

# VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2026

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 & FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Over 27 CEUs available!

Online registrations are closing on Friday, April 10, 2026



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MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER



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## LIVE WORKSHOPS: THURSDAY, APRIL 16

### 8:00 - 9:30AM: SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS (1.5 CEUS)

**9: Advancing Racial Justice in Clinical Social Work Supervision. Speakers: Rebecca G. Mirick & Ashley Davis, PhD, LICSW.** Social work students learn about anti-racism in practice at their placements. This workshop is a resource for field instructors and other clinical supervisors who prepare students and newer professionals to develop anti-racism knowledge and skills in myriad agency settings. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEUs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**35: Balancing the needs of the betrayer and the betrayed: Clinical collaboration in infidelity recovery. Speaker: Tiane Jennings, LICSW.** Infidelity is a deeply challenging experience, and each partner has unique needs that must be addressed to repair the fractured partnership. Learn concrete tools for how to treat infidelity through collaboration across individual therapy, couples counseling, and group work.

**40: Got Conflict? Managing Conflict: Essential Tools for Social Workers. Speakers: Pedro Spivakovsky-Gonzalez, JD, MA Philosophy & Daniele Ozeri, MA Conflict Resolution.** This workshop will provide a framework for understanding styles of conflict management, enable participants to examine how conflicts escalate, and assist participants to identify strategies for de-escalation and prevention, combining presentations with experiential learning.

**45: From Overwhelmed to Grounded: Mindfulness to Help Youth Navigate Stress, Emotions, and Relationships. Speaker: Dr. Danyell Taylor-White Ed.D, LCSW.** Discover practical, neuroscience-based mindfulness tools to help youth reduce anxiety, improve emotional regulation, and build stronger peer relationships. This interactive workshop offers trauma-informed strategies tailored for diverse school and community settings.

**47: Communal Rituals for Healing & Transformation: Finding Power in Numbers. Speaker: Hope Haslam Straughan, PhD, MSW, ACSW.** We'll explore the power of communal rituals, allowing the participant to both bear witness to others engaging in the ritual, & experiencing it themselves. [\(RI CEUs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**65: Teleplay: Embracing Online Sessions . Speaker: Katie Thomas, M.S., LMHC.** This workshop comes with a resource guide of over 550 virtual therapy activities. Many clinicians report discomfort over telehealth, but research supports it. One of the biggest complaints is a lack of tools to implement teleplay. This workshop aims to solve that problem! [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#)

**77: Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Immigrant Children Through Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice. Speaker: Oyindamola Williams.** Amid evolving immigration policies, children in immigrant families face hidden mental health struggles. This session highlights social workers' roles in addressing these challenges through trauma-informed care, ethical practice, and advocacy to foster resilience and equity. [\(RI CEUs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**92: Addressing Older Adult Maltreatment: Elder Justice Shelter & Multidisciplinary Teams. Speakers: Susan Evensen Tena, MSW, LICSW & Rachel Lerner, Esq.** Older adult maltreatment is pervasive in our communities. We will present micro and macro level intervention models that fight back: 1) The only emergency shelter in MA exclusively for abused, neglected or exploited seniors, and 2) Elder Justice Multidisciplinary Teams. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEUs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**105: What Every Mental Health Professional Should Know About PANS/PANDAS. Speaker: Sheilah Gauch, LICSW, M.Ed.** PANS/PANDAS is a medical condition that presents as OCD, anorexia, food restriction, ADHD, disabling anxiety, mood lability, rage, tics, marked shifts in reading and math skills, and more. Learn the science, diagnostic criteria and treatment for these illnesses. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#)

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## LIVE WORKSHOPS: THURSDAY, APRIL 16

### 10:00 - 11:30AM: SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS (1.5 CEUS)

**2: Attending to the Needs of Homeless Fathers: Practice and Policy.** Speakers: Felix J. Amato, Ph.D., LICSW & John F. MacDonald. Have you ever seen a homeless person sleeping on the street and wondered how they got there? What if that person has children? Have you wondered how he takes care of his children and keeps them safe? These are the questions we will be discussing in our presentation. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CE in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**5: High-Achieving Women and Motherhood: When The Good Enough Mother is NOT Good Enough.** Speaker: Danielle Kenney, LICSW, PMH-C. This workshop explores how high-achieving women face perfectionism and burnout in motherhood, revealing gaps in feminist progress and systemic support. Gain insights and tools to foster compassion, resilience, and equity for mothers navigating this challenging transition.

