

## **CAST Conference Fall 2025 - Speaker Biographies**

### **Victor Vieth, Zero Abuse Project, Chief Program Officer, Education and Research**

Victor Vieth has trained thousands of child-protection professionals from all 50 states, two U.S. Territories, and 17 countries on numerous topics pertaining to child abuse investigations, prosecutions and prevention. Victor gained national recognition for his work in addressing child abuse in small communities as a prosecutor in rural Minnesota, and has been named to the President's Honor Roll of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Victim Rights Legend Award from the United States Department of Justice, the 2012 Pro Humanitate Award from the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute on Violence & Abuse (IVAT).

Victor is the Chief Program Officer of Zero Abuse Project, a 501©(3) public charity based in St Paul, MN, committed to education, training, and survivor support in order to eradicate child sex abuse and remedy its resulting harms. Victor has been instrumental in implementing 22 state and international forensic interview training programs and dozens of undergraduate and graduate programs on child maltreatment.

Mr. Vieth graduated magna cum laude from WSU and earned his Juris Doctor from Hamline University School of Law (HUSL). In 2017, Victor earned an MA in theology from Wartburg Seminary. Mr. Vieth has published countless articles related to the investigation, prosecution and prevention of child abuse and neglect including *Unto the Third Generation*, a bold initiative that outlines the necessary steps we must all take to eliminate child abuse in America in three generations.

### **Dr. Tyler Counsel**

Dr. Tyler Counsel has accumulated over six years of experience in public and private laboratories. He has held roles such as Microbiologist, DNA Specialist, Quality Assurance/Quality Control Manager, and Forensic Scientist. His recent work involved being a Forensic Scientist with the Indiana State Police, Laboratory Division. Tyler's forensic expertise covers areas like drug analysis, questioned document analysis, firearms, fingerprinting, photography, trace evidence analysis, crime scene investigation, and child forensic

interviewing. Beyond his lab work, Tyler has a strong background in post-secondary education.

He possesses over seven years of experience in higher education, including roles as an Associate Professor. He has spent a total of five years developing and leading programs in Child Advocacy Studies (CAST), Criminal Justice, and Forensic Science. Tyler also excels in program assessment, accreditation for both traditional and non-traditional curricula, and contributes as a manuscript reviewer and editorial board member for peer-reviewed publications. His dual experience as a lab analyst and educator has deepened his appreciation for practical learning that equips professionals to address diverse forms of child maltreatment.

Tyler's commitment extends to his role as Director of CAST at the Zero Abuse Project. He commits to aiding faculty in training, development, and implementation of CAST programs at their institutions. Dr. Council holds a B.A. in Biology from Hanover College (Hanover, IN), a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Oakland City University (Oakland City, IN), and an M.S. and Ed.D. in Biology from Ball State University (Muncie, IN). His mission is to leverage his scientific and educational background to bolster child advocacy initiatives, elevating both academia and research in this field.

### **Rachel Pierce, DNP, FNP-C, RN**

Rachel Pierce, DNP, FNP-C, RN is a dedicated Family Nurse Practitioner and Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire. She teaches pediatric nursing courses to both nurse practitioner and undergraduate nursing students, drawing on her extensive clinical experience in pediatric care. Her frontline work with children has deepened her expertise in recognizing and reporting child abuse, a critical area of healthcare advocacy. As a passionate child advocate, Dr. Pierce is committed to protecting and empowering the next generation through education, clinical excellence, and compassionate care.

### **Javin Hintz, PhD, LICSW, LCSW, CST, CCTP (they/he)**

Javin is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Certified Sex Therapist (CST), Internal Family Systems (IFS) and Brainspotting (BSP) therapist. They hold a PhD in clinical sexology, completing their dissertation on provider comfort in addressing sexual wellness in community-based mental health. Javin enjoys not only working with their amazing consumers but also enjoys supporting providers in exploring this important topic.

### **Jamie Tester Morfoot, Associate Professor, UWEC Department of Social Work**

Jamie Tester Morfoot, J.D., MSW is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire where she incorporates her 20+ years of experience working with vulnerable and marginalized children. She teaches courses and provides training focused on improving student and practitioner skills in identifying, addressing, documenting, and reporting child maltreatment. She draws on her past experiences working at a residential care facility, as a Program Director at a Community Action Agency, as a Guardian ad Litem, and a mediator. She is a firm believer in multidisciplinary work and the importance of practicing the skills associated with the knowledge to improve child and family outcomes.

### **Meg Lagunas**

Meg Lagunas, Med, PhD, RN, CHSE-A is the Director of the Clinical Learning Center with the College of Nursing and an associate professor. She specializes in the use of simulation for clinical training and has a passion for teaching applicable realistic skills that empower professionals to be safe, effective, and in love with their jobs.

