

## ***BETTER TOGETHER***

2018 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 18 | POSTER

### **Screening for Trauma in Juvenile Corrections; Are Sexually Aggressive Youth Different?**

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This research study utilized 2 measures of trauma screening for adolescents within the custody of the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission (NJJJJC) as either Probationers or those committed to secure care (N = 736).

The Life Events Checklist (LEC) was found to be the more sensitive instrument when screening for trauma as it identified 88% of residents who acknowledged direct exposure to a traumatic event, i.e. It happened to me upon admission to juvenile corrections, as compared to 67% who acknowledged direct exposure to a traumatic event, i.e. It happened to me on the Massachusetts Youth Screening Inventory -2 (MAYSI-2).

Data is currently being analyzed on an on-going basis to examine potential similarities and differences between the degree, type and intensity of trauma experience by sexually aggressive youth (SAY) vs. non-sexually aggressive youth (NSAY).

Treatment implications from an Integrated Trauma Informed Care for Adolescents (ITIC-A) perspective for both SAY and Non-SAY will be reviewed.

**Ellen Ciccone Zupkus, PhD** is a licensed psychologist who has worked with high risk youth for the past 40 years in residential, hospital, correctional, out-patient and forensic settings. Since 2005, Dr. Zupkus has been the Clinician Administrator for Rutgers University Correctional HealthCare (formerly the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey), who administers and supervises delivery of all mental health services to the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission and the NJ Juvenile Parole Board. She has been actively involved in the NJ Chapter of the Association for Treatment of Sexual Abusers in which she has served as long-time Board member and past-president. In addition, Dr. Zupkus had served as a Clinical Consultant to the NJ Fire Setter Prevention and Intervention Committee from 2002-2012. She has worked extensively with issues related to sexual abuse in treating both adolescent perpetrators and sexual assault survivors. Dr. Zupkus has presented training to clinicians at the local, national and international level at professional conferences. She is in Private Practice in Toms River, NJ, where she has run a Treatment Program for Sexually Abusive Youth for Ocean County for the past 20 years.

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**La Teisha Callender, PhD** is a clinical psychologist whose practice consists of the assessment and treatment of children, adolescents, families and adults. She conducts forensic evaluations, assessment of parental fitness and bonding assessments for the family court. She specializes in the treatment and assessment of adolescents and adults accused of sexual acting out. From 2004 to 2006, she treated civilly committed adult males as a Clinical Psychologist at the NJ Department of Human Services, Special Treatment Unit. Dr. Callender has coordinated the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission Secure Care Sex Offense Treatment Program since 2006 and is currently a Forensic Mental Health Clinician for Rutgers University Correctional Healthcare. In addition, she supervises the clinical staff of the Juvenile Justice Commission's Pinelands Residential Community Home. She is a Board Member of the New Jersey Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (NJ-ATSA). Dr. Callender is passionate about empowering her clients to move past their histories of intergenerational poverty, violence, abandonment, neglect and trauma to embrace healthier futures.