**17: "I Don't Want to Die": Suicide Assessment and Intervention Strategies.** Speaker: Tom Butero, LICSW. This program presents a unique approach to suicide risk assessment and prevention. It will introduce approaches to explore the process aspects of one's suicidal ideation. The concepts of ambivalence and the temporary nature of suicidal ideation will also be discussed.

**31: Courageous Conversations: Navigating Difficult Dialogues for Diversity and Social Justice.** Speaker: Sabrina Sourjah. Master courageous conversations that advance diversity, equity, and justice! Learn powerful tools to navigate sensitive dialogues about race, class, gender, identity, and ability, transforming challenges into meaningful opportunities for social impact and systemic change. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CE in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**44: Unspoken Journeys: Trauma, Barriers & Best Practices for Nonverbal Immigrants with Disabilities.** Speaker: Antonio Martinez, M.Ed., LSWA. Explore how trauma and communication intersect for nonverbal immigrants with disabilities, where expression defies speech. This workshop examines barriers, provides insights into this population, and explores solutions that we should incorporate. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CE in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**53: Strengthening Families of LGBTQ Adolescents: Coming Out, Transition, Support.** Speaker: Michael LaSala, Ph.D., LICSW, Dean, School of Social Work, Simmons University. Now, more than ever, LGBT youth need support, and repeated research findings indicate the tremendous protective and healing power of supportive parents. In this workshop, participants will learn clinical techniques that harness this important source of protection. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CE in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**68: Global Perspectives on Trauma-Informed Practice: Adaptations and Innovations of Cultural Intervention.** Speaker: Princess Rukevwe Egoh. For the longest time, trauma has been a hot topic due to its complexity. The impact of trauma touches every individual; it can affect anyone from any race and culture. This presentation aims to explore the cultural diversity of trauma-informed practice from a global standpoint. [\(RI CE in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**85: Understanding Autistic Adults' Conceptualizations and Consequences of Masking.** Speaker: Jeremy Brown, Ph.D., LCSW. The way autism is conceptualized shapes our clinical approaches and interventions. Without understanding this impact, non-autism affirming conceptualization results in interventions that often encourage masking, which research suggests can negatively impact mental health. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#)

**93: "Hope Is the Thing with Feathers": Helping Patients with Serious Illness to Maintain Hope.** Speaker: Lenka Phelps LICSW. The presentation invites attendees to explore the role of hope in treatment of patients with serious illness, their decision-making and advance care planning. It examines many ways of engaging patients in conversation about hope and the meaning of hope across diverse cultures. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CE in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**99: Self-Care as the Standard: The Audacity to Reclaim Wellness as Ethical Practice in Social Work.** Speaker: Malaka Mims, MSW, LICSE. In 2021, NASW added self-care to its Code of Ethics. This session explores self-care as an act of integrity and cultural alignment, grounded in Afrocentric theory, intersectionality, and the Liberation Health Model, with tools to navigate ethics, roles, and practice. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism\)](#) [\(RI CE in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

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## LIVE WORKSHOPS: THURSDAY, APRIL 16

### 12:30 - 2:30PM: KEYNOTE ADDRESS (2 CEUS)

**Finding Common Ground in a Time of Conflict Through Empathy and Ethics.** Speaker: Tiziana C. Dearing.

Social workers, as with many professions, may be feeling under siege...loss of funding, changes in policy, and emerging social norms that challenge shared values. While many corners of society are fighting, or at least struggling, on their own and with each other, this conversation will explore how embracing the social work calling and seeking out stories that build understanding and social connection can build a shared path forward that supports the people social workers serve.



