



SUPPORTING AT-RISK YOUTH WITH COMMUNITIES OF CARE

A conference brought to you by the Departments of Psychology and Criminal Justice at Rivier University.

Location:	Dion Reception Room Rivier University, Nashua, NH
Date:	Friday, March 31, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
9:00 – 9:30 A.M.	At-Risk Youth in Our Community Hannah Johnson, Ph.D. Department of Psychology, Rivier University
9:30 - 10:45 A.M.	New Hampshire Division of Youth and Family Services Child Protective Unit Stacey Bellemore, M.S., District Office Supervisor Caitlin Hand, Assistant Supervisor in Assessment, Rivier alumna
11:00 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.	New Hampshire Division of Youth and Family Services Juvenile Probation and Parole Amy McCormack, Associate Bureau Chief of Field Services Jeffrey Sellars, Juvenile Justice Assessment Administrator
12:15 - 1:00 P.M.	Lunch <i>A box lunch will be available for purchase (\$12).</i>
1:00 - 2:15 P.M.	Community Teamwork & Justice Resource Institute Amanda Sullivan, Director Youth Services, Rivier alumna Morganne Crouser, LICSW
2:30 - 3:45 P.M.	NFI & Justice Resource Institute GRIP Cindy Powers, Division Director of Residential Services with NFI Massachusetts Valeria Krpata, LICSW, Program Director of TheGRIP Program

This conference is **FREE of charge**.

Please RSVP to Jackie Breault at jbreault@rivier.edu by March 23, 2023.

About the Speakers

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. | Introduction

Hannah Johnson – Dr. Johnson is an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at Rivier University. She received her doctorate degree in Applied Psychology and Prevention Science from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Her research focuses on contextual factors related to supporting victims of child sexual abuse. For many years she worked at numerous non-profit organizations caring for at-risk youth in community-based and residential services.

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. | NH Division of Youth and Family Services, Child Protective Unit

Caitlin Hand – Mrs. Hand is an Assistant Supervisor in Assessment for the Division of Children, Youth and Families Southern District Office. She is a Rivier University graduate, with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and double minor in Criminal Justice and Social Work. In the almost nine years Mrs. Hand has been with the Division, she has worked as an Assessment Child Protection Worker, a Family Services Child Protection Worker, a Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer, and for the last two years an Assistant Supervisor in Assessment in child protection.

Stacey Bellemore – Mrs. Bellemore is the District Office Supervisor for the Southern District Office of the Division of Children, Youth and Families. She has a master's degree in Psychology with a minor in Addiction Studies from Kaplan University and a bachelor's degree from Fitchburg State University in Human Services with a minor in Criminal Justice. In the almost nine years Mrs. Bellemore has been with the Division, she has been a Family Services Child Protection worker, an Assistant Supervisor in assessment, and for the last seven years the District Office Supervisor.

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | NH Division of Youth and Family Services, Juvenile Probation and Parole

Amy McCormack – Mrs. McCormack is the Associate Bureau Chief of Field Services for Juvenile Justice for the Division of Children, Youth and Families. She has a master's degree in Criminal Justice and a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice both from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. In the almost 16 years Mrs. McCormack has been with the Division, she has been a Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer, Juvenile Justice Assistant Supervisor, Juvenile Justice District Office Supervisor, and for the last two years as the Associate Bureau Chief of Field Services for Juvenile Justice.

Jeffrey Sellars – Mr. Sellars is a Juvenile Justice Assessment Administrator for Division of Children Youth and Families. He is a UNH graduate, with a bachelor's degree in Social Work. In the almost 16 years Mr. Sellars has been with the Division, he has worked as a Youth Counselor at Sununu Youth Services Center, a Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer, Juvenile Probation and Parole Assistant Supervisor, Interim Supervisor VI at Sununu Youth Services Center, and the last year as the Assessment Administrator for Juvenile Justice.

1:00 - 2:15 p.m. | Youth Community Based Services- Community Teamwork INC and Justice Resource Institute

Amanda Sullivan – Amanda Sullivan, Director of Youth Services, is responsible for Youth Services programming of Community Teamwork INC in Lowell, which supports young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are at risk of housing insecurity, pregnant and/or parenting, or struggling with

traditional educational pathways. Youth Services offers a variety of support for young people in the Lowell and Greater Lowell community (32 towns and cities across Massachusetts) to work towards stabilization and individualized success. Operating from a youth-focused and trauma-informed lens, programming ranges from outreach and engagement to educational and employment pathways to long-term supportive housing for young people in need.

Morganne Crouser – Morganne Crouser, LICSW has spent the last 17 years working with vulnerable youth and families. Currently, they direct two of Justice Resource Institute's programs, GRIP Community Based Services (GRIP CBS) and Pathways to Permanency (P2P). GRIP CBS provides in-home therapy and therapeutic mentoring to youth and families in the greater Holyoke area, while P2P offers caregiver consultation services to foster and pre-adoptive families across Massachusetts. Morganne is especially committed to serving transgender and gender-expansive youth and their families, and as such developed the Gender Identity Specialty Team within GRIP CBS. They received their MSW from the University of Vermont and have their LICSW in Massachusetts.

2:30 - 3:45 p.m. | Youth Residential Programs – NFI Residential Services and GRIP Program

Cindy Powers – Ms. Powers earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. She has over 25 years' experience working with children and adolescents involved with both the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice. She was employed by Justice Resource Institute for more than nine years as the Division Director of the Northeast Region, which included both residential and community-based programs and opening the first latency group home for JRI. Cindy currently works as the Division Director of Residential Services with NFI Massachusetts. In her current role, she oversees the adolescent residential programs consisting of Emergency Residences, Intensive Group Homes, Supported Independent Living, Specialty Group Homes, and a Department of Youth Services Detention Facility. Cindy has served on several Children's League of Massachusetts committees focused on transitional age youth and is passionate about all youth having stable housing, reaching educational and vocational goals, and achieving permanency.

Valerie Krpata – Ms. Krpata, LICSW (she/her/hers) is a Program Director of The GRIP Program at Justice Resource Institute, which is a group home serving all genders of transitional age youth with complex trauma with a mission to support youth in their transition to independence. Valerie is the co-developer of ReScripted, an improv theater-based group intervention, and is member of the ReScripted Leadership Team. Valerie is also a trainer in the ARC (Attachment, Self-Regulation, and Competency) framework and believes in the healing power of a caring and attuned community through trauma-informed care. Valerie received her master's degree in Social Work from Simmons College in 2011. Throughout her clinical career, she has gained extensive experience working with the latency, adolescent, and transitional age youth within congregate care settings who have experienced developmental trauma. Valerie further believes that a trauma-informed approach includes providing several options of creative therapeutic interventions. Within her role with congregate care settings, she has over 10 years of experience providing, collaborating, training and/or implementing such therapeutic approaches for this population, including improv theater, motivational interviewing, harm reduction, neurofeedback, Sensory Motor Arousal Regulation Treatment (SMART), trauma-sensitive yoga, Adolescent Community Reinforcement, and the therapeutic benefits of animal-assisted therapy.