

# SAFE *and* SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS SYMPOSIUM



MARCH 5-6TH, 2025



# WELCOME TO THE SAFE & SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS SYMPOSIUM!



This milestone conference will celebrate the progress made in both the mental health and school safety communities. Participants will have the opportunity to delve into evidence-based practices, enhance their mental and professional skills, and collaborate with colleagues, researchers, and leading experts from around the state. This two-day event, held at Region 13, promises to offer valuable insights into promoting safe and supportive learning environments while also focusing on mental health.

**SAFE** *and*  
**SUPPORTIVE**  
SCHOOLS SYMPOSIUM

 **REGION 13**  
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

# AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH

| Time           | Event  |
|----------------|--|
| 8:00 AM        | <b>Conference Check-In,<br/>Breakfast</b> (provided), and <b>Safe and Supportive<br/>Resource Hall</b><br>Room: Treaty Oak                                 |
| 9:00 AM        | <b>Welcome</b><br><b>Jenny Brockway</b> , ESC Region 13 Counseling<br>Support Services<br>Room: Big 5*   |
| 9:15-10:00 AM  | <b>Kickoff Presentation</b><br><b>Dr. Celina Bley</b> , Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC)<br>Associate Director of Training and Education<br>Room: Big 5* |
| 10:00-10:15 AM | <b>Break / Safe and Supportive Resource Hall</b>   |
| 10:15-11:45 AM | <b>Keynote</b><br><b>J. Paige Butler</b> , FBI Intelligence Analyst<br>Room: Big 5*  |
| 11:45-1:00 PM  | <b>Lunch</b> (on your own) /<br><b>Safe and Supportive Resource Hall</b>   |
| 1:10-1:55 PM   | <b>Breakout #1</b>   |
| 1:55-2:10 PM   | <b>Break / Safe and Supportive Resource Hall</b>   |
| 2:10-2:55 PM   | <b>Breakout #2</b>   |
| 2:55-3:10 PM   | <b>Break / Safe and Supportive Resource Hall</b>   |
| 3:10-3:55 PM   | <b>Breakout #3</b>   |
|                |  |
|                |  |

# AGENDA

## THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH

| Time           | Event   |
|----------------|---|
| 8:00 AM        | <b>Conference Check-In, Breakfast</b> (provided), and <b>Safe and Supportive Resource Hall</b><br>Room: Treaty Oak                  |
| 9:00-9:45 AM   | <b>Breakout #1</b>  |
| 9:45-10:00 AM  | <b>Break / Safe and Supportive Resource Hall</b>  |
| 10:00-10:45 AM | <b>Breakout #2</b>  |
| 10:45-11:00 AM | <b>Break / Safe and Supportive Resource Hall</b>  |
| 11:00-11:45 AM | <b>Breakout #3</b>  |
| 11:45-1:00 PM  | <b>Lunch</b> (on your own) / <b>Safe and Supportive Resource Hall</b>   |
| 1:00-2:00 PM   | <b>Featured Presentations and Passport Prize Giveaways</b><br>Room: Big 5*  |
| 2:00-2:15 PM   | <b>Break / Safe and Supportive Resource Hall</b>  |
| 2:15-3:45 PM   | <b>Keynote</b><br><b>Molly Hudgens</b> , School Counselor and Congressional Medal of Honor Citizens Honor Recipient<br>Room: Big 5* |







\*Big 5: State Capital, Highland Lakes, Canyon of the Eagles, Clarksville, and Lost Pines

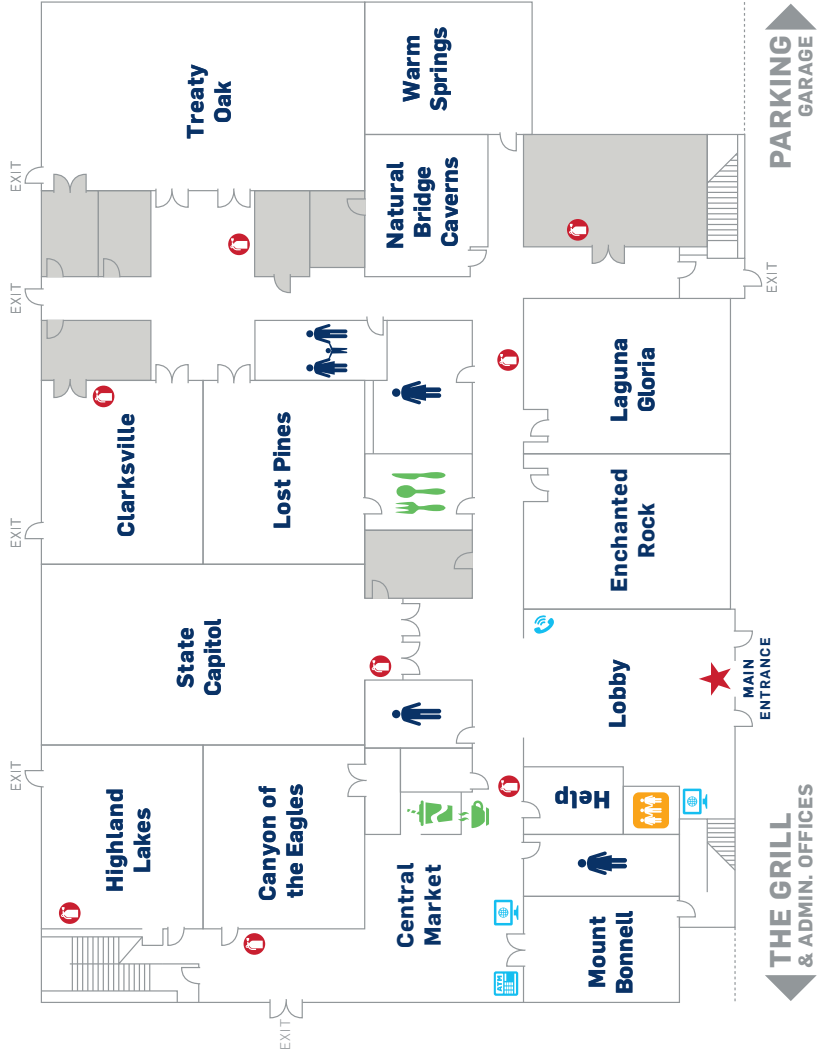
**DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS RESOURCE HALL!**