### 3:00 - 4:30PM: SESSION 3 WORKSHOPS (1.5 CEUS)

**1: Introduction to Fat Liberation in Social Work.** Speaker: Olivia Montgomery, MSW, LICSW. Come learn about the foundations of the Fat Liberation and Body Liberation movements in the United States, including the origins of anti-fatness in western culture, and discuss how to recognize and challenge anti-fatness in ourselves and our communities. (MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination) (RI CEs in Cross-Cultural)

**4: Trauma Informed Care: Centralizing the Role of Relationship.** Speaker: Pamela Szczygiel. A key component of trauma informed care is prioritizing the clinical relationship by developing safety and trust. This process is often marked with connections and disconnections. Let's explore how applying a relational approach to clinical encounters can help.

**15: How Poverty Changes the Brain, Which Changes Everything.** Speaker: Linda Riddell, MS. Come experience the workshop that puts your brain into poverty, revealing how your thinking and decision-making respond to scarcity. You will learn the basics of brain science, understand what some take for granted ("give no thought to"), and how that differs for people coping with poverty. In this workshop, you will learn how to listen and respond more effectively, improving your work with low-income families and clients. (MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination) (RI CEs in Cross-Cultural)

**25: Grieving Families: Dynamics of Loss Across the Lifespan.** Speaker: Dr. Tami Micsky, MSSA, LSW, FT. Grief is more than an individual journey. Loss experiences influence family dynamics and can transform family systems. This workshop uses a family systems approach to explore how loss affects individuals across the lifespan, enabling participants to better support families.

**33: Building Better Futures: Implementation Science in Social Work.** Speaker: Levin Schwartz, LICSW. This session explores evidence-based strategies for implementing complex clinical innovations like MOUD and PTSD treatment. Using the i-PARIHS framework, it highlights facilitation, stakeholder engagement, and sustainability in high-need treatment settings. (MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination)

**52: Integrating ABA and Mental Health-The Better Together Model.** Speakers: Krysten Feeney, MSW, LICSW, Mary O'Brien, MS, BCBA/LABA & Kayte Russell, LICSW. Discover how our model blends Applied Behavioral Analysis and mental health care to support youth with complex needs. Learn practical, inclusive strategies for building collaborative, trauma-informed teams that improve outcomes and promote equity in care. (MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination) (RI CEs in Cross-Cultural)

**58: Supporting Trans Clients and Cultivating Joy in a Shifting World .** Speaker: JT Timms, LICSW. We will explore how to support your clients in a shifting socio-political landscape, as well as how to help your clients build a toolkit for thriving not just surviving. In addition, we will discuss some practical steps for starting a gender affirming care program at your workplace. (MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination) (RI CEs in Cross-Cultural)

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## LIVE WORKSHOPS: THURSDAY, APRIL 16

### 3:00 - 4:30PM: SESSION 3 WORKSHOPS (CONT'D)

**71: The Mindful Start Exercise: Doing Generative Couple Therapy.** Speaker: **Liz Brenner, LICSW.** Use an exercise that integrates mindfulness, brain science, solution focused, and narrative therapies. Address power dynamics through the lens of impact vs intent related to discrimination. Watch an example of the exercise in a demonstration session and discuss. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**72: Early Psychosis: Symptoms, Identification, and Treatment.** Speakers: **Emily Gagen, PhD, Natalia Nodiff, Young Adult Peer Mentor & Tanya Trevett, M.Ed.** This presentation focuses on common symptoms of psychosis, how to screen for risk for psychosis, how to talk to a young person about these experiences, and how to connect with a statewide referral and triage hub that offers free consultation to providers. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#)

### 5:00 - 6:30PM: EVENING WORKSHOP (1.5 CEUS)

**A Brave New World? The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Social Work.** Speaker: **Frederic G. Reamer, Ph.D.** Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly prevalent in social work. This presentation will examine cutting-edge ethical issues related to social workers' use of AI; apply relevant ethical standards; and outline elements of a strategy for social workers' ethical use of AI. Join Dr. Frederic Reamer as he examines ethical issues and risks related to informed consent and client autonomy; privacy and confidentiality; transparency; potential client misdiagnosis; client abandonment; client surveillance; plagiarism, dishonesty, fraud, and misrepresentation; algorithmic bias and unfairness; and use of evidence-based AI tools. [\(RI CEs in Professional Ethics\)](#)



