

RSA

Regional
Support
Associates

2024 Annual Conference

Pathways to Justice
Navigating Barriers, Creating Solutions

Date: Thursday October 24 & Friday October 25, 2024

Time: 9:00AM – 4:00PM

Virtual: Zoom

Registration Fee: \$275.00 per person (no single day rates)

People living their best lives in the communities they call home.


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Welcome & Award of Excellence

Jason Young, Director

Date: October 24, 2024

Time: 9:00AM - 9:30AM

Crime and Recovery: Behavioural Health Interventions for Individuals with Neurodevelopmental Differences with Forensic Mental Health and Criminal Justice System

Speaker: Louis Busch

Date: October 24, 2024

Time: 9:30AM – 10:30AM

This presentation delves into the critical role of behavioural health interventions for individuals with neurodevelopmental differences within forensic mental health and criminal justice systems. It underscores the unique challenges and opportunities in providing tailored, effective support to this vulnerable population, aiming to bridge the gap between treatment and risk mitigation. The session will explore theoretical insights and present case studies to explore strategies for promoting secure recovery.

The As Safe As Possible Project (ASAP)

Speaker: Amanda Mastronardi, Project Manager, REAL Xchange KITT, Community Living Essex County

Date: October 24, 2024

Time: 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

As Safe As Possible (ASAP) focuses on empowering people with disabilities to recognize and prevent human trafficking and exploitation. Through live demonstrations, we'll showcase key components of the ASAP training, providing attendees with practical tools and resources to help people mitigate risk factors and keep themselves safe. ASAP also includes training to increase awareness among law enforcement and justice professionals about how to effectively support people with disabilities victimized by trafficking and exploitation to seek justice. Discover the current state of human trafficking in Ontario. Learn about the resources available on REAL Xchange designed to educate and equip people with the knowledge necessary to avoid falling victim to these wicked crimes. Together we can work towards a safer, more inclusive society for all.

The Intersection of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and the Justice System

Speaker: Dr. Melanie Kelly

Date: October 24, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

FASD is a lifelong brain-based disorder that is among the leading known causes of developmental delay. Although considered preventable, a high proportion of those affected find themselves involved in the justice system in some way. In this session, participants will learn the primary and secondary disabilities commonly experienced by those with FASD, including a discussion of vulnerabilities that may increase the likelihood of involvement with the justice system. Ways to support a person with FASD within a variety of contexts to help mitigate risks will be presented.

The logo for RSA (Regional Support Associates) features the letters 'RSA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A thick orange horizontal bar is positioned directly below the letters.

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Dual Diagnosis and the Forensic Mental Health System: A Recovery Journey

Speakers: Shelley Morgan and Rachel Denman, Forensic Dual Diagnosis Engagement Team

Date: October 24, 2024

Time: 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Shelley and Rachel, from the Southwest Centre's Forensic Dual Diagnosis Engagement Team, will use a case study to take you on a journey through the forensic system. We will highlight risks, barriers, potential intervention points, successes, and trends seen in our work along with some of the additional supports available for the dual diagnosis demographic. We will also discuss a cross-sector collaboration that is underway related to dispelling common myths about the forensic system and the people supported within it and how we are working together to support folks with dual diagnoses throughout their journeys to community reintegration.

Understanding Consent, capacity, and legal decision-making to improve access to justice for people with disabilities.

Speakers: Stephanie Dixon and Alisa Khan Parikh, PooranLaw

Date: October 25, 2024

Time: 9:00AM – 10:15AM

This session focuses on what agencies need to know about consent, capacity, and the legal decision-making framework in Ontario; how they can support people with disabilities in exercising their rights; and how PooranLaw can assist agencies by developing robust policies and training staff and other community stakeholders. PooranLaw's legal experts will also show you how to apply this legal framework when dealing with criminal or civil justice issues; the use of litigation guardians; people's rights with respect to capacity assessments and guardianship applications; and how PooranLaw helps people with disabilities overcome barriers through its pro bono program, I Decide.

RSA DDJCM & Community Justice Centre

Speaker: Carly Baz Ficociello and Eriksa Collins

Date: October 25, 2024

Time: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Lived Experience

Speaker: Matt Sinclair

Date: October 25, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Direct Your Life

Speaker: Olusola Olumogba

Date: October 25, 2024

Time: 2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

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PRESENTERS BIO'S

Louis Busch

Louis is a Bear Clan member of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, a registered psychotherapist, and a board-certified behaviour analyst. Louis has two decades of experience supporting the recovery journeys of people who find themselves in contact with the mental health, forensic mental health, and criminal justice systems. Louis is a Vanier Scholar, a doctoral candidate at the University of Toronto, and a Visiting Doctoral Fellow at Harvard University. Louis is past-president of the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis and a former Director-at-Large with the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts. Louis is skilled in acceptance and commitment therapy, process-based behaviour therapy, motivational interviewing, and clinical applications of relational frame theory. Louis has published extensively on the treatment of severe behavioural challenges in neurodevelopmental disabilities, forensic mental health populations, interprofessional care, cross-cultural psychiatry, and Indigenous issues. Louis hopes to contribute to positive social change through the advancement of culturally relevant wellness initiatives that promote the recovery and empowerment of marginalized peoples.

