Master's Degree in Social Work and a Juris Doctor from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work and Law.



Clare Smokowski is an education attorney at Attorneys for Children of Western New York, Inc. Her practice includes special education, school discipline, and school stability for children in Erie County Family Court and greater Western New York. Clare earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Canisius University and her Juris Doctor from the University at Buffalo School of Law as a Pro Bono Scholar. Clare has always been passionate about advocating for children with disabilities. She is both inspired and motivated by her brother who is on the autism spectrum and has an

intellectual disability.



Rachel Ritzenthaler is a Licensed Social Worker with 16 years of experience supporting individuals and families through a variety of life challenges. Previously, she worked with people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health. She is dedicated to providing supportive services and connecting individuals with resources that promote stability, growth, and empowerment. As a trauma-informed professional,

Rachel approaches her work with compassion, empathy, and an understanding of how past experiences can impact a person's well-being and ability to move forward.



Katie Noonan has been a Child Advocate working alongside attorneys for children for the past nine years, supporting court involved youth. In this role, she collaborates with schools, service providers, and other professionals to ensure that the needs, perspectives, and best interests of the children remain at the forefront of decision-making. Prior to working with Attorneys for Children, she spent six years working in

child welfare as a senior child protective worker. Katie is currently in her third year of the Master's in Social Work program at the University at Buffalo. Her professional experience and ongoing social work education inform her commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, client-centered advocacy, and supporting positive outcomes for children and families navigating complex systems.

C5: "DBT Distress Tolerance in Schools: Practical Skills for Helping Students Manage Difficult Emotions and Challenging Moments" by Monique Johnson, LCSW



Monique Johnson is a licensed clinical social worker, certified school social worker, and certified health and wellness coach who specializes in evidence-based counseling practices for early adolescents, teens, young adults, adults, elderly, and families. In addition to private practice, Monique is currently a school social worker at Ardsley High School, a position she has held for over 20 years. Prior to working in a school setting, she worked as a clinical social worker in geriatrics, psychiatry, and substance abuse. Monique received her

master's in clinical social work degree from Fordham University. She has extensive training and experience in both dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) and cognitive behavior therapy (CBT). In 2008, she and her colleagues at Ardsley High School were one of the first schools in the country to implement a comprehensive DBT program in a school setting and DBT for parenting. In more recent years, Monique and her colleagues at Ardsley also began implementing school-based CBT as well.

Monique has a strong interest and commitment to assisting cancer patients and their families. In 2006, she facilitated breast cancer support groups at Gilda's Club of Westchester. In 2007, she co-founded a not-for-profit organization, In the Pink Foundation to help young breast cancer survivors and their families by

offering support groups, resources, and social activities. Monique is also well-trained in prevention work. She designed and implemented one of the first wellness centers in a high school setting. She organizes annual district-wide wellness fairs. She helps inform students, staff, and parents on wellness and health concerns. As a certified health and wellness coach, Monique counsels on transforming health through habit change. Monique is trained in mindfulness and incorporates mindfulness practice into much of her work. She holds certificates in MBSR, MBSR- T, yoga, and mindfulness techniques. Lastly, Monique is a seasoned prevention speaker, with over 27 years of experience in presenting on wellness, parenting strategies, teen challenges, stress reduction, and communication skills.

11:45 am - 12:45 pm Lunch Buffet

12:45 pm – 2:15 pm Breakout Sessions D (1.5 CEs)

D1: Ethics: "Establishing & Maintaining Appropriate Professional Boundaries: Ethics, Boundaries, HIPAA vs FERPA" by Courtney Hill, LCSW, CSWM; Christopher Scoville, JD & Deena Mikhail, JD **(Need both sessions to fulfill New York's Ethics/ Boundary requirements.)**

Courtney Hill is NYSUT's Social Services Specialist, and a licensed clinical social worker with a history of working in child welfare and the health care industry. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and criminal justice from Canisius College, a master's degree in social work from the University at Albany, and a graduate certificate in palliative care from Smith College. She is experienced in short-term counseling, crisis intervention, family mediation, victim assistance and advocacy, motivational interviewing, and identifying strengths and needs to assess appropriate service referrals. She has provided training and mentoring in the areas of compassion fatigue, secondary trauma, problem-solving skills training, and managing chronic illness.