## LIVE WORKSHOPS: FRIDAY, APRIL 17

### 8:30 - 10:00AM: SESSION 4 WORKSHOPS (1.5 CEUS)

**8: Operationalizing Trauma-Informed Care for BIPOC Communities in Direct Practice and Administration.** Speakers: **Nadolphia Andou, LICSW & Ulyssa Lopez, LICSW, MBA.** Explore how to move beyond surface-level trauma-informed care and implement healing practices that center the lived experiences of BIPOC communities. Learn practical, anti-racist strategies for transforming both clinical practice and organizational leadership. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**27: The Social Work Superpower You Didn't Learn in School: Mediation.** Speaker: **Ben Stich, LICSW, M.Ed, Mediator.** Unlock a social work superpower you didn't learn in school! This engaging session introduces mediation's core principles, styles, and structure-plus interest-based negotiation skills to help you turn everyday conflict into meaningful collaboration. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#)

**32: Implementing an Antiracist Supervision and Leader Identity Model to Grow Social Work Leaders.** Speaker: **Amanda Ngola, DSW, LCSW.** Social workers are uniquely qualified to be leaders, though many students may not consider themselves as such. Using an integrative model of leader identity construction and antiracist supervision, participants will learn to ignite leadership potential in their students. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**38: Culturally Responsive Social Work Practice with Latine/x.** Speakers: **Yvonne Ruiz, PhD & Jennifer Negron, MSW Candidate.** This workshop provides knowledge of what it means to be a culturally responsive practitioner, presents a case that exemplifies cultural responsiveness skills and values, and gives participants the opportunity to apply skills and recognize potential biases. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

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## LIVE WORKSHOPS: FRIDAY, APRIL 17

### 8:30 - 10:00AM: SESSION 4 WORKSHOPS (CONT'D)

**49: Organized Abuse and Family Controlled Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. Speakers: Laurie Krull, LCSW-R & Kait Gannon.** A survivor and a clinician, share research and lived expertise on effective strategies to identify and respond to family-controlled child sex trafficking. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**61: LGBTQIA+ Aging 101: What You Need to Know about Older Adults and Caregivers. Speakers: Lisa Krinsky, MSW, LICSW & Alex Bergson, MSW, LCSW.** This presentation addresses unique issues facing LGBTQIA+ older adults and provides individual and organizational best practices to effectively serve LGBTQIA+ older adults and caregivers. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**75: Prenatal Substance Exposure & Developmental Disabilities: A Neurobehavioral Approach . Speakers: Kristen D Eriksen, RN BSN & Reuben Kittrell.** You are this population's first responders! As the initial providers who identify prenatal exposure & developmental disabilities, without you this population goes unseen. Let's shift our understanding. "See a child differently, you'll see a different child" Dr. S. Shanker [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**83: Supporting Older Adults as Confident Health Advocates. Speaker: Ailene Gerhardt, MA, BCPA, CSA.** Older adults often face barriers navigating healthcare. This interactive session offers social workers tools and strategies to support client self-advocacy, including appointment prep, communication tips, and resources to promote autonomy and dignity. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**86: Envisioning Community Care: Mental and Behavioral Health Response in Cambridge. Speakers: Marie Mathieu, LICSW & Patricia Contente, LICSW.** We provide residents an alternative response team prioritizing mental and behavioral health in some of the city's most vulnerable communities. Learn about the design, implementation, and discourse of an emerging model of community care. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**97: Adolescence as Construction: Why Disrupting the "Western" Developmental Model is Good for Everyone. Speaker: Jovanina Pagano, LICSW.** How did today's "facts" about teens emerge, and how do our systems reinforce beliefs that marginalize and oppress them? This interactive session explores the dominant U.S. developmental model and its impacts, inviting reflection and dialogue toward justice-oriented practice. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