Room: Treaty Oak



# 1 TRAINING & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Men's Restroom    |  |
| Women's Restroom  |  |
| Family Restroom   |  |
| Elevator          |  |
| Kitchen           |  |
| Coffee            |  |
| Vending           |  |
| Telephone         |  |
| Computer station  |  |
| ATM               |  |
| Fire Extinguisher |  |

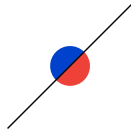




## CONFERENCE APP

The Zoom app is essential for building your learning path. Instructions have been sent to the email associated with your E-Campus registration account.

If you need further assistance, please contact our Distance Learning office at [distancelearning@esc13.txed.net](mailto:distancelearning@esc13.txed.net) or call 512-919-5444.



## SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE RESOURCE HALL PASSPORT GIVEAWAY



Visit and collect a sticker from each sponsor and mental health partner. Return your completed passport to the registration desk to be entered into our door prize giveaway.

The drawing will take place on March 6. Must be present to win.



## KICKOFF PRESENTATION

### School Safety Updates

**Dr. Celina Bley**, Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) Associate Director of Training and Education | **Room: Big 5\***

The Texas School Safety Center housed at Texas State University is charged to oversee many safety mandates and trains and educates districts throughout the State. This presentation entails a comprehensive overview of safety topics and how strategic district operations with multi-disciplinary teams play a key role in initiatives to keep schools as safe and supportive learning environments. School Behavioral Threat Assessments, Multi-hazard Emergency Operations Plans (EOP), School Safety Audits and other mandates will be reviewed as well as free trainings and resources for districts will be discussed.

## KEYNOTE

### Public Service and Awareness Briefing – Emerging Trends related to Violent Online Groups

**J. Paige Butler**, FBI Intelligence Analyst | **Room: Big 5\***

Public Service and Awareness Briefing covering emerging trends related to violent online groups, referred to as “gore” or “nihilistic”, deliberately targeting minor victims on publicly available messaging platforms. These groups use threats, blackmail, and manipulation to control the victims into recording or live-streaming self-harm, sexually explicit acts, and/or suicide; the footage is then circulated among members to extort victims further and exert control over them.

## BREAKOUT #1 — 1:10 PM-1:55 PM

### From Concern to Conclusion: A Behind the Scenes look at a Real Campus Threat Assessment\*

**Kelli Cramer**, Wayside Schools | **Room: State Capital**

During our 45 minutes together we will walk through an actual School Behavioral Threat Assessment from the much needed organizational steps, all the way to results and follow-up actions. Organizational materials will be provided during this session.

\* Repeat Session

### Building a Multidisciplinary Safe and Supportive Schools Program Team\*

**Sirena Cumberland, Retta Ary and Maureen Jamail**, Dripping Springs ISD |

**Room: Highland Lakes**





How Dripping Springs ISD has created hybrid campus/district Multidisciplinary Safe and Supportive School Program Teams that strive to support all students, specifically students served through special education, through the school behavior threat assessment process.

\* Repeat Session

## **Understanding Best Practices for Animal-Assisted Crisis Response\***

**Jeanne Hooke**, HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response Volunteer |

**Room: Canyon of the Eagles**

In addition to the logistical protocols and efforts during a crisis, the emotional and mental well being of all those involved is a critical part of the process. Jeanne will provide insights on how canine teams have provided comfort and encouragement during times of crisis, not only to those directly experiencing crisis but also to First Responders. She will outline the best practices of working with a professional AACR organization and how they integrate with the Incident Command Structure of the EMS agencies. She will share real life experiences drawn from the over 20 year history of HOPE AACR and how the loving eyes, soft head and tender heart of a dog can bring a positive moment during a horrific and stressful experience.

