

2025 ACES Inaugural Conference
“Prevent. Treat. Heal.”
June 4-5, 2025
Charleston Marriott



2025 INAUGURAL
ACES CONFERENCE

PREVENT. TREAT. HEAL.

AGENDA – DAY 1

Wednesday - June 4, 2025

7:30 am – 5:00 pm	Registration Opens Exhibit Halls Open
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Welcome General Session Keynote Address: Jeanette Walls, Best Selling Author of The Glass Castle
11:00 am – 11:50 am	SESSION 1 (50 minute)
	From Roots to Results: Building a Grassroots Movement to Address Adverse Childhood Experiences in West Virginia Tricia Kingery, MA, MBA and Kathy Szafran, MA, LPC ACEs Coalition of WV Leadership
	"Unmasking and Undoing: Healing from Trauma While Discovering Late-Diagnosed Neurodivergence" Dr. Catherine Bailey Appalachian Counseling Center, Chief Clinical Officer and Psychologist
	Healing Hearts Through Art Karen Carter-Smith Cre8 Studios Upstairs, Trauma Informed Artist/Art Educator/ Studio Owner
	WVDII - Don't Keep Rex Around (TM) Macy Withrow West Virginia Drug Intervention Institute, Education Director
	Overview of Taking Action for Whole Health and Well-Being John K. McAtee WV Recovers, Executive Director
	Building Post-Traumatic Growth in Appalachia Maggie Moore Center for Human Engagement, Executive Director
12:00 pm – 12:50 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	SESSION 2 (75 minute)
	Recognizing & Preventing Grooming Debra Young Marshall University, Associate Professor/BSW Program Director

	<p>An Introduction to the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) Framework</p> <p>Blake Gibson, MD Department of Behavioral Medicine & Psychiatry WVU Medicine, Assistant Professor, Adult, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry</p> <p>Douglas Pfeifer, MA, LPC, ALPS Pfeifer Counseling, Owner/Counselor</p> <p>Molly M McCartney, MSW, LICSW Beacon Barn Therapeutic Farm, Owner/Clinical Social Worker</p>
	<p>Integrative Healing: Somatic Techniques and Holistic Practices</p> <p>Heidi OToole & Michelle Christy WV THERAPY & WELLNESS CENTER</p>
	<p>Strengthening Families Through Home Visiting</p> <p>Petrellia "Trella" Coppola Right From The Start, Right From The Start Coordinator</p>
	<p>Creative Interventions: Strategies That You Didn't Realize Were Best Practice</p> <p>Kathy Paxton Consultant</p>
	<p>Using Structure and Routine to Manage Challenging Behaviors</p> <p>Teresa Bhaile Positive Behavior Support Program: Center for Excellence in Disabilities, Behavior Specialist</p>
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	SESSION 3 (75 minute)
	<p>Victim Services within Law Enforcement Agencies</p> <p>Kimberly Eagle FBI, Program Manager</p>
	<p>Neurobiological Effects of Trauma and the Consequences</p> <p>Dr. Todd H. Davies Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Health, Associate Director of Research, addiction Sciences</p>
	<p>Transform Your Life with Your Breath</p> <p>Amy Dobkin Joy Maker Meditations & Breathwork, Founder</p>
	<p>A Poor Understanding: When Their Poverty Makes You Uncomfortable</p> <p>Amy Jo Hutchison Economic Justice Organizer</p>
	<p>After the Storm: The Effects of Trauma on Children</p> <p>Nakia Austin, MA LPC Nakia Austin Coaching and Inspirations, LLC, CEO</p>
	<p>Building an Army of Kindness and Compassion</p> <p>Corey Beahm Family Resource Network of the Panhandle, Executive Director</p>