### 10:30 - 12:00PM: SESSION 5 WORKSHOPS (1.5 CEUS)

**7: Supporting Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence. Speaker: Kaytee Gillis, LCSW.** This workshop provides an overview of experiences of relationship violence, focusing on how to recognize and identify abuse as well as introductory response strategies such as safety planning. Participants will also explore some of the unique dynamics and challenges survivors face, building a deeper understanding of how to offer informed, trauma-aware support. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**20: Redefining Wealth: Healing Financial Wounds with Compassion, Clarity, and Clinical Insight. Speaker: LaQueshia Clemons, LCSW.** Unpack the hidden wounds of financial trauma through storytelling, reflection, and clinical insight. This powerful session equips social workers with trauma-informed tools to help clients-and themselves-rewrite disempowering money narratives and reclaim financial freedom. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#)

**26: Beyond Subtitles: Harnessing K-Drama to Cultivate Cultural Responsiveness in Social Work Practice. Speaker: Isabel S. Lee.** K-drama meets social work! Dive into drama clips, hear Korean American insights, and co-create interventions, curriculum, and policy ideas that sharpen cultural humility, interrogate power, and advance antiracist practice across direct, community, and administrative roles. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

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## LIVE WORKSHOPS: FRIDAY, APRIL 17

### 10:30 - 12:00PM: SESSION 5 WORKSHOPS (CONT'D)

**30: Why We Didn't Tell You: Learning from lived experience of those with suicidal thoughts. Speakers: Stephen MacHattie, LCSW, Grace Grinnell & Valerie Lepoutre.** After a suicide, loved ones often ask, "Why didn't they tell me?" This workshop shares a unique perspective of suicide attempt survivors on why they didn't disclose suicidal thoughts, highlighting barriers to seeking help, offering strategies and therapeutic interventions. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#)

**46: From Theory to Action: Embedding Cultural Humility as a Structural and Practical Tool in Social Work. Speaker: Dr. Myrlene Jean-Venant, DSW, LICSW.** Discover how to transform cultural humility from theory to action! This interactive workshop provides tools, case studies, and strategies to embed social justice and equity-centered practices across clinical, educational, and policy settings. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**54: Let's Talk About Money: Low-Conflict Conversations for Couples and Partners. Speaker: Terry Gaspard.** My workshop brings real-life stories of couples who have successfully navigated issues with money and have achieved financial health. In short, it focuses on teaching therapists the skills needed to help couples have lower-conflict money talks, prosperity, and happiness.

**66: Restoring the Balance: Advancing Equity for BIPOC Men in Social Work. Speaker: Sherard Johnson, DSW(c), LCSW.** Discover how social work can boldly advance equity by addressing the underrepresentation of BIPOC men. This dynamic session explores real barriers, lived experiences, and actionable strategies to transform education, practice, and leadership through an anti-oppressive lens. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**69: Childhood Trauma & Emotional Eating: A Trauma-Informed, Self-Compassion Approach to Healing. Speaker: Diane Petrella, MSW.** It's not about the food or willpower. Learn how to help your clients get to the root cause of emotional eating and use their eating behaviors as the pathway to heal early trauma and take charge of their relationship with food, their bodies, and their feelings.

**70: Engaging and Respecting Children's Agency in Social Work Practice. Speakers: Katherine M. Walbam, PhD, LICSW & Adrienne Wilson, LCSW.** This presentation will engage participants in reflection and discussion of the ways in which children are, and are not, active decision-makers in their lives- and the therapeutic relationship. Clinical strategies for promoting children's voices will be examined. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#)

**94: Artificial Intelligence in School Social Work: How can we use this tool ethically to promote equity?. Speaker: Daniel Alfaro, M.Ed, MSW.** Discover how artificial intelligence can help reshape the role of school social workers. Learn to apply AI ethically and equitably in Tier 23 interventions through practical strategies, real examples, and ready-to-use resources. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Professional Ethics\)](#)

