

## ***SHAPING THE FUTURE***

2019 ATSA Conference | Thursday November 7 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**T-07**

### **What Does It Look Like? Advancing Institutional Commitment to Preventing Sexual Abuse**

David Lee, MPH  
Joan Tabachnick, MBA  
Jannine Hébert, MA, LP

The recent increase of public attention to sexual violence has focused on how various institutions and industries contribute to and unintentionally allow all forms of sexual violence to be perpetrated. Examples include faith communities, universities and college campuses, sports and athletics, the entertainment industry, workplaces, and the military. There is emerging consensus that there are many conditions within these institutions and industries that contribute to a range of sexual behaviors from harassment to violence. However, there is also emerging research which shows how these same institutions and industries can make different decisions, create different policies and set new standards to prevent the perpetration of this range of sexual violence.

The public health approach utilizes the social ecological model to identify risk and protective factors on multiple levels: individual, relationship/family, institutional, community and societal. However, most prevention strategies focus on addressing individuals and developing policies (which primarily focus on how to respond to violence and prevent reoffending). ATSA has highlighted groundbreaking research on risk factors and in 2014, some excellent research on protective factors for the perpetration of sexual abuse. However, these too have focused on individual risk factors and protective factors linked to recidivism. Public health has begun to recognize the importance of looking at risk and protective factors for first time perpetration – which is critical, if the goal is stopping sexual abuse before anyone is harmed.

In this presentation, we will highlight emerging programs and research that focuses on the role organizations and institutions can play in preventing first time perpetration of sexual violence. These prevention efforts must be informed by the best understanding of the people who perpetrate sexual abuse, the range of behaviors they engage in combined with a deeper understanding of the conditions in which sexual violence takes place. The workshop will explore policies and environmental changes used in institutions and industries and what is known about the impact of these efforts on prevention. Examples will be drawn from programs currently being explored with workplaces, Sport (through RALIANCE's Sport + Prevention Center), situational prevention on college campuses, and emerging practices with youth serving organizations.

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With the knowledge and understanding that ATSA members bring to the table regarding the perpetration of sexual abuse, there is a unique role that ATSA members can play in preventing first time perpetration of sexual violence. In the past, this knowledge was not always welcomed within the community setting. However, in recent years, cases such as Nassar, Sandusky and many within the Catholic Church have highlighted the ways that institutions played a significant role in allowing our most vulnerable populations to be harmed. With this growing understanding that organizations and institutions have a responsibility to protect their staff and their constituency from all forms of sexual misconduct, there is a growing recognition of the need to create policies and procedures that address the situations that allow sexual abuse to be perpetrated. ATSA and ATSA members are ideally situated to participate in this growing conversation.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to

- Describe how institutional changes can contribute toward preventing sexual violence
- Identify resources to support institutions in preventing sexual violence
- Identify one action that they can take that will support an institution in preventing sexual violence

**David S. Lee, MPH**, is the Director of Prevention at the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) and the national partnership RALIANCE. Mr. Lee manages PreventConnect, the nation's leading online community to advance primary prevention of violence against women and RALIANCE's Sport + Prevention Center. He is a leading expert on public health approaches to prevent sexual violence. Mr. Lee has been involved in the movement to end sexual assault and domestic violence since 1982 working with a variety of local sexual assault and domestic violence prevention agencies and been at CALCASA since 2005.

**Joan Tabachnick** is a consultant and currently a fellow at the DOJ SMART Office focusing on the prevention of campus sexual misconduct. The focus of her work over the last 25 years is preventing the perpetration of sexually harmful behaviors, particularly in children, adolescents and young adults. Tabachnick has developed prevention materials and programs for national, state, and local organizations and is the founding co-chair of ATSA's Prevention Committee.

**Jannine Hébert** is currently the Executive Clinical Director of the Minnesota Sex Offender Program in Minnesota. She is responsible for clinical programming for 740+ individuals who are civilly committed as Sexually Dangerous Person or Sexual Psychopathic Personality across three sites. She is a Master's trained Licensed Psychologist and has been in the field for over 25 years. She has worked with impaired professionals, clergy individuals impacted by sexual abuse as well as sexual abusers in inpatient, outpatient and prison settings.