

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PRESENTERS

*(This list does not include Full-day workshop presenters, please click on  
"Click here to view CONFERENCE PRESENTERS" on the right green bar to see complete list.)*



**Bill Beechler, MD**, has been a fellow and staff with the Riley Child Development Center for ten years. He works with an interdisciplinary team to assess, diagnosis, and treat children with various neurodevelopmental disabilities including ADHD, pervasive developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, and mental handicaps.

**Charo N. Boyd, BS, MS**, is the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Public Affairs Specialist for Southern Indiana (Evansville to Lafayette) and is the primary SSA media contact for television, radio, and newspapers. She is also responsible for informing the public about SSA programs and benefits and is often the guest speaker for retirement and disability seminars. Ms. Boyd has trained HR managers, financial planners, tax preparers, social workers, case managers, disability advocates, and attorneys on various topics. She has been employed with SSA since 2002 and began her career as a claims representative in the Downtown Indianapolis District SSA office. She has worked as an Insurance Specialist in all areas of the Title II Program (Medicare, Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits).



**Carol Braden, MS, LMHC**, is the Executive Program Director for Brooke's Place for Grieving Young People and has met with over 700 grieving families. Her responsibilities include support and supervisor liaison for the Volunteer Coordinator and Program Directors to enhance their growth; nurturing continuing relationships with community partners; overseeing special events for families; and offering grief consultations to community persons seeking to help themselves or others. Ms. Braden has many professional development experiences regarding grief and loss and various mental health issues. She also has a mental health private practice.

**Jean Capler, MSW, LCSW**, is a clinical social worker in private practice in Bloomington, Indiana, and specializes in providing psychotherapy services to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender communities, as well as to the wider community. She addresses issues of depression, anxiety, grief/loss, aging, brain injury, and caregiver issues. Ms. Capler is an associate professor at the Indiana University School of Social Work, teaching courses including "Developmental Issues for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual People"; "Developmental Issues for Transgender People"; "Social Work Policy and Practice with Older Adults"; "Understanding Diversity in a Pluralistic Society"; and "Generalist Social Work Practice: Theory and Skills." She has provided training through seminars and publications offered through the NASW – IN Chapter and to the public through appearances on the local, community-run WFHB radio program, "BloomingOut." She provides clinical supervision for Masters level counseling students and Bachelor level Social Work students in their internship at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Student Support Services Office on the Indiana University campus.



**Colleen Carpenter, MA, MPH**, is Director of the newly formed Youth Suicide Prevention Technical Assistance Center, which is part of Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. She has a master's degree in sociology and a master's degree in public health. She had been the Project Coordinator for the Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition (ISPC) for five years. Ms. Carpenter is a suicide survivor (she lost her uncle to suicide when she was five). She is a trainer for two suicide prevention programs, safeTALK and QPR, as well as a suicide intervention program called Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

**Laurel Clark, PhD, BA, DD, DM**, is the National President of the School of Metaphysics, a not-for-profit educational institute teaching essential life skills such as self-respect, undivided attention, concentration, and principles of visualization. She has been an adult education teacher since 1979, is a counselor, and an author. Her book, [The Law of Attraction and Other Secrets of Visualization](#)



offers step-by-step practical methods of employing visualization to produce positive thinking, self-image, changing habits, and how to live more productively.

**Beverly S. Eikenberry, BA**, is the Director of the Peace Learning Connection skill-building program in Wabash County for Education for Conflict Resolution. She is a State Certified Divorce Mediator, holds Certification in Group Facilitation and Intervention with the Ministry of Reconciliation, and is a life-long mediator. She has employed her education degree in teaching all levels, from pre-school through elementary to university students in international exchange in the academic realm. Her primary interest is in experience-based learning of effective life-skills that nurture the congruent life. To that end, she has directed six international work camps, directed the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan, and is presently engaged in teaching children skills to respond in the moment to affronts that turn an altercation toward cooperation.



**Nancy B. Fields, MSN, APN BC**, is a Registered Nurse for thirty years and works as a Nurse Practitioner with the Community Health Network providing Hospice and Palliative care service to inpatient and home bound adults. She completed her Masters degree at Vanderbilt University with a specialty in Adult Palliative care. Ms. Fields has many years of experience in intensive care, catastrophic case management, and home health care.

**Scott E. Fogo, MSW, ACSW, LCSW**, currently serves as the Director of Autism and Medical Rehabilitation Services at Easter Seals Crossroads located in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is a results-oriented administrator with twenty-one years of progressive experience in healthcare and human services. Mr. Fogo did his undergraduate studies in social work and religion at the University of Indianapolis and earned his MSW from Indiana University. Mr. Fogo brings a unique perspective when providing leadership to programs that serve vulnerable and underserved individuals.