4:00 pm – 4:50 pm	SESSION 4 (50 minute)
	<p>Wrapping Up West Virginia Families: Social Work with Children and Families in a Wraparound Program</p> <p>Susan Harsh Mountain CAP Child Advocacy Center, Lead Social Worker of the Asset Building & Collaboration Program; Outreach & Training Coordinator</p>
	<p>Critical Periods of Development: The Open Opportunities</p> <p>Mary Payne, MD Marshall University School of Medicine, Professor, Pediatric Neurology</p>
	<p>From Survival to Thriving: Healing the Roots of Addiction Through ACE-Informed Recovery</p> <p>Cheryl Laws Pollen8, Inc., CEO</p>
	<p>Long Way Up Endeavors: Overcoming ACE's through Healthy Alternatives & Helpful Mentors</p> <p>Evan Young Kanawha Communities That Care, Director</p>
	<p>Finding Solutions for Affordable Treatment and Recovery Housing</p> <p>Isabel Thornton Restoration Housing, Executive Director</p>
	<p>FINDING PEACE-Healing Tones (crystal bowls, drums, and breathing)</p> <p>Patricia Link Acupuncture and Holistic Health Inc, Owner</p>
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	NETWORKING RECEPTION

AGENDA – DAY 2

Thursday - June 5, 2025

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Registration/Breakfast/Exhibits
8:20 am – 9:30 am	General Session · Keynote Speaker – Dr. Stephen Lloyd
9:45 am – 11:00 am	SESSION 5 (75 minute)
	Mastering EQ- Developing your Emotional Intelligence Eric Smith KTS Leadership and Consulting LLC, Founder & Executive Director, KTS Leadership & Consulting
	Play Therapy: The Principles & Path to Positive Outcomes Katrina Jefferson PeaceTree Center for Wellness
	Trauma-Informed Movement: How Exercise Heals the Brain and Builds Resilience Michelle Frase Buzz Henderson Center
	Not Just Rivalry: The Invisibility of Sibling Aggression and Abuse Corinna Tucker Sibling Aggression and Abuse Research and Advocacy Initiative (SAARA), Director
	Aces and Resilience: Starting a Movement Mark S. Childers Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, Peer Recovery Support Specialist
	Healing for All: Making Trauma Recovery Accessible for Neurodivergent Individuals John Barton
11:15 am – 12:05 pm	SESSION 6 (50 minute)
	The Answer to Everything: Home Visitation and The Impact of Connection Samantha McCoy TEAM for WV Children, Coordinator, PiCO
	WV Community Services and Resources Tim Craig Region 7 Adolescent Health Initiative, Coordinator

	<p>Healing From Trauma: Igniting Change in Your Community</p> <p>Kasidi Legg ACEs Coalition Co-Coordinator</p> <p>Dr. Barb Brady Inspiring Dreams Network, Executive Director</p>
	<p>Appalachian Role Theory: Encounters of Resiliency Intergrading Evolved Roles</p> <p>Tuesday Taylor, Drama Therapist & Published Poet</p>
	<p>Surviving the Mind Fields</p> <p>Happy Plaugher Intentional Life, LLC., Owner/Mental Health Specialist</p>
	<p>ACEs in the Lives of Mothers Receiving Substance Use Treatment and Their Children</p> <p>Brittany T. Smith, PhD University of Pittsburgh, Doctor</p>
12:05 pm – 1:30 pm	Optional Coalition Meeting w/ Lunch Included

ACEs 2025 Conference Sessions & Speakers

KEY

The colors indicate the track each session is derived

PREVENT
TREAT
HEAL

SESSION ONE | June 4 | 11:00-11:50am

From Roots to Results: Building a Grassroots Movement to Address Adverse Childhood Experiences in West Virginia

Tricia Kingery, MA, MBA and Kathy Szafran, MA, LPC | ACEs Coalition of WV Leadership

"Unmasking and Undoing: Healing from Trauma While Discovering Late-Diagnosed Neurodivergence"
Dr. Catherine Bailey | Appalachian Counseling Center, Chief Clinical Officer and Psychologist

Healing Hearts Through Art

Karen Carter-Smith | Cre8 Studios Upstairs, Trauma Informed Artist/Art Educator/ Studio Owner

WVDII - Don't Keep Rex Around (TM)

Macy Withrow | West Virginia Drug Intervention Institute, Education Director

Overview of Taking Action for Whole Health and Well-Being

John K. McAtee | WV Recovers, Executive Director

Building Post-Traumatic Growth in Appalachia

Maggie Moore | Center for Human Engagement, Executive Director

SESSION TWO | June 4 | 1:00-2:15pm

Recognizing & Preventing Grooming

Debra Young | Marshall University, Associate Professor/BSW Program Director

An Introduction to the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) Framework

Blake Gibson, MD | Department of Behavioral Medicine & Psychiatry WVU Medicine, Assistant Professor, Adult, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