\* Repeat Session March 6th

## **PAX Good Behavior Game**

**Mary Anne Hettenhaus & Melanie Collins**, ESC Region 13 | **Room: Clarksville**

This session will explore the PAX Good Behavior Game suite of trainings available to all Texas teachers and staff who work in early childhood, elementary and adolescent school settings. The trainings provide classroom-based strategies to implement evidence-based and trauma informed strategies to decrease problematic behavior, improve academic performance, & increase student engagement. Training is a universal preventive intervention used to teach students self-regulation and to build behavioral skills and stamina for focused attention and on-task behavior. This program is grant funded, so trainings and classroom materials are free.

## **Supporting Homeless & Unaccompanied Youth\***

**Martin Martinez and Emily Johnston**, Texas Appleseed and Texas Foster Youth Justice Project at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid | **Room: Lost Pines**

We will give an overview of the challenges unaccompanied homeless youth face, share what options are available to them, and highlight opportunities to help them.

\* Repeat Session March 6th

\*Big 5: State Capital, Highland Lakes, Canyon of the Eagles, Clarksville, and Lost Pines

## BREAKOUT #2 — 2:10 PM-2:55 PM

### **From Concern to Conclusion: A Behind the Scenes look at a Real Campus Threat Assessment\***

**Kelli Cramer, Wayside Schools | Room: State Capital**

During our 45 minutes together we will walk through an actual School Behavioral Threat Assessment from the much needed organizational steps, all the way to results and follow-up actions. Organizational materials will be provided during this session.

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### **Building a Multidisciplinary Safe and Supportive Schools Program Team\***

**Sirena Cumberland, Retta Ary and Maureen Jamail, Dripping Springs ISD |**

**Room: Highland Lakes**

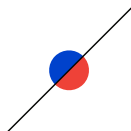
How Dripping Springs ISD has created hybrid campus/district Multidisciplinary Safe and Supportive School Program Teams that strive to support all students, specifically students served through special education, through the school behavior threat assessment process.

\* Repeat Session

### **Bullying Prevention**

**Juliana Aguilar, Crime Stoppers | Room: Canyon of the Eagles**

This training discusses best practices on creating a bully-free climate. Learn to identify the different types of bullying, the Internet's effects on bullying, statistics, state laws, and how to best support your students on and off campus.





## **Building Resilient Schools: Tackling Student Wellbeing and Safety Together**

**Dr. Amy Grosso, Raptor Technologies | Room: Clarksville**

Navigating the challenges of student wellbeing and safety requires a proactive and collaborative approach. This session explores the critical connection between mental health and school safety, highlighting their impact on student success and school culture. You'll gain practical strategies for identifying and addressing concerns early, preventing crises before they arise. Discover how fostering teamwork across staff, students, and families can lead to stronger support systems and better outcomes for students.

## **Creating Opportunities: Ways Implement Effective Scholarship Programs for Students**

**Jerretta Jimmerson Davenport, ESC Region 13 and Dr. R. Gabrielle McCormick, Scholarship Informer | Room: Lost Pines**

This presentation explores how scholarships transform students' academic journeys. The breakout session will focus on how scholarship programs can offer comprehensive support—beyond financial aid—by guiding students through the complex application process and empowering school liaisons to assist them effectively.

**DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE SAFE AND  
SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS RESOURCE HALL!**

Room: Treaty Oak



## BREAKOUT #3 – 3:10 PM-3:55 PM

### TEA – Sentinel Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) Overview\*

**Deputy Chief James Finley, Texas Education Agency | Room: State Capital**

Overview of the BTA Module within Sentinel to conduct, manage and transfer BTAs.

\* Repeat Session March 6th

### Texas Fentanyl Awareness Education Program for School Staff\*

**Lorie Killian, ESC Region 13 | Room: Highland Lakes**

Texas has implemented a comprehensive program to educate school staff about the dangers of fentanyl. The program aims to equip educators with the knowledge and tools necessary to identify potential fentanyl-related issues, respond effectively, and prevent harm. By participating in this program, school staff can play a crucial role in protecting the health and safety of students and the wider community.

**Key components of the program include:**

- **Fentanyl Awareness Training:** This training provides staff with in-depth information about fentanyl, including its potency, common sources, and the risks associated with its use.
- **Signs and Symptoms of Overdose:** Educators learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of a fentanyl overdose.
- **Emergency Response Procedures:** Staff are trained on how to respond to a suspected overdose, including administering naloxone (NARCAN), a medication that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose.
- **Resource Development:** Schools are to be provided with resources and support materials to help them implement the program effectively and address student concerns.

\* Repeat Session March 6th

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## **Mental Health Awareness and Improving School Connectedness**

**Sharon Munroe, DrPH(c)**, MPH, MBA, CHWI, MCHES, UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, Austin Campus | **Room: Canyon of the Eagles**

School connectedness, a term developed by the CDC, may reduce risk factors for mental health conditions in adolescents attending K-12 schools, especially for high school students, and serve as an environmental protective factor. Evidence-based mental health awareness training programs facilitate high school connectedness among teachers, school staff, and students. Having one caring adult contact and a supportive environment at a school can make a difference in preventing untreated mental illness. This topic is timely due to our focus on school health and well-being and recent legislation expanding H.B. 3 in 2023.

