

2018 Conference Workshop Descriptions

FRIDAY MORNING

1. Keynote: Nurturing the Resilience of Our Clients and Ourselves

Michael Ungar, Ph.D.

Resilience is more than an individual's capacity to overcome adversity. It is also the result of how well people, their service providers and communities work together to help those with vulnerabilities navigate their way to the resources they need for wellbeing and whether those resources are made available in ways that they say are meaningful to them and culturally relevant. In this story-filled presentation, Dr. Michael Ungar will use examples from his clinical practice and research collaborations on six continents to explore the nature of resilience among individuals that face significant social and structural disadvantage

2. Systemic Approaches to Nurturing Resilience in those with Complex Needs

Michael Ungar, Ph.D.

Description:

This workshop will present a social ecological approach to promote resilience through mental health and social services. Participants will learn how to identify and encourage factors associated with resilience.

3. Tenant Support Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Alberta's Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy

Honourable Lori Sigurdson, MSW, RSW
Shawn Ewasiuk, BA, MBA

Description:

The Alberta government is taking action to make life better for Albertans with low income

by integrating community supports with provincial affordable housing.

4. Supporting Adults with Autism Through Social Enterprise

Ai-Men Lau, BA, BSW Student

Description:

Examine the role of social enterprise in supporting adults with autism in the workplace - reflecting upon successes at Meticulon in Calgary.

5. Helping Children and Families After Suicide: Practical Strategies and Tips

Samantha Pekh, MA, R. Psych
Esther Leung, MSW, RSW

Description:

Participants will gain knowledge about childhood suicide bereavement and be taught practical age-appropriate strategies for supporting children and families after loss to suicide.

6. Trauma-Informed Practice: Building Capacity in Volunteers

Carrie McManus, SW Dip, RSW
Emma Wylde, SW Dip, RSW
Amy Munroe, SW Dip, RSW

Description:

This workshop provides participants with tools and skills to support the integration of trauma-informed practice into training and capacity building programs for volunteers and front-line staff.

7. The “F” word: Bringing Feminism into Day-to-Day Clinical Practice

Trish Smith, MSW, RCSW

Tammy Sheppard, MSW, RSW, CSAT

Description:

Join us in collaborating and sharing ideas, strategies, and knowledge around how we do practices of Feminism in clinical conversations with women.

8. Advocacy and Building Resilience in Complaints Resolution

Ryan Bielby, SW Dip, RSW

Ashley Cormack, MSW, RSW

Brightina Opoku-Yeboah, BSW, RSW

Description:

Learn how the principles of social justice can be applied to complaint resolution in the health care field. The Office of the Alberta Health Advocates will lead you through a strength-based approach to advocacy focusing on supporting clients in building resiliency.

9. Examining the Role of Social Work in Interprofessional Decision Making

Cari Gulbrandsen, PhD, RSW

Christine Walsh, PhD, RSW

Nancy Arthur, R. Psych

Michelle Drefs, R. Psych

Description:

This workshop will engage participants in discussion about interprofessional decision-making and share findings from a study which identified key factors that contribute to interdisciplinary decision-making.

10. Coping with Failure: Staff Resiliency

Jeannette Waegemakers Schiff, PhD, RSW

Annette Lane, RN, PhD

Dianne Gray, BA, RSW

Description:

This presentation combines several important themes: coping, resiliency, and workplace wellness through sharing responses from frontline workers on their coping strategies and provide suggestions for supports that may mitigate stress.

11. Indigenizing Inquiry-Based Learning

Jeff Halvorsen, MPA, CE

Olivia Cullen, MSW, RSW

Natalie St-Denis, MSW, RSW

Christine Walsh, PhD, RSW

Description:

Integrating Indigenous perspectives with inquiry-based learning can provide a platform for social workers to gain a deeper understanding of their role in decolonizing professional practice.

12. Two Years Abroad: Women’s Rights in Latin America

Kristjanna Grimmelt, BA, MFA

Description:

Hear of one volunteer’s work advancing women’s rights in Central America, and learn about international, paid volunteer opportunities for social workers.

13. Masking our Emotions and the Art of Compassion

Charles Chenard, BSW, RSW, MPS-ATS

Description:

This experiential art therapy workshop will demonstrate how the art process can be explored and experienced so challenging emotions can be transformed into self-compassion.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

14. Indigenous Practice Strategies

Derek Chewka, MSW, RSW

Description:

Learn tools and strategies to assess current organizational practice and where Indigenous knowledge could be incorporated. Common cultural practices like Smudging, Sweat Lodge Ceremony, Sun Dance, Making an Offering, etc. will be covered.

15. Clinical Specialty Registry – Achieving the Credential Towards Advanced Practice

ACSW Clinical Social Work Committee

Description:

An overview of the Clinical Specialty Registry will be presented. We will cover how to achieve the Clinical Social Worker designation and how to become an approved clinical supervisor. A wine and cheese networking event to follow.