**Paul Frazer, PhD, LCSW**, is currently on faculty at the University of Southern Indiana, Department of Social Work. He teaches courses on psychopathology, assessment and diagnosis, advanced clinical practice, and family therapy. Dr. Frazer has more than twenty years of practice experience in mental health, forensic psychiatry, private practice, clinical supervision, and consultation.

**Willard "Bill" J. Frederick, BA, MSW, LCSW**, has been a therapist at Meridian Services in Muncie since 1977 and avidly participates in physical fitness advocating similarly for others. Mr. Frederick has pursued solution-focused training with Bill O'Hanlon since the late 80's and trained with Jay Haley. He has simultaneously pursued training in hypnosis and stress management and more recently, worked with Scott Miller and Barry Duncan. He has presented on topics including: Teaching Parenting Skills to Parents, Stress Management, Doing Therapy Efficiently and Effectively, and Use of Stories in Psychotherapy. His most recent topics highlight the use of Client Directed Outcome Informed as a Meta model. Mr. Frederick has recently taught graduate level classes at Ball State on Brief Solutions Focused Therapy with Families.



**Andrew Harner, BSW, MSW, LCSW**, is the Clinical Coordinator, Social Work Service at Riley Children's Cancer Center for the past twenty years. Mr. Harner was appointed by Governor Frank O'Bannon to the Indiana Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Mental Health Counselor Board in January of 2001. He has spoken on licensure and professional ethics to social work students and professionals across the State of Indiana. In 2006, he represented the State of Indiana as a delegate to the Association of Social Work Boards.

**Mary J. Hoeller, BA, RN, JD**, directs a professional team in care management, financial planning, and public benefit programs to meet client needs in lifecare/estate planning, and asset protection. Attorney Hoeller was admitted to the Indiana Bar in 1985 and has been admitted to practice before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. She is a member of the National Association of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and a certified Domestic Relations and Elder Care Mediator, assisting the elderly and disabled in resolving disputes



centered on family and healthcare issues. She is an accomplished public speaker and has published articles on facilitative mediation in the *Indiana Lawyer* and *Res Gestae*.



**Matthew Jameson, MSW, LCSW**, has twenty-eight years of experience in various settings working extensively with adolescents, both on psychiatric units and in public schools. He has also worked in private practice providing individual, family, and marital therapy. Mr. Jameson's treatment focus has been with families in both school settings and private practice. He has extensive background in "family systems theory" and "brief treatment."

**Russell G. Johnson, MSW, LCSW, ACSW**, has over twenty-five years of experience in a variety of settings including police social services, adolescent psychiatric hospital, elementary schools, high schools, and private practice. He is currently employed as a school social worker at Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park, IL and is co-founder of "Meaningful Solutions," an organization that provides consultation and training to mental health practitioners on solution-focused therapy, implications of brain research in therapy, and Ericksonian approaches with clients. Mr. Johnson was trained as a Certified Practitioner of Neurolinguistic Programming in 1989 and Master Practitioner of Neurolinguistic Programming in 1991 through the Midwest Institute of Neurolinguistic Programming.



**Peggy Jones, MSW, LCSW, LMFT**, is the assistant director of the Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, which provides consultation and program development in the areas of suicide prevention, mental health response to disaster, and behavioral health and family studies topics. Ms. Jones has extensive training experience in public and private organizations, both union and non-union, and has been a frequent presenter at state and national conferences.

**Valerie L. Jones, JD**, has been a Director with the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (formally the Health Professions Bureau) for the past four years. The Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist and Mental Health Counselor Board is only one of six boards/committees for which she is the Director. She is also a licensed attorney.



**Kristina Kates, MSW, LSW**, is a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist with the Indianapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center. She is an Air Force veteran and is actively involved in several advocacy efforts, including: Chair, NASW - Indiana Chapter's GLBT Committee and the Indiana Brain Injury Association.

**Paul A. Kurzman, BA, MSW, PhD, ACSW**, is a Professor at the Hunter College School of Social Work and at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He teaches practice and policy in the masters and doctoral programs at Hunter and teaches ethics in the School's Post-Masters Program in Advanced Clinical Social Work. He served for twenty-six years on the New York State Social Work Licensing Board; served as Chairperson of the NASW Insurance Trust; National Adjudication Task Force; Chair of the NASW Competence Certification Commission; Chair of the Register of Clinical Social Workers; and President of the NASW - New York City Chapter. Dr. Kurzman has served as a social work consultant and expert witness in many malpractice proceedings. He is an author of seven books, author of "Workplace Ethics: Issues for Human Service Professionals" in the *Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics*, and author of the entry on "Professional Liability and Malpractice" in the 19th edition of NASW's *Encyclopedia of Social Work*.



