

## ***BLENDING VOICES. STRENGTHENING LIVES.***

2020 ATSA Conference | Wednesday October 21 | 1:45 PM – 3:45 PM

### **WED-PM-01**

#### **Let's Talk! Addressing Sibling Sexual Abuse Within the Sibling Relationship**

Linda Valenta, MSW  
SAIFF

This skills based workshop will explore a framework for intervening in sibling sexual abuse that focuses on promoting accountability, communication, and reparation through a joint therapy process, introduced early in treatment which involves both the sibling who abused and the sibling victim.

We will explore three stages of therapeutic contact: (1) Naming the problem (acknowledgements), (2) Learning about the problem (clarification), and (3) Being healthy and safe (consolidation). Linda will use the images, words and stories of the children and families that she has worked with to introduce participants to a range of therapeutic interventions and to provide an opportunity to explore the issues that can emerge.

This seminar is rated: Youth | Advanced

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to describe a rationale for addressing sexual abuse within the sibling relationship.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to assess readiness for the commencement of conjoint sibling intervention.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to prepare for the commencement of therapeutic contact and plan an initial session.

**Linda Valenta** is a Social Worker (Masters in Couple and Family Therapy) has worked for two and half decades with children and families to help stop problematic and abusive sexual behaviour, help children create relationships that are supportive, safe and abuse-free, and minimize the harm to children and families that results from these behaviours. As one of the longest standing professionals in the field in Australia, Linda has worked in a variety of settings including community and residential juvenile justice systems, community based (non secure) residential treatment, and currently as the Principal of SAIFF – Support, Assessment & Intervention For Families, a community based, private assessment and treatment service. SAIFF provides contracted assessment, treatment and consultative services to Government and Non-Government Agencies across Australia, and provides consultation and training on sexual abuse prevention and intervention to Agencies and professionals from within the Child Protection, Education, Sexual Assault, Juvenile Justice, Out of Home Care and Mental Health Sectors.