16. Culture is Cure: Wise Practices in Indigenous Health

Darlene Marchuk, MSW, RSW

Brenda Judy Hamelin, MASW RSW

Wesley Tokohopie, MISW, RSW

Greg Bubel, BSW, RSW

Evan Anderson, BSW, RSW

Description:

We will share information on Wise Practices utilized at Poundmaker's Lodge when working with those seeking recovery from addictions and desiring balance within their lives.

17. Communicating Effectively with Youth Experiencing Chronic Trauma

Peter Smyth, MSW, RSW

Heather Peddle

Description:

Understand how attachment and trauma impact brain development in children and youth to effectively engage and work with this troubled population.

18. Why Does it Matter How Post-Secondary Institutions Respond to Sexual Violence?

Carla Bertsch, MSW, RSW

Cari Ionson, MSW, RSW

Description:

With national and international attention about sexual violence at post-secondary institutions, how are schools responding to these behaviours within their settings?

19. Pathways Into and Out of the Sex Trade

Peter W Choate, PhD, RSW

Theresa Jenkins

Bruce MacLaurin

Description:

This workshop will cover the many ethical dilemmas emerging as the use of online technology has significantly diminished street work and made safe outreach more challenging.

20. Special Report on LGBTQ2S+ Youth: Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

Arlene Eaton-Erickson, MSW, RSW

Description:

Learn what young people across Alberta had to say in the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate's LGBTQ2S+ report and gain tools to enhance your practice to better serve this population.

21. Achieving Social Justice Through Standards of Practice

Bruce Llewellyn, MSW, RSW
Sheryl Pearson, MSW, RSW, LLB

Description:

This workshop addresses the history and legislative background to the ACSW Standards of Practice. It is designed to refresh your knowledge while collaboratively thinking through some ethical dilemmas and challenges.

22. Shame and Honour Based Violence

Anne Sureshkumar, MSW, RSW
Craig Collins, Senior Constable

Description:

Shame and honour based violence (SHBV) is present in many countries including Canada. This workshop will include how to identify SHBV and what to do about it.

23. Housing First for Indigenous people

Ken Armstrong
Renee Iverson, MSc

Description:

This session will explore the evaluation and adaptation of Housing First for Indigenous Peoples whose overrepresentation in Canadian homelessness is the result of the intergenerational effects of colonization, discrimination, and racism.

24. Discussing Issues of Intimacy and Sexuality in Continuing Care

Scott Stewart, MSW, RSW

Description:

This presentation will explore issues of intimacy and sexuality in continuing care. It will also include the challenges faced by clients, agencies and social workers.

25. Children's Mental Health and Chronic Neglect

Evelyn Wotherspoon, MSW, RSW

Description:

This workshop will give participants an evidence-based framework for understanding child mental health. It will present what can be done to support families and protect neglected children from poor mental health and impaired development.

SATURDAY MORNING

26. Keynote: Creating Islands of Safety and Cultural Possibility

Cathy Richardson, Ph.D.

In this keynote, Cathy will bring alive the key concepts of Islands of Safety including dignity preservation, understanding resistance to oppression, and the importance of creating positive social responses. She will discuss “therapeutic questions” and show how some various rounds of questioning in the Islands of Safety process seek to reaffirm dignity, acknowledge harm and create safety.

27. Islands of Safety for Indigenous Families

Cathy Richardson, Ph.D.

Description:

This workshop will situate current social work practice with Indigenous families within the current post-TRC historical context and share how the Islands of Safety model can support Indigenous family well-being within a spirit of dignity and decolonization.

28. Vicarious Trauma - Strategies for Resilience

Danielle Forth, MSc, R. Psych

Description:

This workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to examine their own experience and become aware of the signs of both vicarious trauma and vicarious growth.

29. Supportive Housing Stability for Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness

Victoria Burns, PhD, RSW
Lara Nixon, MD CCFP (COE) FCFP BSc
Jennifer Hewson, PhD

Description:

Drawing on research of supportive housing models in Montreal and Calgary, this interactive workshop explores best practices to support housing stability for older adults experiencing homelessness.

30. Social Work Education and Politics: Exploring the Connection

Anne Marie McLaughlin, MSW, RSW
Lori Sigurdson, MSW, RSW
Jake Kuiken, PhD

Description:

This workshop explores the unprecedented number of social workers elected to public office in Alberta and examines the connection to social work education.

31. Incorporating Anti-Oppressive Principles in the Workplace

Mike Velthuis Kroeze, SW Dip, RSW
Robyn Romano, MSW, RSW

Description:

This workshop will examine strategies to bring AOP principles into the workplace, strengthening bonds between social workers, and creating an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity.

32. Decolonizing Social Work Practice: Using Reflexivity to Explore Identity and Belonging

Natalie St-Denis, MSW, RSW
Christine Walsh, PhD, RSW

Description:

Participants will be guided in a series of reflexive activities as an aid in decolonizing their professional practice by exploring their personal and professional identities.

33. Bringing Research to the Community

Bob Marvin, MSW, RSW
Marlene Mulder, MA

Description:

This presentation focuses on how to plan, publish, present and use community based research within the community.