## **iWatch Texas School Safety Network\***

**Kimberly Jones, Senior Manager iWatch Program DPS** | **Room: Clarksville**

Session will provide an overview of the iWatch Texas Community Reporting System, with a specific focus on the School Safety Network component. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn how iWatch Texas supports school safety through the collection of related suspicious activity reports (SARs) across the State of Texas, the building of threat patterns, and the ability to identify matches across disparate reporting. Additionally, attendees will learn how to take advantage of available, no cost, licenses to the School Safety Network.

\* Repeat Session March 6th

## **Data-Driven Approaches to Improving Student Mental Health Service Delivery\***

**Victoria Fleming and Molly Sanders, University of Texas at Austin, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health** | **Room: Lost Pines**

This presentation will review how the Project Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education (AWARE) evaluation team uses student-level data to guide decision-making, improve school mental health service delivery, and track student outcomes over time.

\* Repeat Session March 6th

## BREAKOUT #1 – 9:00-9:45 AM

### **Get to Know Your Licensed Mental Health Authority (LMHA): Spotlight on Youth Crisis Respite**

**Emily Hammer, LCSW, Integral Care | Room: State Capital**

This session will focus on providing tangible resources and information on mental health, substance use, and safety supports in your school community. Hear from the Local Mental Health Authorities on IDD referrals and screenings, substance use support, crisis response and MCOT, Youth Mental Health First Aid, trainings for your school or district, and more. As your LMHA Mental Health Liaison to Region 13, Emily Hammer, LCSW, will facilitate this session to help bring the community supports to you to increase collaboration, and safety.

### **Behavioral Threat Assessments: A School Counselor Perspective**

**Laura Lake, Jarrell ISD | Room: Highland Lakes**

This session will focus on practical ideas for supporting the implementation of effective yet manageable behavioral threat assessment protocols for your campus from a school counselor perspective.

### **Online Safety Trends and Resource**

**Belinda B. Swan, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children |**

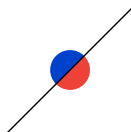
**Room: Canyon of the Eagles**

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)'s unique perspective as the nation's centralized reporting mechanism for suspected child exploitation offers useful insights into the risks children face online and how they present in the classroom and beyond. Join NCMEC for a discussion about the latest online safety trends, including sextortion and generative AI, and about the free resources available to empower educators, administrators, and community members to recognize, address, and prevent these issues.

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Overview of the BTA Module within Sentinel to conduct, manage and transfer BTAs.





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### **BREAKOUT #2 – 10:00-10:45 AM**

## **Resilience Ready: Building Preparedness and Best Practices for District-Wide Mental Health Crisis Response**

**Kimberly Coombs**, LCSW, ESC Region 13 At-Risk Specialist | **Room: State Capital**

This workshop will allow participants to learn how to effectively prepare for and manage mental health crisis within their district. From establishing crisis response teams to developing robust protocols, policies and procedures, participants will learn necessary tools to develop a comprehensive crisis response plan and feel ready and confident to handle the beginning, middle and end of a potential crisis in your school district.

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## **Understanding Best Practices for Animal-Assisted Crisis Response**

**Jeanne Hooke**, HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response Volunteer |

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teams have provided comfort and encouragement during times of crisis, not only to those directly experiencing crisis but also to First Responders. She will outline the best practices of working with a professional AACR organization and how they integrate with the Incident Command Structure of the EMS agencies. She will share real life experiences drawn from the over 20 year history of HOPE AACR and how the loving eyes, soft head and tender heart of a dog can bring a positive moment during a horrific and stressful experience.

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**Key components of the program include:**

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- **Resource Development:** Schools are to be provided with resources and support materials to help them implement the program effectively and address student concerns.

### **From Conflict to Community: Restorative Practices That Transform School Climate**

**Angela Isenberg, ESC Region 13 | Room: Lost Pines**

Creating a safe and supportive school starts with meaningful engagement that connects students, staff, and the family community. In this interactive session, explore how restorative practices can strengthen relationships, promote engagement, and build a sense of belonging. Learn strategies to cultivate trust, empower your team, and create an environment where everyone feels valued and motivated to do meaningful work. Walk away with actionable tools to transform your school's climate and culture into one where connection, collaboration, and community thrive.





## BREAKOUT #3 – 11:00 PM-11:45 AM

### **Sparkling Futures: Promoting Mental Health for Safe and Healthy Students**

**Ebonie Trice, Mission Accomplished | Room: State Capital**

This presentation will highlight the Sparkling Futures initiative, a program designed to address the intersection of mental health, hygiene, and student success. By providing laundry services to students and their families, Sparkling Futures not only meets a basic need but also fosters dignity, confidence, and inclusion, creating a positive school climate where every student feels valued and ready to learn.

### **Mistake and Friends: Enhancing Emotional Learning and Growth**

**Neta Shani, Mistake and Friends and Jerretta Jimmerson Davenport, ESC Region 13 | Room: Highland Lakes**

This session highlights our workshops on nurturing a growth mindset through mistakes and emotions, understanding sensory processing, ADHD, and managing big emotions. Learn how educators and counselors are using Mistake and Friends characters to share engaging, practical resources that empower students and foster emotional resilience.

