

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Thursday November 7 | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

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Pre-Adjudication to Community Reintegration through Public-Public Partnerships

Panel Chair: Chastity N. Farr, PhD
Auburn University

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Alabama Department of Youth Services
Scott Holmes, PsyD, LPC, NCC
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Youth Services Institute
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The Alabama Department of Youth Services (ADYS) is the state agency responsible for youth adjudicated and committed to ADYS by local courts from the 67 counties in Alabama. ADYS, through public-public partnerships with Auburn University (AU), Department of Psychology, and the University of Alabama (UA), School of Social Work, provides a continuum of services for youth with illegal sexual behaviors. The three entities formed the Youth Services Consortium in 1999. This consortium developed into what is now the Accountability Based Sex Offense Prevention (ABSOP) residential and community-based programs. Auburn University is tasked with residential management (ABSOP Program) while the University of Alabama, through its Youth Services Institute, manages community-based programming (COCP).

In Alabama, a predominantly rural state with limited resources, DYS provides a continuum of services for youth with illegal sexual behaviors through these public-public partnerships. The ABSOP Program is a 72-bed residential program located on the Mt. Meigs DYS campus that serves youth ages 12 to 21 who have been adjudicated delinquent and committed to DYS. The affiliation with AU's Department of Psychology allows for continuous, comprehensive, empirical investigation using local data, resulting in evidence-based programming that aligns with ATSA guidelines for best practices and the standards of the American Correctional Association. Assessment of youth adjudicated for illegal sexual behavior as well as the general delinquent population housed at Mt. Meigs has shown that these two populations present with similar needs, which has led to a movement toward expanding treatment services for all youth in residential care. The ABSOP Continuum of Care Program (COCP) is a community-based treatment option for youth who can be adequately supervised in their community. COCP serves to prevent youth commitment to ADYS and provide aftercare upon release from the ABSOP residential program. Within the ABSOP programs, a continuum of care is provided for youth with illegal sexual behavior and their families.

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In addition to residential treatment, community-based diversion, and aftercare services, the ABSOP programs also offer pre-adjudicatory assessment to assist courts in decision making regarding treatment and supervision, in accordance with ATSA guidelines for best practice. With increasing frequency, the COCP also offers services that prevent youth contact with juvenile justice system through community education and treatment for children with problematic sexual behaviors. While the ABSOP Program provides residential services to youth from all 67 Counties in Alabama, COCP provides services in the 20 counties that account for a significant portion of the state population. DYS is making strides to provide community-based treatment options in the remaining counties. Currently, DYS, through these public-public partnerships, has begun pilot programs in four additional counties. There are few providers approved to provide treatment for youth adjudicated for a sexual offense in Alabama. So, if youth are adjudicated in an area with no available services, the only other option is often residential treatment even when the child could be supervised safely in the community. By expanding the reach of community-based treatment services, DYS will continue to prevent youth in our state from being unnecessarily committed to residential treatment in an effort to decrease overall delinquency.

In this panel presentation, representatives from DYS, AU, and UA will provide an overview of each piece of the continuum of care for youth with illegal sexual behaviors. This discussion will offer an overview of how research has informed program changes, such as trauma-informed care and applied behavior analysis. Panel members will discuss some of the challenges during the last decade and highlight improvements to the system as continual improvement is pursued. The audience will gain insight into a successful intervention model that is comprehensive, integrative, and research-driven. Participants will be able to ask panelists questions about the partnership between two state universities and a state funded agency to improve outcomes for juveniles adjudicated for illegal sexual behaviors.

Learning Goals:

Participants who attend this panel discussion will:

- Obtain an overview of how a system of care can be implemented in a primarily rural state with limited resources,
- Learn about the challenges and benefits of engaging in a system of care through public-public partnerships, and
- Be able to ask questions of the panel members about the process, lessons learned, and next steps.

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Chastity N. Farr, PhD as Director of the ABSOP Program, Chastity Farr provides clinical oversight of the residential treatment program for juveniles adjudicated for sex offenses who have been committed to the Mt. Meigs campus of DYS. Dr. Farr is a clinical psychologist and National Health Service Psychologist (NHSP). The focus of her clinical work and research endeavors has primarily been in the forensic arena, including the assessment of risk for sexual recidivism, risk for violence, competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and civil commitment. Prior to taking this position in August 2018, Dr. Farr was employed as a forensic psychologist for Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

Scott Holmes, PsyD, LPC, NCC serves as the Statewide Director of Treatment for the Alabama Department of Youth Services. Dr. Holmes is a Certified Drug Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). Dr. Holmes holds a BA in Public Relations, MS in Counseling/MFT, Masters of Divinity, Education Specialist Degree (EdS) in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and a Doctorate in Psychology. He is the former Clinical Supervisor of Psychological and Drug Treatment Services at Tutwiler Prison for Women and Kilby Correctional Facility for the Alabama Department of Corrections.

Jason Orrock, PhD, LPC, NCC as Clinical Manager of the ABSOP Program, Jason Orrock manages the clinical services of the residential treatment program for juveniles adjudicated for sex offenses who have been committed to the Mt. Meigs campus of DYS. Dr. Orrock is currently licensed in the state of Alabama as an LPC and has extensive experience providing services to victims of sexual abuse. He is specifically interested in the mind, body, and spiritual connection as it relates to healing for combat veterans and victims of trauma.

Jill R. Beck, JD as Director of the Youth Services Institute, Jill Beck oversees the entity's two main projects – an inpatient, trauma-focused juvenile justice facility for girls and an outpatient therapeutic program in 19 counties across Alabama for children who have sexual behavior problems or have committed sexual delinquencies. She is also a key member of a leadership team working to implement Trauma Systems Therapy in Tuscaloosa County. Ms. Beck is a former Tuscaloosa County Deputy District Attorney who specialized in the prosecution of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault in adult and juvenile courts.

Mandi R. Fowler, PhD, LICSW, PIP as Associate Director of Youth Services Institute (YSI), Mandi Fowler provides clinical oversight for the institute's community-based programs that provides trauma-informed treatment services to youth with illegal sexual behavior and children with sexual behavior problems. She also directs many of the institute's research activities. She is currently part of a multidisciplinary leadership team implementing Trauma Systems Therapy (TST) in the Tuscaloosa community. Dr. Fowler is a nationally certified therapist for youth with illegal sexual behavior and children with sexual behavior problems, and a nationally certified therapist in Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT).