

# ANNUAL WJCIA

WISCONSIN JUVENILE COURT INTAKE ASSOCIATION

## TRAINING CONFERENCE

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS: THE TALL COP | CHARLES APPELSTEIN

### HOTEL INFORMATION

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center Wisconsin Dells, WI

*Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for their hotel stay.*

**HOTEL RATES:** Single - \$98.00  
Double, Triple, Quad - \$139.00

### HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS

Book Here → <https://book.passkey.com/e/51054226>

*Ask for Block of rooms under WJCIA; Available through August 17th at state rate*

RESERVATIONS: 877-525-2427 HOTEL PHONE: 608-254-5433

SEPTEMBER  
17 | 18 | 19 2025

KALAHARI RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER  
IN WISCONSIN DELLS, WI

Online Registration  
**ONLY**  
at [www.wjcia.org](http://www.wjcia.org)

**Full Conference Cost \$225**

**One Day Registration \$100**

Vendor Space Is Available  
Exhibit space is available, at a moderate cost, to:

- Educational Institutions
- Public Agencies
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Government/Federal Agencies

and vendors

The WJCIA website will link you to the vendor application at Constant Contact. Payment by vendors will be completed online only.

### CONFERENCE CANCELLATIONS & CHANGES:

A \$50 cancellation fee will be withheld from all refunds if canceling 2 weeks prior to the event.  
Anytime prior to the 2 weeks, there will be a \$30 handling/membership fee withheld.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

### High in Plain Sight: Current Alcohol, Drug, and Concealment Trends and Identifiers

Keynote: *The Tall Cop*

Are you prepared to recognize the hidden signs of drug and alcohol abuse? This powerful, eye-opening workshop will give you the tools, knowledge, and confidence to identify individuals who may be struggling with substance use—whether it's illegal drugs, alcohol, marijuana, or even everyday over-the-counter medications. You'll learn the latest slang, symbols, and concealment methods commonly associated with substance abuse. From subtle warning signs to the unexpected places drugs can be hidden at school, home, or work, this session dives deep into the realities you need to know.

### Chronic Absenteeism in Schools: Breaking the Cycle through the Power of Partnerships

Lisa Arneson and Ellie Olson

Chronic absenteeism reflects deeper challenges that require cross-system solutions. This session brings together education and youth justice professionals to explore attendance data, root causes, and proactive strategies to reengage students. Participants will learn how collaboration among schools, courts, families, and community partners can shift the focus from punishment to prevention and support, leaving with practical ideas for early intervention and sustained engagement.

### Ethics and Boundaries: Social Work Ethics, Values, and Boundaries in Changing Political Environments

Janet Holter

This session will focus on practice in Youth Justice, and ethics and boundaries in relation to our rapidly changing political environments. Through collaborative/active discussion, and case studies, attendees will address current ethical and boundary concerns related to policies that may be impacting our clients, particularly when these are contradictory with social work values. Participants will also work to ethically negotiate differences in political opinions with colleagues, clients and employers. Participants will apply the NASW Code of Ethics to social work situations, focusing on issues related to youth justice and navigating the many changes in our current political environment.

### Understanding School Discipline Laws and Policies to Improve Collaboration

Tim Peerenboom

Understanding the process, legal requirements and procedures schools must follow when implementing exclusionary discipline practices such as suspensions and expulsions is key to fostering effective collaboration between the education systems and youth justice. Practical strategies for advocacy and building collaborative efforts to reduce the use of exclusionary discipline will be shared, with a focus on supporting positive outcomes for students.

## Special Education IEP Advocacy

*Jeff Spitzer-Resnick*

Participants will gain a foundational understanding of both state and federal special education laws and learn how to effectively advocate for the rights of children with disabilities throughout the special education process.

## Overview of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS)

*Carlene Kellermann*

Are you a new employee or someone with at least five years until retirement? This session will explain the key elements of the Wisconsin Retirement System, helping you understand how the pension system works, what benefits are available through WRS, and where to find additional resources. It is ideal for early- and mid-career employees who want to plan ahead and make informed decisions about their retirement.

# THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

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## Understanding Feelings & Managing Behaviors

*Amber McKelvey & Hilary Sahr*

Participants attending this workshop will have the opportunity to learn how trauma and traumatic events impact individuals behaviors while also taking into account “what is below the surface.” Participants will walk away with several tools for how to connect and self regulate with a child/youth. Participants will learn how to correct behaviors, utilizing a trauma informed lens as well as build connections and use motivation to change behaviors.

## Sextortion, AI and Youth Safety on Social Media

*Maradith McQuillan*

Participants will gain an understanding of sextortion, a form of online exploitation where perpetrators threaten to release intimate images or videos unless the victim provides more explicit content or money. The session will also explore how AI technologies are increasingly being used in social media platforms to either facilitate or combat these types of crimes, focusing on how technology can be exploited for harm and the role of AI in detecting or preventing such activities. Attendees will learn about key signs of abuse, how to support and educate children and caregivers, and the importance of awareness and vigilance in preventing exploitation.