### **Human Trafficking**

**Juliana Aguilar, Crime Stoppers | Room: Canyon of the Eagles**

There are many misconceptions regarding school-aged human trafficking. The reality is, human trafficking is happening in every neighborhood and does not discriminate. This presentation clarifies what human trafficking is, where it happens, how youth are lured in, exposes traffickers, and provides prevention strategies. We discuss the academic, behavioral, and physical signs of youth trafficking victims, as well as reporting protocol and best practices..

**DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS RESOURCE HALL!**

Room: Treaty Oak





## **Shattering Stigma: Navigating Barriers to Youth Help Seeking**

**Lindsey Webster, The JED Foundation | Room: Clarksville**

In 2021, nearly 1 in 2 high school students reported feeling persistent sadness or hopelessness, a staggering rise from just 28% a decade earlier. Tragically, suicide is now the second-leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 10 and 34. While many challenges hinder access to mental health care, stigma remains one of the most significant barriers—yet it's been largely overlooked when it comes to teen populations. Teenagers may experience stigma differently than adults, making traditional approaches to mental health support less effective. In this session, we'll dive deep into the unique barriers that prevent youth from seeking help. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the nuances of teen mental health and discover actionable strategies to encourage help-seeking behavior..

## **Supporting Homeless & Unaccompanied Youth**

**Martin Martinez and Emily Johnston, Texas Appleseed and Texas Foster Youth Justice Project at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid | Room: Lost Pines**

We will give an overview of the challenges unaccompanied homeless youth face, share what options are available to them, and highlight opportunities to help them.

## **FEATURED PRESENTATIONS AND PASSPORT PRIZE GIVEAWAYS— 1:00 PM-2:00 PM**

**Brycomm, Navigate 360, Alongside, GoGuardian | Room: Big 5\***

## **KEYNOTE**

## **Saving Sycamore: The School Shooting That Never Happened**

**Molly Hudgens, School Counselor and Congressional Medal of Honor Citizens Honor Recipient | Room: Big 5\***

Molly shares the story of how she prevented a school shooting on September 28, 2016. When a student with a fully-loaded semi-automatic handgun came to her with a plan to kill people on the school's campus, he told her, "I came to you because you're the only person who can talk me out of this." After a ninety-minute intervention, the student relinquished the weapon to Hudgens with no shots fired and no lives lost. Hudgens' retelling of the event walks the audience through the specifics of the incident that took place in her office and highlights previous training that affected her decision-making process during the event. Hudgens speaks boldly of her faith throughout and challenges those in attendance to remember that every human interaction matters and that one life can make a difference. Hudgens became the first Tennessean and only the tenth woman to become a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's Citizens Medal of Honor for her efforts that day.

\*Big 5: State Capital, Highland Lakes, Canyon of the Eagles, Clarksville, and Lost Pines



# MEET THE PRESENTERS



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### **DR. CELINA BLEY**

Dr. Celina Bley is the Associate Director of Training and Education with the Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University. She started at the Center in February 2019 and brings with her 18 years of district administrator experience in the Central Texas area. She began in the field as a communications Director and worked her way up to Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations which included school safety for a 6A District. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Education in the field of Adult, Professional and Community Education from Texas State University. Dr. Bley received her Master of Arts in Adult and Developmental Education and her Bachelor of Arts in German.



### **J. PAIGE BUTLER**

IA Butler serves as a Violent Extremism analyst for the Counterterrorism Branch of the San Antonio Field Office. Focusing on cross-programmatic threats between Domestic Terrorism, Civil Rights and Crimes Against Children. IA Butler has been with the Department of Justice for 15 years, previously serving as a Texas Peace Officer and in the US Navy.



### **MOLLY HUDGENS**

On September 28, 2016, an eighth grader armed with a semi-automatic handgun and a plan to kill people on campus went to the counseling department at Sycamore Middle School in Pleasant View, Tennessee, to find his school counselor. After ninety minutes of de-escalation efforts, the counselor was able to successfully convince the young man to surrender the weapon without incident. For her efforts, she became a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor's Citizens Honor for a single act of heroism. In her twenty-fifth year in education, she remains the school counselor at Sycamore Middle School and will be joining us at the Safe and Supportive Schools Symposium to share her story of "The School Shooting that Never Happened."

## PRESENTERS



### **DIANA KELLI CRAMER**

Kelli Cramer is the Network Behavior Specialist at Wayside Schools, a Charter School in South Austin, committed to ensuring ALL children receive a college-preparatory education. Kelli completed a Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Community Services and later completed her Master of Arts in Education with a Specialization in Behavioral Studies. She is committed to creating safe school environments and moving behavior responses from reactive to proactive, while building skills and relationships.



### **SIRENNA CUMBERLAND**

28 years in law enforcement, 2 1/2 years Texas School Safety Center, and 2 1/2 years with Dripping Springs ISD as the Director of Safety.



### **RETTA ARY**

26 years in education, 16 in counseling, and 2 in district administration.