### **Andy Prevenas**

Andy Prevenas is the Technical Integration Engineer within the College of Nursing. He is responsible for software and technology management, building nursing simulations within our immersive reality room, and collaborating with our nursing colleagues to create the best learning environments for our nursing students.

### **Kerie Olson BS, BSN, RN, CCRN**

Kerie Olson is the Simulation Specialist of the Clinical Learning Center with the College of Nursing. Kerie is responsible for the setup and maintenance of the simulation equipment and the skills lab, as well as supporting the nursing students through high-fidelity simulations. Kerie has a strong clinical background in nursing and is passionate about advancing simulation-based education in innovative ways to enhance clinical competency and patient safety.

### **Maloree Zassenhaus, Special Agent, Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation**

Special Agent (SA) Maloree Zassenhaus has been with the Wisconsin Department of Justice – Division of Criminal Investigation (WI-DOJ, DCI) since February of 2023 and was assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)/Human Trafficking Bureau as an ICAC Special Agent, working out of the Eau Claire Field Office. Prior to joining WI-DOJ, DCI, SA Zassenhaus worked for the Menomonie Police Department since 2010. There SA Zassenhaus was assigned as the School Resource Officer for 7 years working in the schools and investigating child crimes. SA Zassenhaus also been a part of the Wisconsin ICAC Task Force and worked ICAC cases since 2015. SA Zassenhaus received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh.

**Investigation, Josh Draeger, Special Agent, Wisconsin Division of Criminal,**  
Special Agent (SA) Joshua Draeger was hired by the Wisconsin Department of Justice – Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) in July of 2024 and was assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)/Human Trafficking Bureau as an ICAC Special Agent, working out of the Eau Claire Field Office. SA Draeger previously worked for the Menomonie Police Department, with his most recent assignment being a Youth Services Officer assigned to the Investigations Bureau as a School Resource Officer working juvenile-related crimes, including ICAC.

Prior to working for the Menomonie Police Department, SA Draeger worked as a Deputy Sheriff for the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office for two years, for a total of 6.5 years of law enforcement service. SA Draeger received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation from the University of Wisconsin – Stout. SA Draeger enjoys spending time with his wife, Maddi, and his two daughters, Cecelia and Lorelai. He also enjoys being

outdoors, doing home projects, hunting, fishing, and disc golfing.

### **Amanda Mohr, Crime Response Specialist, Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation**

Amanda Mohr is a Crime Response Specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ), Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). She specializes in providing support to victims and non-offending family members in Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cases. She is a member of the Wisconsin ICAC Task Force and provides victim support, outreach and resources to our ICAC affiliate agencies. Amanda earned her Bachelor's of Science degree in Psychology from Edgewood College and her Master's of Science degree in Criminal Justice from The University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Amanda is a trained Forensic Interviewer, as well as a Certified Social Worker through the State of Wisconsin. Prior to joining DCI, Amanda investigated cases of child maltreatment for the Child Protection Services Unit within Sauk County Department of Health and Human Services. In that position she investigated several child sexual abuse and ICAC cases. In addition to this role, Amanda was also employed part time for the Dane County Crime Response Unit, as part of the on-call team. Prior to that, Amanda was a Probation and Parole Agent for seven and a half years based out of the Reedsburg Police Department.

### **Miriam Itzkowitz, MSW, LICSW**

Miriam Itzkowitz, MSW, LICSW, is Director of Trauma-Informed Advocacy at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. In this role, Miriam develops and implements best practices for the intersection of legal services and trauma-informed care. Miriam's clinical experience is in counseling adults and adolescents in clinical, home, and school settings. Prior to her work at ITCP, Miriam was a faculty member in the School of Social Work at the University of St. Thomas, where she remains an adjunct professor.

### **Katie Olson, J.D.**

As a human services judge, Katie hears appeals relating to government benefits, licensing issues, and maltreatment determinations. Katie serves as an adjunct faculty member at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, teaching courses related to trauma-responsive lawyering and the constitutional rights of children and parents. She is a qualified mediator and has completed training in Restorative Leadership. Katie represented children in the child welfare cases for over a decade and was also a maltreatment investigator for the Minnesota Department of Education. As part of the Institute to Transform Child Protection, Katie developed training focused on trauma prevention, mandatory reporting, strength-based advocacy, and collaboration in the legal system. Her work and research focus on prevention and intervention prior to child protection involvement.

### **Amanda Schumacher, Sexual Assault Program Director – Family Support Center**

Amanda joined the staff of west-central Wisconsin's Family Support Center, a nonprofit organization serving adults, youth, and communities impacted by interpersonal violence, in 2012, currently serving as the agency's Sexual Assault Program Director. Amanda has been professionally engaged with anti-violence advocacy for more than 25 years, and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls (2000) and Saint Paul, Minnesota's Hamline University (2004).