**Alison Lighthall, RN, MS**, has been an RN for 25 years, having received her Bachelors in Nursing. After working in cardiology and geriatrics, she earned a Masters in Psychiatric Nursing with a specialization in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. She spent several years in private practice, writing numerous articles, and teaching nursing students as a psychiatric clinical instructor at two different

schools of nursing. She joined the US Army Reserves Nurse Corps at 46 years old, where her work focused on training soldiers in mental resiliency, post-traumatic stress disorder, combat stress, and psychological first aid, for which she was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. She is also trained in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, and critical incident debriefing. In 2008, she served as the Clinical Coordinator for Easter Seals' Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Pilot Project. She currently serves as the Combat Stress Specialist for the Soldier Readiness Center, Fort Carson, Colorado. Ms. Lighthall is a popular national speaker and has spoken to thousands about the psychosocial issues of the returning combat veteran.

**Sherry O'Brian, LCSW, NBCCH, DCEP**, is sole proprietor of Mind/Body/Spirit Inner-grations specializing in working with those suffering from chronic illness and other emotional disorders. Ms. O'Brian has studied with many of the leaders in the field of Energy Medicine and Energy Psychology integrating these techniques with other healing modalities within her practice. She is certified in Advanced Clinical Hypnotherapy, Psych-K™, Subtle Energy Therapy, Emotional Freedom Technique, Bereavement Counseling, Guided Imagery, and Gestalt Therapy. Ms. O'Brian is a member of the NASW, National Board for Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist, Heart-Centered Therapies Association, Association for Comprehensive Energy Psychology, and Indiana Oncology Social Work Association.



**Linda Pfrank, BSW, MSW, LSW**, is currently working as a social worker in the Vermillion Parke Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center in rural Indiana. She is committed to providing competent care to those who are underserved and disenfranchised in the rural communities. She has lived in the Terre Haute area since 1982 and has been involved in various community related volunteer activities.

**Susan Pieples** is the current President of the Autism Society of Indiana, co-chair for the Family and Consumers subcommittee of the Transformation Workgroup at the Division of Mental Health and Addictions, co-chair for the Indiana Interagency Autism Coordinating Council, and a member of the Community Integrated Systems of Service Advisory Committee for the Indiana Department of Health. Ms. Pieples is the founder and Director of Broad Horizons Montessori School, a private school specializing in education for children with autism spectrum disorders. Both her father and her son have Asperger's Syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder.



**Andrea Rich, BSW, MSW, LCSW**, is the Assistant Director of Hospice at Community Home Health Services, where she also works in collaboration in the development of the Medical Home model for the Community Health Network. Ms. Rich worked as a mental health therapist for ten years -- both for agencies and in private practice with individuals, couples, and groups with specialties in grief and bereavement, depression and anxiety, and chronic illness. She also has sub-specialties in personality disorders and addictions. Ms. Rich has served the hospice program as the ECF Coordinator and Bereavement Team Leader. She has conducted trainings for Community Health Network leaders and staff on palliative care, end of life care, the hospice philosophy, and how to work with grieving people. She is trained for Critical Incident Stress Management and has facilitated groups in the workplace in various companies.

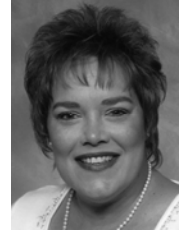
**Roberta A. Schmidt, LCSW, ACSW**, has been a social worker for the past twenty years. In this time, she has had three areas of focus: substance abuse with adults and adolescents, mental health services at Methodist Hospital and private practice, and medical social work with an emphasis on traumatic and acquired brain injuries. Ms. Schmidt's passion for working with families and survivors of brain injury has brought her to working at the Veterans Hospital with a focus on TBI, the signature wound of this war. She serves on the board of directors for the Brain Injury Association of Indiana, chaired the fundraiser, Save the Noggin Bike Ride, for the past two years, and co-chaired the First Annual Care Givers Conference to provide support to families of survivors.





**Katti J. Sneed, BS, PhD, LCSW, MSW, ICACII**, is currently an associate professor in Social Work and Addiction Counseling at Indiana Wesleyan University. She holds advanced licensure in Clinical Social Work and Addictions Counseling. In addition, Dr. Sneed completed her doctorate of Philosophy and her dissertation research was in Spirituality and Chemical Dependency. The topic of spirituality within the addicted population has been of special interest to her and resulted in several presentations on the topic. Dr. Sneed has over ten years of experience as a psychotherapist serving populations presenting with multiple issues including sexual abuse, drug and alcohol dependencies, chronically mentally ill, domestic violence, anxiety, and depression. In addition, she has taught parenting classes for incarcerated women and adolescent girls. Dr. Sneed has provided trainings for foster care parents, probation officers, and Head Start case managers.