### 1:00 - 2:30PM: SESSION 6 WORKSHOPS (1.5 CEUS)

**13: Black Children of Incarcerated Parents: Understanding Challenges, Recognizing Resilience Factors. Speaker: Tonisha Taylor, MSW, MA, Ed.S.** This workshop will examine the challenges associated with Black children of incarcerated parents while also recognizing resilience factors that mitigate negative potential outcomes. [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**19: Tiny Cuts, Deep Wounds: A Look at Microaggressions. Speakers: Felicia Heywood, LICSW & Sonia D'Alarcao, G.Cert. EDIB, B.S.** Microaggressions are subtle, often unintentional comments or actions that can harm marginalized individuals. In the workplace, they can lead to burnout and low retention. This session offers tools to recognize, respond to, and take accountability for them. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**28: Therapist Beware: Smart Ethics, Scam Proofing, and Digital Privacy in a World That Wants Your Data. Speaker: Ami Lynch.** Think your smartphone isn't part of your clinical risk? Think again. This eye-opening session explores scams, tech traps, and digital ethics-arming you with practical tools to protect client privacy, your license, and your sanity in a connected world. [\(RI CEs in Professional Ethics\)](#)

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## LIVE WORKSHOPS: FRIDAY, APRIL 17

### 1:00 - 2:30PM: SESSION 6 WORKSHOPS (CONT'D)

**36: Deciphering the Effect of Race/Culture in Therapy and Supervision. Speaker: Beth Craft, LICSW.** Dynamics in the U.S. are polarized, and therapists must expand how they view transference and countertransference to include how race and culture affect the therapeutic and supervisory dyad. Dr. Ken Hardy's VCR Method is a key tool to examine and try to heal these issues. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**50: The Stories We Tell: A Catalyst for Change and Growth. Speakers: Lydia Carbone, MSW & Kathryn M. Wilson, LMHC.** Experience a method of approaching and healing from trauma that involves expressing and interacting with our own stories and making meaning of them through activities that bring mind, heart, and body together. This non-hierarchical approach can be brought to your clients.

**56: Economic Mobility: Trauma-Informed, Goal-Oriented Approaches to Coach Families Experiencing Poverty. Speakers: Maya Coykendall, BSSW, MSW & Helen Murphy.** Explore our mentoring, trauma-informed coaching, and executive functioning strategies that support economic mobility-tying theory to direct practice through interactive tools and real-world application.

**62: Women Growing Older: Our Bodies Ourselves. Speaker: Joan Ditzion MSW.** With increased longevity, aging women are facing new opportunities and challenges. This presentation will explore aspects that affect women's aging. Together we need to embrace aging and the potential for growth and development and work together to change the aging paradigm. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**74: The Wounds We Inherit: Understanding Intergenerational Trauma. Speakers: Amy Ebbeson, LCSW & Kelsey Hopkins, MA in Social Change.** Explore how trauma can be passed across generations-not just through behavior and culture, but biologically. This session introduces the science of epigenetics and offers practical strategies for addressing inherited trauma in clinical and community settings. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**87: Liberation or Lip Service?: The State of TGDI Equity & Inclusion in Social Work Education. Speaker: Kris Berg, MSW, CPS.** Explore how social work education often falls short of its stated values when it comes to TGDI communities. Participants will examine structural barriers and gain practical tools to advance equity and inclusion in classrooms, placements, and other key sites of practice. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**104: ROOTED IN HUMANITY: An urgent action framework for care that matters for children with complex needs. Speaker: Bethlyn Vergo Houlihan, MSW, MPH.** Discover how to transform healthcare for children with complex needs through an innovative humanistic care framework. Learn evidence-based strategies for combating ableism and family-partnered systems change. Interactive with real stories, practical tools & actionable plans. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

**107: Addressing The Dog In The Room: Service Dogs, ESA's and Pets. Speaker: Lynne Schmidt, LCSW.** Across the nation, service dog handlers are being discriminated against, harassed, or put in danger when their service dogs are distracted in public settings. This workshop will aim to demystify the difference between service dogs, emotion support animals, & pets. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Cross-Cultural\)](#)

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### 3:00 - 4:30PM: SESSION 7 WORKSHOPS (1.5 CEUS)

**3: AI Companions for Kids. Speakers: Elizabeth Englander & Meghan McCoy, Ed.D.** This presentation explores the impact of AI companions on adolescent mental health and social relationships. It examines how digital companions can both support well-being & foster social skills, as well as the challenges they present for today's youth. Techniques reviewed. [\(MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination\)](#) [\(RI CEs in Professional Ethics\)](#)

