

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Friday November 8 | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

F-31

Mental Health and Juvenile Justice: Collaborative Treatment for Juvenile Sexual Offenders

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The Services for Adolescent and Family Enrichment Program (SAFE) strives to provide evidence-based treatment to juvenile sexual offenders in an outpatient, community setting through intensive collaboration between mental health and juvenile justice professionals. The current presentation will include an overview of the 21-year collaboration between the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Special Services Unit (SSU) and SAFE treatment providers. SAFE clinician Jessica Gahr and Probation Officer Clyde Schneider will (1) present current organizational practices to ensure collaborative services, (2) discuss practical techniques to balance maintaining therapeutic rapport with limits to confidentiality, including what must be reported to the juvenile court and probation, and (3) review treatment practices including specific cognitive-behavioral topics used to empower adolescents to make healthy decisions across life domains and address sexually-based offenses. Participants will understand that through the collaborative efforts of treatment providers and the juvenile justice system, juvenile sexual offenders can safely and effectively be treated in an outpatient, community setting.

Learning Goals

- Participants will understand the structural and functional components that support this collaboration between juvenile probation and mental health.
- Participants will learn practical techniques to balance maintaining therapeutic rapport with limits to confidentiality, including what must be reported to the juvenile court.
- Participants will understand the unique roles juvenile probation officers have in supporting treatment progress.

Jessica Gahr is the senior treatment clinician at the Services for Adolescent and Family Enrichment (SAFE) program. She received her undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Arkansas. Jessica attained her Master of Arts degree in clinical psychology from the University of Toledo in 2012. Jessica has been working with the SAFE Program,

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providing evidence-based treatment to children and adolescents adjudicated of a sexual offense by the Allegheny County Juvenile Court since 2014. Prior to working with children and adolescents with problematic sexual behaviors, Jessica provided trauma-focused treatment at the University of Toledo Children's Hospital, The Cullen Center. She values open communication and family-involvement when providing services and strives to bridge the gap between clinical practice and research.

Clyde Schneider has been a Juvenile Probation Officer in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania since 1999. He has supervised juvenile sexual offenders in Allegheny County Juvenile Probation's Special Services Unit since 2002. He currently is part of the Special Services Unit's collaboration with the Western Psychiatric Hospital, Services for Adolescent and Family Enrichment (SAFE) Program, which provides intensive community-based treatment for Juvenile Sexual Offenders who are under Court Supervision. Clyde is a 1997 graduate of Gannon University with a B.A. in Criminal Justice.