Dr. Melanie Kelly

Dr. Melanie Kelly obtained her M.A. and Ph.D. in Adult Clinical Psychology from the University of Windsor. She has worked for the past 13 years for Regional Support Associates (RSA), focusing on the assessment and multidisciplinary treatment of adults who have Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities alongside complex mental health difficulties and/or behavioural challenges. Much of her work involves direct contact with people with IDD and their various supporters, including families, DSPs, allied health professionals and workers from the justice system. Teaching has also been a focus of her work, and to date she has presented workshops on Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities viewed through the lenses of assessment, addressing behavioural challenges, FASD, psychosis, depression, and other mental health concerns.

Stephanie Dickson

Stephanie is a Partner at PooranLaw. She is a passionate social justice lawyer who advocates for the rights of people with disabilities. She has extensive experience working on disability and poverty-related legal issues. Stephanie joined PooranLaw in August 2019 to spearhead the firm's specialized legal services in southwestern Ontario and its unique pro bono initiative, I Decide.

Alisa Khan Parikh

Alisa is the Lead Associate in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Team at PooranLaw. She is a fierce advocate for her clients and has built a skillset around various areas of law, including criminal and civil litigation. Prior to joining PooranLaw, Alisa ran her own practice that focused on litigating issues before the Consent and Capacity Board and the Ontario Review Board.



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PRESENTERS BIO'S (Continued)

Olusola Olumogba

Olusola Olumogba is an entrepreneur, non-profit founder, community leader, professional football scout and speaker. He runs two organizations. The first is InstantScouting, a platform that connects athletes, agents, coaches, and trainers, for which he was honoured with the Top 30 Under Thirty Award by Sports Launch Magazine in 2014. He has helped over 500 athletes secure professional football opportunities. Olusola's second venture is his non-profit Direct Your Life which has supported close to 400 formerly incarcerated individuals with resources and job opportunities to get back on their feet. Olusola is a Critical Period Interventionist for individuals with high-risk behavior and those impacted by gang activity. He regularly speaks at schools, halfway houses, and prisons such as Vanier Center for Women, Kennedy House Youth Treatment Center, Ottawa Carleton Detention Center, William Hay Center, Joyceville Institution and Collins Bay Institution.

Olusola has a bachelor's degree in criminology and media studies from the University of Western Ontario as well as a YouthREX Critical Youth Work: Bridging Theory and Practice Certificate completed at York University. He is a former collegiate athlete, Sports Professional, and has also held several leadership positions at non-profit organizations throughout his career.

Rachel Denman

Rachel Denman is a registered social worker with the Forensic Dual Diagnosis Engagement Team at the Southwest Centre for Forensic Mental Health Care. Rachel has about 10 years of experience working in mental health and several of those years were also supporting people with a developmental disability or dual diagnosis. Rachel has been at the Southwest Centre for approximately 5 years and has been developing the dual diagnosis program within the forensic setting for the last 2 years. Rachel has a passion for helping people leverage their strengths to help people work towards their goals and live the life they want.

Shelley Morgan

Shelley Morgan is a Board-Certified Behaviour Analyst who partners with Rachel to form the Forensic Dual Diagnosis Engagement Team at the Southwest Centre for Forensic Mental Health Care. Shelley has an extensive background working with people with developmental disabilities and dual diagnoses across a variety of ages and settings, including several years with Regional Support Associates prior to moving to the Southwest Center about two years ago. Shelley supports a trauma-and-compassion-informed approach in her work to empower people to find success at each step of their journey, both in recovery and in life.

Matthew Sinclair

Matthew Sinclair's home community is Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. He resides in London, Ontario. His educational background is a combination of lived experience and academic, as he graduated from the Sault College Graduate Program FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) class of 2021. He is a professional speaker and advocate in the field of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Addictions working in the field of education and non-profit organization. A milestone in his professional career was co-creating and designing a community program designed to help others living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder as the FASD Worker, with partnerships with Er Consulting, Sault Ste Marie Indigenous Friendship Centre. Matthew is currently the CEO of All Relations Consulting. In recent years Matthew is the Housing Crisis Worker at Atlohsa Family Healing Services.