### **MAUREEN JAMAIL**

21 years in education, 9 years as an administrator, currently a principal at Walnut Springs ES.

## PRESENTERS



### **JEANNE HOOKE**

Jeanne Hooke became a Member of HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response in 2013, with her dog Rebel. Initially as a Crisis Response Canine Team and now as a Team Leader after losing her HOPE partner of ten years. She has witnessed first-hand the unconditional love and many benefits a dog can bring to a disaster or crises while working alongside First Responders, school crisis teams, victims' advocates, and many others. Currently Jeanne is the President of HOPE AACR, along with being the VOICE for HOPE as she answers the HOPE toll free line.



### **MARY ANNE HETTENHAUS**

Mary Anne has over 18 years of service in primary and post-secondary educational settings. Currently, she works as an Education Specialist at Region 13 and coordinates statewide training in PAX Good Behavior Game. Previously she identified needed support services for students and families with complex needs at Round Rock ISD and managed the opening of a post-secondary program for adults with disabilities at University of Texas at Austin. She has presented to a wide variety of audiences including students, parents, and community members in Texas.



### **MELANIE COLLINS**

Melanie has been working in education for 25 years with a specialty in technology and special ed. She has worked at Region 13 ESC for 15 years mostly supporting the Special Education Team. She recently joined the PAX Good Behavior Game program to continue supporting teachers and students.



### **MARTIN MARTINEZ**

Martin A. Martinez is a Senior Policy Analyst who focuses on state policy work related to youth homelessness and juvenile justice. Before joining Texas Appleseed, Martin was working in the Texas Legislative Session as a legislative aide for Arnold Public Affairs Firm. He has had previous experience in the public policy and advocacy sector working as a legislative & policy associate at Every Texan and as a development intern at Annie's List. Martin recently received his Master of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin and earned his undergraduate degree from Southwestern University.



### **EMILY JOHNSTON**

Emily Johnston is a staff attorney with the Foster Youth Justice Project at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, helping to meet the legal needs of current and former foster youth. Prior to joining TRLA, she worked as an attorney at the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy in Charlotte, North Carolina, supported by a Julius Glickman Fellowship in Public Interest Law. As a fellow, she worked to expand access to public benefits and healthcare for LGBTQ and HIV+ North Carolinians. She received her JD from the University of Texas School of Law and her BA from Wellesley College. Prior to law school, she worked as a Public Benefits and LGBTQ Advocacy paralegal at Bronx Legal Services.



### **JULIANA AGUILAR**

Juliana Aguilar joined Crime Stoppers of Houston in October 2023 as a Statewide Education Specialist. She will be supporting the growing needs of the Crime Stoppers Safe School Institute as it expands to the DFW area and beyond.

Juliana is from Dallas, Texas where she graduated from the University of North Texas in Denton. She earned a Bachelor's in Spanish and Education. Before joining Safe Schools Institute, she was a high school Spanish teacher for Plano ISD. She hopes to spread knowledge and awareness to students, educators and parents.

## PRESENTERS



### **DR. AMY GROSSO**

Dr. Amy Grosso is a dedicated leader in education and mental health, with a Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and over 15 years of experience focused on student well-being.

At Round Rock ISD, Dr. Grosso launched the Behavioral Health Services Department, leading a team of social workers to provide critical support for students and families. She developed a district-wide threat assessment process, enhancing safety for over 46,000 students, and introduced evidence-based suicide prevention protocols. In her role as Director of Behavioral Health Services she assisted in the creation of the Round Rock ISD Police Department, promoting collaboration between social workers and law enforcement.

On the national stage, Dr. Grosso serves on the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's National Chapter Leadership Council, advancing suicide prevention initiatives. She is also the co-author of *Schoolwide Collaboration for Transformative Social Emotional Learning* and the host of the podcast *School Safety Today*. A sought-after speaker, Dr. Grosso shares her expertise at state and national conferences, inspiring others to prioritize mental health and student safety.



### **JERRETTA JIMMERSON DAVENPORT**

Jerretta Jimmerson Davenport is a passionate advocate for highly mobile students, serving as an Education Specialist for Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth and Students in the Care of DFPS (Foster Care) at Education Service Center Region 13 in Austin, Texas. With a career spanning 25 years, Jerretta brings a wealth of experience and a unique, engaging approach to her work. She is also a certified Leader In Me coach, empowering both students and educators to develop their leadership potential. Jerretta's training sessions are known for their dynamic, interactive





nature, eschewing traditional PowerPoints in favor of storytelling and hands-on activities. Her witty sense of humor and personal anecdotes create a memorable and impactful learning experience. Jerretta holds a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Minor in Reading from Huston Tillotson College. Outside of her professional roles, she is deeply committed to community engagement, fostering self-empowerment through arts and crafts with her DBA, MEDDEM. Jerretta attributes her success to the unwavering support of her husband “Steve”, children, and family.”



#### **DR. R. GABRIELLE MCCORMICK**

After a season-ending Achilles tendon rupture, Dr. Gabrielle McCormick’s hopes of an athletic scholarship disappeared. However, her willingness to study successful students led her to earn over \$200,000 in scholarships and opportunities and graduate DEBT-FREE with her BPA, MBA, and doctorate.