## LIVE WORKSHOPS: FRIDAY, APRIL 17

### 3:00 - 4:30PM: SESSION 7 WORKSHOPS (CONT'D)

**14: Invisible Baggage: Trauma, Grief, and the Power of Purposeful Practice in Child Welfare.** Speaker: Keisha Pickens, LGSW. Unpack the invisible baggage children in foster care carry. This session equips social workers with trauma-informed tools to assess, document, and advocate for healing, resilience, and justice in child welfare systems. (MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination) (RI CE in Cross-Cultural)

**16: "I Will Survive" - Balancing Ethical Social Work Practice with Realistic Self-Care Strategies.** Speaker: Sarah Stevenson, LICSW, NSW-C, CCM, RYT-200. Are you sick of hearing about the ethical obligation social workers have to engage in self-care? Does self-care seem impossible to practice? This presentation will explore how self-care is challenging to engage in yet an ethical imperative to the future of social work. (RI CE in Professional Ethics)

**59: Healing Through Connection: A Compassionate Relational Approach to Trauma and Addiction Treatment.** Speaker: Rafael Cortina, LMFT. Explore a powerful, compassionate approach to trauma and addiction that integrates Relational Gestalt therapy, somatic practices, and polyvagal theory. Learn how healing unfolds through connection, presence, and attuned, body-centered therapeutic work. (MA CEUs in Anti-racism)

**63: Unpacking the Intersection of Trauma and Disability in Social Work Practice.** Speaker: Dr. Sara Rodrigues, LICSW. Explore how trauma uniquely impacts disabled individuals and how traditional approaches often fall short. This session offers affirming, practical strategies to create safer, more inclusive care that promotes autonomy, healing, and justice. (MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination) (RI CE in Cross-Cultural)

**78: Is this OK to talk about? Cultivating Cultural Sensitivity in Supervision.** Speakers: Kathleen Irving, LICSW & Allison Lara, LMFT. This presentation will provide participants with the opportunity to develop skills required for culturally sensitive supervision. We will explore our own cultural identities as supervisors or clinicians and reflect on how to incorporate this into our work. (MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination) (RI CE in Cross-Cultural)

**80: Utilizing Solution Focused Scaling Questions to Help Clients Make Progress.** Speaker: Susan Tohn. Want to learn how to measure a client's progress? During this interactive workshop, participants will learn about Solution Focused scaling, and how to integrate scaling into any therapy model. We will practice creating Solution Focused scales. (MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination)

**89: Enhancing Clinical Fidelity and Engagement in Functional Family Therapy-Adult Adaptation (FFT-A) with Justice-Involved Populations.** Speakers: Adame Belay & Mekela Clarke, FFT-A Case Manager. This presentation will examine the role of clinical fidelity for justice-involved adults who often encounter complex barriers to engagement in behavioral health services. These factors can create challenges for clinicians seeking to maintain both meaningful therapeutic engagement and adherence to evidence-based practice models. (MA CEUs in Anti-discrimination) (RI CE in Cross-Cultural)

**103: Trauma Without Borders: Collaborative, Cross-Cultural Mental Health Care for Migrant Communities.** Speakers: Sagitta Woodman, LICSW & Bashar Albadri, PharmD. Exploring trauma-informed, culturally responsive care for migrant communities. Highlighting ethical collaboration with pharmacists and health care providers, addresses systemic and immigration-related barriers, and promotes advocacy, healing, and equitable mental health care. (MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination) (RI CE in Cross-Cultural)

**108: A Socio-Judicial Approach To Checking Child Protective Workers In Child Abuse And Neglect Cases.** Speaker: Ari Niki-Tobi. Child protective service case workers are trained, licensed and recruited to protect our children. However, the question is - are these case workers really protecting our children, or are they inadvertently exposing them to more danger? (MA CEUs in Anti-racism & Anti-discrimination) (RI CE in Cross-Cultural)

#### FOR NASW-MA ATTENDEES:

VISIT: [WWW.NASWMA.ORG/SYMPOSIUM2026](http://WWW.NASWMA.ORG/SYMPOSIUM2026)