Christopher R. Scoville, Esq. is an Associate Senior Counsel in the New York State United Teachers Office of General Counsel representing in-service members and retirees throughout New York's schools, colleges, and healthcare facilities. As a union-side attorney, Chris represents education, healthcare, and school-related professionals and their unions in litigation throughout the State of New York in state and federal courts, arbitrations, and before various administrative agencies. He represents and advises clients in employment and traditional labor issues, litigation, disciplinary hearings, and matters arising under New York State's Education Law. Chris also served as a law clerk at NYSUT during law school.

Deena S. Mikhail, Esq. is an Associate Counsel in the New York State United Teachers Office of General Counsel representing in-service members and retirees throughout New York's schools, colleges, and healthcare facilities. As a union-side attorney, Deena represents education, healthcare, and school-related professionals and their unions in litigation throughout the State of New York in state and federal courts, arbitrations, and before various administrative agencies. She represents and advises clients in employment and traditional labor issues, litigation, disciplinary hearings, and matters arising under New York State's Education Law.

D2: Part 2: "Advancing Prevention and Awareness of Co-Occurring Disorders: Implementing and Supporting the COD Curriculum in High School Settings" by Stephanie Marquesano, JD, Consultant Substance Abuse MH Services Admin Opioid Response Network **(Must attend Part 1 & 2)**

See Session C2.

D3: "Helping Students Face Fears: A Practical Anxiety Skills Group for Schools" by Brianna Morrow, LCSW



Brianna Morrow is a licensed clinical social worker experienced in working with children, teens, and young adults living with OCD and other anxiety disorders. Brianna is also the co-owner of We Are Courageous Kids, an organization that provides a space for children to gain practical knowledge to understand their mental health needs and learn skills to face their fears in a fun and supportive environment. Brianna was also a 2023 awardee of the Allies Muskin Career Development Leadership Program.

D4: "The School Social Worker's Guide to the Committee on Special Education" by Rebecca Considine, Esq, MSW; Rachel Ritzenthaler, LMSW; Clare Smokowski, Esq, Katharine Noonan, BSW, MSW Student

See Session C4.

D5: "DBT Mindfulness in Schools: Practical Skills for Student Focus, Emotional Regulation, and Classroom Success" by Monique Johnson, LCSW

See Session C5.

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm Break

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm General Session: "Navigating Student Anxiety: Real Cases, Practical Solutions for School Social Workers" by Kimberly Morrow, LCSW & Brianna Morrow, LCSW (1 CE)



Kimberly Morrow is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Erie, PA. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Master's in Social Work, Kimberly has been specializing in treating people with anxiety and OCD for over 30 years and teaching other professionals how to treat anxiety for over 15 years. Kimberly is a graduate of the International Obsessive Compulsive Foundation's Behavior Therapy Institute. She is a former board member of the Obsessive-Compulsive Foundation of Pennsylvania and an active member of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, serving on many committees. She is the 2012 recipient of the Clinician Outreach Award and the 2015 Member of Distinction Award from the Anxiety and Depression Association of America. She is the author of Face It and Feel It: 10 Simple But Not Easy Ways to Live Well With Anxiety (2011) and co-author of CBT for Anxiety: A Skills Training Manual for the Treatment of Fear, Panic, Worry, and OCD (2018, PESI, Inc.) Kimberly is the co-owner of [AnxietyTraining](#), an online platform to provide anxiety training and case consultation to clinicians and school staff.



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3:30 pm Closing – Safe Travels!

See You In Ithaca!