Featured on NBC’s Nightly News with Lester Holt, USA TODAY, CNBC, HLN, and many other national media outlets as a leading scholarship expert, Dr. Gabrielle is determined to make college affordable for every student and their family. She’s worked with students attending Harvard, Cornell, NYU, Vanderbilt, Seton Hall, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech, Baylor, The University of Texas–Austin, and many others at Division I, II, and III levels. From helping students win \$500 to full rides, she knows she can help other families do the same.



#### **JAMES FINLEY**

Deputy Chief James Finley is responsible for the daily operations of the Office of School Safety and Security and serves as a liaison with school systems safety leadership and statewide entities that have a role in school safety.

## PRESENTERS



### **LORIE KILLIAN**

Ms. Killian has been a Registered Nurse for 30 years and a School Nurse for 20 years. Lorie started her nursing career in ICU transitioning to Cardiac Cath Lab then into schools. During her time in schools Lorie has provided health services at all grade levels, in rural, suburban and urban districts. She has worked as a staff nurse, trainer and coordinator of school health services and also as a certified secondary teacher teaching CTE Health Science classes. Currently, she is the Coordinator of School Nursing Grants at Education Service Center Region 13 where she provides resources and support to school nurses and nurse administrators as well as emergency training to campus staff.



### **SHARON MUNROE**

While enrolled as a Doctor of Public Student in Health Promotion and Health Education, Sharon Munroe became certified as a Community Health Worker Instructor and a Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor (YMHFA) with the aim of being a health educator within Region 13, including Austin. Sharon trains school personnel locally and virtually across Texas and the U.S.

Much of Sharon's research, including her doctoral dissertation, focuses on identifying the environmental protective factors for adolescent mental health and well-being and the role of schools. Achieving school connectedness to adults through skill-building in social support and seeing early mental health signs and symptoms in adolescents is powerful.

Prior to returning to graduate school for public health in 2020, Sharon worked as a communications lead for Texas Health and Human Services behavioral health programs and as a health writer and consultant to specialty healthcare practices, including the U.S. Oncology Network. Her prior training and career are as a marketing research and communications leader. While she is not working or studying, she is raising three adolescents, Austin ISD students in middle and high school.



### **KIMBERLY JONES**

Ms. Kimberly Jones is currently the Senior Intelligence Manager for the Office of Oversight and Accountability within the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division. In this capacity, she oversees the Texas Suspicious Activity Network Program and the Texas Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Training Program. Prior to this role, Ms. Jones served as the Senior Manager of the Watch Intelligence and Information Program (WIIP). During that time, Ms. Jones oversaw a 24/7 team of crime analysts and intelligence analysts who provide law enforcement support statewide, including facilitating various statewide alert programs and coordinating incoming suspicious activity reports and threats to life.

Ms. Jones was previously the Intelligence Manager for DPS' Homeland Security Unit, leading a team of counterterrorism and critical infrastructure protection criminal intelligence analysts and planners. She also served in the same capacity for DPS's Highway Safety Operations Center (HSOC), with a focus on analytics related to criminal interdictions and highway crash/enforcement issues. Ms. Jones' career with DPS also includes previously serving as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst for Oil and Natural Gas related crimes, and an Emergency Management Liaison. Prior to joining DPS, Ms. Jones spent six years working for the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute in the Washington, D.C. region.

She holds a B.A. in History and Political Science from Gonzaga University and a Master of International Affairs, concentration in National Security, focus on Diplomacy, Intelligence, and Middle Eastern Affairs from Texas A&M University.

## PRESENTERS



### **VICTORIA FLEMING**

Victoria Fleming received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Baylor University and Master of Public Health degree from UTHealth School of Public Health in Austin. She is also pursuing her PhD in Public Health with an emphasis in behavioral sciences. Victoria works as a program evaluator for the Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) grant, which focuses on strengthening community and school-based supports for the mental health, wellness, and resiliency of students in Texas.



### **MOLLY SANDERS**

Molly Sanders received her M.A. in Educational Psychology from The University of Texas at Austin and M.B.A. from Harvard University. She currently works as a program evaluator at UT Austin's Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health supporting projects in school mental health (Project AWARE and Texas Stronger Connections Grant) and early childhood (Project LAUNCH).



### **EMILY HAMMER**

Emily Hammer, LCSW, a native of Richmond, Virginia, started her professional journey working in communications and policy at a national nonprofit, the Children's Defense Fund, in Washington, DC. She moved to Texas in 2015 to pursue her master's degree at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at UT. After completing internships at Akins High School and LifeWorks, and receiving her degree, she joined Integral Care's School-Based Services Team and served as a school-based therapist for six years in Manor, Pflugerville, and Del Valle ISDs, working with children ages 4–18. Emily's passion and experience lie in working with children and families who have experienced complex trauma, systemic oppression, youth in foster care/adoption, anxiety, depression, self-esteem issues, peer relationships, and family systems.

Emily worked at UT's Counseling and Mental Health Center providing brief assessment and triage to crisis, before returning to Integral Care as the ESC Region 13 Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison (BHPP) to focus on



assisting school districts in accessing and connecting to evidence-based resources, and community supports.