## Reframing Truancy: Causes, Consequences, and Collaborative Solutions

*Margaret Kubek*

Truancy is more than missed school days - it's a signal of deeper challenges facing youth, families, and communities. This presentation explores the historical evolution of truancy laws and interventions, alongside current statistics comparing Wisconsin with national trends. Participants will examine the complex social, emotional, and systemic reasons students disengage from school, including poverty, mental health, and family instability. The session will also highlight emerging, research-informed practices that focus on prevention, early intervention, and community collaboration. Participants will come away with strategies to address truancy that prioritize student well-being, informed decision-making, and meaningful support systems.

## Waiver in Wisconsin: How does Original Jurisdiction and Wavier Impact Juveniles in Wisconsin

*Kevin Rathburn*

This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of original jurisdiction in juvenile cases under Wisconsin law. Attendees will learn about the procedures for requesting a waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction under Wis. Stat. § 938.18, including the legal standards and required judicial findings outlined in § 938.18(5). The session will also cover the concept of reverse waiver, the application of original adult court jurisdiction under § 938.183, and the rights and procedures that apply once a waiver has been granted. This training is essential for professionals navigating the juvenile justice system in Wisconsin.

## YASI Refresher

*Lindsay Ebben*

This YASI Refresher session is intended for child welfare professionals who have completed YASI Collaborative CaseWorks (Parts 1 and 2) and YASI Booster 1 and 2, and are seeking to fulfill their annual booster requirement. Full attendance is required to receive credit for this session. The training is designed to support quality assurance and the effective, consistent use of the YASI assessment tool and its case planning features. Topics covered will include a brief review of YASI assessment item scoring, use of the YASI ABCD screen, incorporation of family and youth feedback, an overview of priority and target selection, development of case plans with goals and action steps, and a review of the YASI CaseWorks software. This session will reinforce best practices and ensure alignment with the YASI model in everyday casework.

## Use the Force, Luke! Managing Number One, First & Staying Motivated to Do the Job

*Charles Appelstein*

Working day after day with youth at-risk often elicits difficult feelings that can compromise a professional's performance. This uplifting presentation examines the major triggers and provides strategies for self-management that keep enthusiasm alive. Focal points include: how to manage effectively when personalizing difficult interactions and situations, the pivotal role of support and how to respond instead of react when it's lacking, the need to check one's “baggage” at the door, and a new definition for success in working with at-risk populations.

**Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Recent Trends in Cannabis Use***John Puls*

Cannabis is the most used substance nationwide after tobacco and alcohol (NIH, 2020). Approximately 16 million Americans report regularly using cannabis (NIH, 2020). The vast majority of cannabis users begin using during their teenage years (NIH). Problems have arisen with the broad legalization of cannabis, including a failure to account for increased toxicity and the dangerous effects on early teens and young adults. Rapid increases in anxiety, paranoia, and psychosis-related hospitalizations from cannabis are causing alarm. This presentation will seek to highlight the growing risk of cannabis induced psychosis and related issues.

**Understanding Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management with School Age Youth***Sue Williams*

Behavior Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) is a problem-solving approach to violence prevention that involves assessment and intervention with students who have demonstrated a concern for violence. Understanding the foundational concepts of threat identification and the distinction between students that “make” a threat versus “pose” a threat are important aspects in keeping everyone safe and determining the “right-sized” approach in response to concerning behavior. Ultimately, the goal is to mitigate violence, while educating and supporting youth through the development of an individualized intervention plan. The use of a community-based approach is encouraged and can lead to positive outcomes for youth, as well as valued partnerships and shared resources among teams.

**Case Information Page Update***Shane Arndt and Kensey Kuhl*

Join us for a live demonstration of the newly updated SACWIS Case Information Page. This session will walk through the key elements of the updated interface, highlighting new features and improvements designed to enhance usability and streamline case management. Following the demo, we'll open the floor for a Q&A session to address your questions and gather feedback.

**Creating a Trauma-Informed Approach to Working with Families in Indian Country***Heather Haeflinger, Tracy Lobermier and Michael Creapeau*

This interactive presentation explores the historical and cultural factors—such as historical trauma, the boarding school era, and systemic displacement—that continue to impact Native communities. Participants will learn how these experiences shape present-day realities and how to apply this understanding to develop culturally responsive approaches when working with Native youth and families in child welfare, youth justice, and victim services. Limited understanding of Native lifeways and family structures can hinder trust and support. This session offers insight into Native caregiving practices and how they may differ from mainstream norms.

