

BETTER TOGETHER

2018 ATSA Conference | Wednesday October 17 | 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

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Women Working in Criminal Justice: Navigating professional challenges

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Working in the criminal justice system presents unique professional challenges for women. This interactive workshop will explore issues related to the experiences of women working with male criminal justice clients and gender-related challenges encountered by women working in criminal justice professions. Case studies and small group discussion will explore common professional challenges, including addressing boundary violations in the working relationship, the impact of pregnancy, enhancing workplace and personal safety, and managing common workplace gender dynamics. Discussions will be relevant for both female professionals, and for male supervisors and colleagues looking to increase their understanding of the experiences of women to provide gender sensitive supervision, training, or collegial support.

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify common challenges experienced by women working in criminal justice.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify and address boundary violations in the working relationship with a male criminal justice population.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the impact of pregnancy on professional challenges that can arise for women working with criminal justice populations.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to develop strategies for enhancing workplace and personal safety.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify and address common workplace gender dynamics that can arise in criminal justice settings.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to support and supervise women working in criminal justice.

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Dr. Bobbi Walling is a registered psychologist working with Forensic Psychological Services, a collaborative, community private practice in Winnipeg, Canada that specializes in the assessment and treatment of a high-risk, high need violent and sexual offender population. She currently provides a range of assessment and treatment services for both youth and adults, and co-facilitates treatment groups for adult offenders. Her clinical experiences include forensic risk assessments, treatment of children and adolescents with sexualized or aggressive behaviour concerns, and individual and group treatment of high risk offenders, male Internet offenders and developmentally delayed men with sexual behaviour problems. She has also provided individual and group intervention for couples experiencing abuse dynamics/violence in their relationship.

Dr. Laura Jakul is a registered clinical psychologist practicing in the areas of clinical and forensic psychology. She has experience providing psychological assessment, consultation and treatment services in hospital settings, for the Correctional Service of Canada, in private practice, and for the Canadian Mental Health Association. Dr. Jakul's forensic experience includes evaluations for fitness to stand trial, substance abuse assessment and treatment, violence risk assessment, treatment for high-risk offenders, and assessment and treatment for developmentally delayed offenders. She currently provides a range of psychological assessment and treatment services for individuals with sexual and aggressive behaviour problems and other major mental health issues in a collaborative community based psychological practice in Winnipeg, Manitoba.