### **LAURA LAKE**

Laura Lake has extensive experience as a professional school counselor at all grade levels. Much of her career to this point has been spent serving students, families and staff in public schools in Montana and Central Texas. She is a former Montana Middle School Counselor of the Year and is currently employed at Jarrell ISD.



### **BELINDA B. SWAN**

Belinda serves as Partnerships Program Manager for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children where she manages NCMEC's programmatic relationships with government and nonprofit organizations across the country. Belinda also implements NCMEC's Community Education Partner Program and delivers NCMEC's child safety programming. She brings over 20 years of experience to NCMEC, including her work with the Texas Attorney General's Office Law Enforcement Division and the Council on At-Risk Youth. She received a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley. She currently serves as a board member for the Texas Victim Services Association.



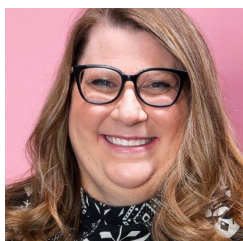
### **KIMBERLY COOMBS**

Kimberly Coombs is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with ten years of experience in school-based social work and mental health counseling. Kimberly has experience in creating and training district wide mental health protocols, policies, and procedures to counseling staff and district leaders.

Kimberly's experience includes leading campus and district-wide crises and providing mental health consultation to campus school-based therapists and school counselors. Kimberly worked as a school social worker where she helped students create treatment goals, provided mental health counseling, facilitated mental health groups with students and provided support to parents and families.

## PRESENTERS

After a decade in school mental health and counseling, Kimberly moved into her role at Region 13 where she provides mental health training, consultation, and technical assistance. She is also a part-time therapist for children, youth, and young adults in which her expertise includes working with youth who experience suicidal ideation, non-suicidal self-injury, crisis, coping skills, depression and anxiety and helps youth to process trauma utilizing modalities such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy.



### **ANGELA ISENBERG**

As the senior coordinator for student support services, Angela wears many hats. She oversees the behavior, PAX, McKinney-Vento, and out of school time teams. All her responsibilities are driven by her passion for supporting both students and educators. Her favorite aspect of her role is the opportunity to problem-solve and develop strategic plans that promote success for staff and students alike. She also excels at assisting campuses, districts, and charter schools with implementing effective systems and takes pride in building strong, meaningful connections with clients.



### **EBONIE TRICE (SHE/HER)**

Ebonie Trice is a native of Gary, IN who relocated to Austin, TX in 2011. In July 2014, Ebonie founded Mission Accomplished, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping those in need. Mission Accomplished serves the Central Texas area. Mission Accomplished primary program is Operation Clean Clothes where we provide a laundry service to individuals experiencing homelessness. While running Mission Accomplished, Ebonie attends college to further her education and skills. She's a 2023 graduate of Austin Community College and a current student at Texas State University. Ebonie's goal is to become a social worker with the intention of helping dismantle systems that hinder individuals from living healthy, prosperous, and stable lives. Ebonie advocates in and around her community for social justice, providing support to underestimated populations, and working towards systemic change. She advocates for



change by being a part of the Colony Park Neighborhood Association, One Voice Central Texas, and the Homeless Response System Leadership Council. She also supports adult students continuing higher education through interpersonal communication and the Free Minds Program.

When not running a company and going to class, Ebonie enjoys reading, binge-watching action movies, spending time with loved ones, meeting like-minded people, and riding her motorcycle.



### **NETA SHANI**

Neta Shani is a pediatric acupuncturist with extensive experience supporting children with sensory processing disorders, ADHD, and emotional regulation challenges. She is the co-creator of Mistake and Friends, a program she developed alongside artist and educator Hagit Segal. Together, they created a cast of unique characters that help children navigate emotions and embrace mistakes as opportunities to learn.

Mistake teaches kids to celebrate imperfections, while his friends—Ryangry, Dramamia, Pleasington, Perfectron, and Fearolina—represent the five elements within us. These relatable characters reflect the unique blend of traits we all carry, making it easier for children to connect, explore emotions, and develop a growth mindset. Neta is passionate about providing educators and families with playful, effective tools to foster emotional resilience and celebrate every child's individuality.





### **LINDSEY WEBSTER**

Lindsey is a proactive, compassionate, empathetic, and goal-oriented education leader and mental health professional. She is certified as a school counselor and licensed professional counselor. With over 14 years of experience working with high school aged youth in PK-12 school districts, Lindsey has supported thousands of students with their emotional, social, and academic growth.

Throughout her experience, Lindsey has served as a college counselor, professional school counselor, high school counseling department leader, and most recently, Manager of Counseling Services for a school district in Dallas. Lindsey has supported schools with becoming trauma informed, implementing restorative practices, incorporating life skills in the classroom, improving school mental health services, and creating inclusive environments.

As School Mental Health Specialist, Lindsey implements The Jed Foundation's PK-12 programs, including both JED High School and District programs, supporting high schools and school districts in systems-wide school mental health transformation through a guided process of strategic assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation.



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