34. Engaging Men: Seeking Supports and Preventing Violence

Jeff Halvorsen, MPA, CE
Liza Lorenzetti, MSW, RSW
Anita Harder, MC R. Psych
Lahn Jones

Description:

This workshop discusses the implications of the Alberta Men's Survey that received over 2,400 responses. 94% said they need services and supports but only 24% knew where to access services.

35. A Collaborative Approach to Pediatric Mental Health

Ashwini Dake, BSW, RSW
Sue McBeath, RN, Mental Health Nurse

Description:

The Stollery Emergency is the catch-base for all pediatric mental health in central and northern Alberta. This presentation will introduce the

emergency room approach to the pediatric mental health cases.

36. Displaced: Video and Panel Discussion

Derek Chewka, MSW, RSW

Jesse Downing

Description:

The documentary Displaced will be shown followed by a panel discussion with an Elder and former youth in care to share their experiences that are similarly depicted in the film.

37. Vulnerability as Self-Care: Engaging in Decolonizing Praxis

Nav Kaur, BEd, MEd

Damien Lachat, BA

Description:

Decolonizing praxis challenges practices that can appear central to work in the helping professions. Come cultivate personal vulnerability and resiliency.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

38. Issues Around the Aging Population with Serious Mental Illnesses

Austin Mardon, CM, FRSC, PhD

Catherine Mardon, BA, BSc, MTS, JD

Description:

Presentation on the special issues surrounding aging with a serious mental illness.

39. The Role of Social Work in Disability and Mental Health Work

Dorothy Badry, PhD, RSW

David Nicholas, PhD, RSW

Gina Dimitropoulos, PhD, RSW

Description:

Social work has a critical role in supporting vulnerable and marginalized populations including children and youth with disabilities and mental health concerns.

40. Helping Clients With Legal Issues – What You Can and Can't Do

Jeff Surtees, B.Comm, LLB

Judy Feng, Dip (IA), B.Comm, JD

Aaida Peerani, BA (Soc), JD, MBA

Description:

This workshop will help you identify and separate legal issues your clients might face and where to direct them for information that will help them resolve those issues.

41. Speaking Without Words

Daralaynn Swensrude

Alexandra Sieben, BSc

Description:

This workshop will put you in the shoes of someone without words. Through humor and life experiences, we will learn to stop the communication breakdown.

42. Restorative Circles Move Families and Communities Beyond Relational Difficulties

Sharon Steinhauer, MSW, RSW

Description:

A circle is a restorative practice - to restore and build relationships. Participants will experience elements and processes common to all circles - foundational for beginners and reflective for experienced practitioners.

43. Enhancing Resiliency Through Continuing Competence

Bruce Llewellyn, MSW, RSW

Suzanne MacKinnon, MSW, RCSW

Tami Carlin

Description:

This workshop will guide you through completing your annual portfolio, and review the history, and legislative background of the Continuing Competence Program that supports social workers across the lifespan of their career.

44. Beyond the Rainbow Poster: Building LGBTQ+ Resiliency

Jane Oxenbury, M.Ed, R. Psych
Tammy Troute-Wood, RN, MN
Cindy Willet, BSW, RSW

Description:

Learn how to build capacity to work with LGBTQ+ populations in an authentic way. We will address language/definitions, trauma informed approach, barriers through case studies.

45. Music Assisted Mindfulness – A Gateway to Build Resiliency from the Inside Out

Bonnie Kowaliuk, BA, MBA, RSW

Description:

An opportunity to observe and/or engage in music assisted mindfulness; an adaptive, responsive and a present focused modality. It is highly encouraged that participants bring a yoga mat for this workshop. .

46. Self-Care at Your Finger Tips – Emotional Freedom Technique

Debra Coffey, RPC, MPCC, EFT

Description:

Come relax, learn and enjoy at this emotional spa workshop using Emotional Freedom Technique (tapping) to reduce stress, increase calm and enhance self-care.

47. Anti-Opressive Practice with Skilled Immigrants

Vibha Kaushik, MA
Christa Sato, MSW, RSW

Description:

This interactive workshop explores the use of anti-oppressive practice in serving immigrants, particularly skilled immigrants, and offers strategies for social workers in advancing these practices.

48. Blanket Exercise

Derek Chewka, MSW, RSW

Description:

The Blanket Exercise is a participatory workshop that traces the historic and contemporary relationship between Europeans and Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the impact of colonialism.

49. Domestic Violence Treatment for Men

Lana Bentley, MSW, RSW

Description:

This workshop will examine developments and research regarding domestic violence perpetration. The presenter will discuss group programming for men who perpetrate domestic violence.

50. Art and Democracy: An Expressive Art Experience of Resiliency and Social Justice

Rick Guthrie, MSW, RSW
Lindsay Ames, BSW, RSW

Description:

An introduction to expressive arts as a model to explore resiliency and social justice, through referencing Jane Adams. Participants will be invited to engage in a facilitated activity to

explore the bridge between our personal lives
and our practice.

51. Supervision for Social Work

Stephanie Bozzer, MSW, RCSW

Judith Mason, MSW, RCSW

Description:

This workshop will engage participants to
critically examine current supervision practice.
We will explore ethics and best practices, when
providing or receiving supervision.