Douglas Pfeifer, MA, LPC, ALPS | Pfeifer Counseling, Owner/Counselor

Molly M McCartney, MSW, LICSW | Beacon Barn Therapeutic Farm, Owner/Clinical Social Worker

Integrative Healing: Somatic Techniques and Holistic Practices

Heidi OToole & Michelle Christy | WV THERAPY & WELLNESS CENTER

Strengthening Families Through Home Visiting

TBA

Creative Interventions: Strategies That You Didn't Realize Were Best Practice

Kathy Paxton | Consultant

Using Structure and Routine to Manage Challenging Behaviors

Teresa Bhaile | Positive Behavior Support Program: Center for Excellence in Disabilities, Behavior Specialist

SESSION THREE | June 4 | 2:30-3:45pm

Victim Services within Law Enforcement Agencies

Kimberly Eagle | FBI, Program Manager

Neurobiological Effects of Trauma and the Consequences

Dr. Todd H. Davies | Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Health, Associate Director of Research, addiction Sciences

Transform Your Life with Your Breath

Amy Dobkin | Joy Maker Meditations & Breathwork, Founder

A Poor Understanding: When Their Poverty Makes You Uncomfortable

Amy Jo Hutchison | Economic Justice Organizer

After the Storm: The Effects of Trauma on Children

Nakia Austin, MA LPC | Nakia Austin Coaching and Inspirations, LLC, CEO

Building an Army of Kindness and Compassion

Corey Beahm | Family Resource Network of the Panhandle, Executive Director

SESSION FOUR | June 4 | 4:00-4:50pm

Wrapping Up West Virginia Families: Social Work with Children and Families in a Wraparound Program

Susan Harsh | Mountain CAP Child Advocacy Center, Lead Social Worker of the Asset Building & Collaboration Program; Outreach & Training Coordinator

Critical Periods of Development: The Open Opportunities

Mary Payne, MD | Marshall University School of Medicine, Professor, Pediatric Neurology

From Survival to Thriving: Healing the Roots of Addiction Through ACE-Informed Recovery

Cheryl Laws | Pollen8, Inc., CEO

Long Way Up Endeavors: Overcoming ACE's through Healthy Alternatives & Helpful Mentors

Evan Young | Kanawha Communities That Care, Director

Finding Solutions for Affordable Treatment and Recovery Housing

Isabel Thornton | Restoration Housing, Executive Director

FINDING PEACE-Healing Tones (crystal bowls, drums, and breathing)

Patricia Link | Acupuncture and Holistic Health Inc, Owner

SESSION FIVE | June 4 | 9:45-11:00am

Mastering EQ- Developing your Emotional Intelligence

Eric Smith | KTS Leadership and Consulting LLC, Founder & Executive Director, KTS Leadership & Consulting

Play Therapy: The Principles & Path to Positive Outcomes

Katrina Jefferson | PeaceTree Center for Wellness

Trauma-Informed Movement: How Exercise Heals the Brain and Builds Resilience

Michelle Frase | Buzz Henderson Center

Not Just Rivalry: The Invisibility of Sibling Aggression and Abuse

Corinna Tucker | Sibling Aggression and Abuse Research and Advocacy Initiative (SAARA), Director

Aces and Resilience: Starting a Movement

Mark S. Childers | Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, Peer Recovery Support Specialist

Healing for All: Making Trauma Recovery Accessible for Neurodivergent Individuals

John Barton

SESSION SIX | June 4 | 11:15am-12:05pm

The Answer to Everything: Home Visitation and The Impact of Connection
Samantha McCoy | TEAM for WV Children, Coordinator, PiCO

WV Community Services and Resources
Tim Craig | Region 7 Adolescent Health Initiative, Coordinator

Healing From Trauma: Igniting Change in Your Community
Kasidi Legg | ACEs Coalition Co-Coordinator
Dr. Barb Brady | Inspiring Dreams Network, Executive Director

Appalachian Role Theory: Encounters of Resiliency Intergrading Evolved Roles
Tuesday Taylor, Drama Therapist & Published Poet

Surviving the Mind Fields
Happy Plaugher | Intentional Life, LLC., Owner/Mental Health Specialist

ACEs in the Lives of Mothers Receiving Substance Use Treatment and Their Children
Brittany T. Smith, PhD | University of Pittsburgh, Doctor