**Marilyn M. Steinberg, MS, LMFT**, is currently working for Rite of Passage, Inc., as the Midwest Community Transition Program Manager and is Clinical Supervisor for three aftercare programs in St. Joseph and Lake County, IN. The programs provide services to families who have an adolescent in residential care, returning home from residential care, in the Indiana Department of Correction, and returning home from the Indiana Department of Correction. She has her MS in Child Development and Family Studies. Ms. Steinberg is a Clinical Member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), a member of the Indiana Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (IAMFT), and Region 1 Board Member of IAMFT. She began working with children and their families in 1992 in the hospital and residential settings and has dedicated her career to working with conduct disorders, high-risk youth, inner city youth, the gang-enmeshed (topic of her MS thesis), and court ordered families. She has published and presented both nationally and internationally on the topic of adolescent behavior and family therapy and has taught both Introduction to Psychology and Human Sexuality at Purdue University Calumet.



**Debbie Stinson, MSW, LSW**, has been employed for eight years as a nephrology social worker in Terre Haute, Indiana, at Fresenius Medical Care. She has been active on the NASW – IN Chapter Board as a regional representative for four years. Her volunteer services include McMillan Adult Day Service, Salvation Army, pet companion services at a local nursing home, and assistance with the organization of the Terre Haute Association for American Physicians of Indian Origin Community Health Fair.

**Robert Charles Stone, MD**, is the Director and Co-Founder of Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan (HCHP) and the State Coordinator of Indiana for Physicians for a National Health Program. He has been an emergency department physician at Bloomington Hospital since 1983 and was the Medical Director of the Community Health Access Program Clinic in Bloomington from 2005 to 2007, until it transformed into the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic. He continues to volunteer at the new clinic. He is Assistant Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Stone is a past Director of the Bloomington Hospital Emergency Department and past Chief of Staff of Bloomington Hospital. He was on the Bloomington Hospital Board of Directors from 1998 to 2004. Born and raised in Evansville, Indiana, he graduated from Dartmouth College Phi Beta Kappa and the University of Colorado Medical School. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Emergency Medicine. In 1991, Dr. Stone was awarded The Humanitarian Award from the Bloomington Local Council of Women for “outstanding health services by a physician to the community exemplifying the highest in medical ideals, ethics, and objectives.” In 2006, he received the Quentin Young Health Activist Award from Physicians for a National Health Program. In March 2007, he and his wife Karen Green Stone were named Citizens of the Year by the NASW – IN Chapter Region 6 for their work with HCHP. In May 2007, the Indiana Public Health Association presented him with its’ Citizen Advocacy Award to Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan.



**Jennifer Todd, BSW, MSW, LCSW**, is employed as a Medical Social Worker at Amedisys Home Care and is an instructor at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. Her professional experience includes working as a medical social worker in the hospice and home care settings since 1997.

**Angela M. Tomlin, PhD, HSPP**, is Adjunct Assistant Professor and Associate Director at Riley Child Development Center LEND Program located at the Indiana University School of Medicine, where she provides clinical services to families with children with neurodevelopmental disabilities, supervises graduate trainees, and is a frequent presenter on topics including autism, behavior management, and infant mental health. She is the author of over fifteen publications. Dr. Tomlin serves on several state-level committees; Chairperson of the Indiana Association for Infant and Toddler Mental Health; serves on the Board of Mental Health America Indiana; and is a Board Member and Secretary of the Autism Society of Indiana.



**Christine Turo-Shields, MSW, ACSW, LCSW**, works at Indianapolis Psychiatric Associates and Kenosis Counseling Center, Inc., where she facilitates therapy with individuals, marital couples, families, and groups. With decades of clinical experience, much of her recent work has focused on marital couples. She strongly believes that personal growth requires the development of meaningful connections and creating a sense of community for each individual, especially in the marriage. Ms. Turo-Shields fosters this growth among her clients and enjoys promoting this belief in her workshops locally and nationally.



**Samantha Wentz, BSW, MSW, LSW**, works for SouthernCare hospice where she helps assist terminally ill patients and their families with a variety of services. Ms. Wentz participates in several community events and organizations such as the American Cancer Society fundraising efforts, Continuity of Care, and Relay for Life.

**Ronald A. Wright, JD**, is a member of the Indiana Bar and a practicing attorney with offices located in Indianapolis, Indiana. With over thirty years experience, he is the senior attorney with the law firm of Wright & Associates, PC. He oversees the firm's practice, which along with general business related services, emphasizes estate planning, guardianship, probate, and veteran's benefit assistance. He is a member of the Indiana State Bar Association and a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA). He also serves as attorney for the National Institute of Certified Estate Planners (NICEP) and is accredited by the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs to represent veterans.