**Is This Normal? Addressing Problematic Sexual Behaviors in Children***Gracie Getschel*

Historically the presence of sexual behaviors in children was societally met with judgment, fear, and misunderstanding. Realistically, sexual play is common for children, with 66%-88% of children exhibiting some form of sexual play in the course of their childhood. As professionals working with children, it is important to understand how to distinguish between developmentally normal sexual behaviors and developmentally problematic sexual behaviors in children. This presentation differentiates sexual behaviors that are more typical than sexual behaviors that are more harmful and uses this foundation for considerations on responding to problematic sexual behaviors.

**Work-Life Balance. Lost It? Get It Back!***Brian Udermann*

Ask the average person nowadays how they are doing, and they will usually say “I’m just so busy!” Our work environments are often fast-paced and hectic, we are continually being asked to do more with less. Our home environment can, at times, be overwhelming as well with running children to numerous practices and events, to taking care of the yard or completing house related projects. When was the last time you really felt at peace or felt centered and full of joy? How are you at controlling stress in your life? Would you like to laugh more, eat healthier and sleep better? Would you like to have a better relationship with your partner, spouse, children or your friends? This presentation will explore a number of practical strategies you can use to regain a healthy balance in your life!

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025****No Such Thing as a Bad Kid***Charles Appelstein*

Strength-based practice is a transformative approach to guiding youth—especially those with emotional and behavioral challenges—that focuses on building strengths rather than fixing flaws. Rooted in the belief that every young person has inherent potential and the capacity to grow, this uplifting keynote will explore how to help youth tap into their past successes, foster resilience, and enhance overall functioning.

THE WISCONSIN JUVENILE COURT INTAKE ASSOCIATION (WJCIA) is a professional Association for intake workers, juvenile justice and child protection professionals. In December 1980, the Association was created and saw a need for training and sharing of information. WJCIA held its first conference in July 1981, offering training at basic and advanced levels. The Association has continued to offer relevant training. WJCIA has also developed an informative newsletter, “Prima Facie”, in an effort to keep members up-to-date on issues regarding children and families. The Association has been active in developing positions on key legislative issues so that input can be provided on matters, which affect juvenile intake workers and other family services staff. WJCIA strives to develop effective resolutions for the common problems of intake workers, juvenile justice and other child protection professionals. WJCIA maintains a web site at [www.wjcia.org](http://www.wjcia.org).

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

03:00 PM

Final 2024–2025 WJCIA Board Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

07:30 AM - 09:00 AM

Registration and Breakfast Buffet 07:15 AM - 09:15 AM

09:00 AM - 09:30 AM

Announcements by WJCIA President &amp; Presentation of WJCIA Recognition Award

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

OPENING SESSION: High in Plain Sight: Current Alcohol, Drug, and Concealment Trends and Identifiers -The Tall Cop

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

High in Plain Sight - The Tall Cop Says Stop

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM

Annual Business Meeting of WJCIA / Complimentary lunch for all attendees

01:00 PM - 02:45 PM

Understanding School Discipline  
Laws and Policies to Improve  
Collaboration  
-Tim Peerenboom

Chronic Absenteeism in Schools:  
Breaking the Cycle through the  
Power of Partnerships  
-Lisa Arneson and Ellie Olson

Ethics and Boundaries: Social  
Work Ethics, Values, and  
Boundaries in Changing  
Political Environments

02:45 PM - 03:00 PM

Break

03:00 PM - 04:30 PM

Special Education IEP Advocacy  
-Jeff Spitzer-Resnick

Overview of the Wisconsin  
Retirement System (WRS)  
-Carlene Kellermann

Must attend the  
whole session

-Janet Holter

05:00 PM - 07:00 PM

Hospitality

07:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Live Music

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Registration and Breakfast

08:30 AM - 10:15 AM

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Managing Behaviors  
-Amber McKelvey & Hilary Sahr

Reframing Truancy: Causes,  
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YASI Refresher  
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Sextortion, AI and Youth Safety on  
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Complimentary lunch for all attendees

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Waiver in Wisconsin: How does  
Original Jurisdiction and Wavier  
Impact Juveniles in Wisconsin  
-Kevin Rathburn

Use the Force, Luke! Managing  
Number One, First & Staying  
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Understanding Behavioral Threat  
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Creating a Trauma-Informed  
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Families in Indian Country  
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Lobermier, and Michael Creapeau

Is This Normal? Addressing  
Problematic Sexual Behaviors in  
Children  
-Gracie Getschel

Case Information Page Update  
-Shane Arndt and Kensey Kuhl

05:00 PM - 07:00 PM

Hospitality and Corn Hole Tournament

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07:30 AM - 08:30 AM

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No Such Thing As A Bad Kid- Charles Appelstein

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM

No Such Thing As A Bad Kid- Charles Appelstein