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CONTACT: [ASSOC.NASWRI@SOCIALWORKERS.ORG](mailto:ASSOC.NASWRI@SOCIALWORKERS.ORG)

## ON-DEMAND WORKSHOPS (1.5 CEUS PER WORKSHOP)

**Advocacy in Action: Improving Sex Education in Our Schools. Speaker: Jamie Kluffs, MPH.** More than 30 years of research shows that sex education works. Despite this evidence, condom use remains low, significant racial and ethnic disparities in teen birth rates persist, and incidents of sexual dating violence continue to rise in Massachusetts. This workshop will take a deep-dive into the current state of sex education in Massachusetts while helping social workers use their voices to drive change at the state and local levels. **(RI CEUs in Cross-Cultural)**

**Bearing Witness, Taking Action: Navigating Moral Distress and Ethical Practice in School Social Work. Speaker: Dr. Tami Gouveia, DrPH, MPH, MSW.** We'll explore the complex and often unseen challenges school social workers face, and the emotional and ethical weight that comes with this work. We'll talk honestly about how policies, limited resources, and systemic barriers create moral distress and even moral injury that impacts students and also our own well-being and ability to practice with integrity. **(RI CEUs in Professional Ethics)**

**Expanding to Group Practice. Speaker: Julia Nepini.** This training is for established solo practice owners that have considered expanding and adding clinicians. It will provide considerations, pros and cons, and steps as well as resources.

**Cultivating Cultures of Belonging in Response to the Logics of Expulsion. Speaker: Dr. Alexandra Piñeros Shields, Associate Professor, The Heller School, Brandeis University.** Dr. Piñeros Shields will discuss the impacts of the political and economic climate on various vulnerable communities. She will present various strategies at the micro level to protect those communities as well as institutional responses to ensure individual and community well-being. **(RI CEUs in Cross-Cultural)**

**Helping Clients Manage Hidden Illness. Speaker: Jaclyn French, LICSW.** This seminar will explore approaches to mental health treatment for individuals living with Long Covid and other less visible illnesses. The post-viral illness now commonly known as Covid includes a wide array of symptoms, including brain fog, memory deficits, fatigue, sensory disturbances, and more. **(RI CEUs in Cross-Cultural)**

**Immigration Policy: Foundations & Implications for Social Work Practice. Speaker: Alexandra Weber, MSW, LICSW.** This session introduces social workers to the fundamentals of U.S. immigration policy, including historical context, recent developments, and current legal categories. Through a social justice lens, participants will examine how immigration status affects access to resources, rights, and protections, and how policies intersect with the lived realities of immigrant families. **(RI CEUs in Cross-Cultural)**

**Somatic Practice: Supportive Tools for Anxiety and Regulating the Nervous System. Speaker: Felice Winograd, RYT 500hrs.** Learn ways for you and your clients to create resilience in body and mind during these times. By shifting the rhythm of the breath, moving the body and practicing body awareness, you'll learn how to support the vagus nerve, a large, important nerve that extends from the brain down through the entire body.

**Trauma-Informed Healing Through Group Therapeutic Care. Speakers: Sandra Munier & Mia Edidin.** A 90-minute interactive introduction to GPS Group Peer Support, an evidence-based, trauma-informed model that strengthens resilience and connection among social workers and the communities they serve. Participants will explore the principles that create safe and transformative group spaces, and learn how group therapeutic care can be applied in both client and professional peer support settings.

**Implicit Bias of Antisemitism and its Impact on Everyday Social Work Practice. Speakers: Masha Sorkin & Elliott Kronenfeld.** Explore how implicit antisemitism shows up in social work through unconscious bias, cultural erasure, and systemic blind spots. Learn to identify its impact across practice settings and gain practical tools to support Jewish clients with cultural competence.

**Continuing Education Credit:** CE credit is provided by the NASW-MA Chapter; CEUs have been approved for Massachusetts and Rhode Island attendees. If you are not licensed in Massachusetts and/or Rhode Island, please check with your state social work licensing board if they accept NASW-MA Chapter approved CEUs.

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