

2024 Speakers Information for *I CARE's* 11th Annual Prevention Summit

Speaker: Robyn Belle, MSW, LCSW

Brief Bio: Robyn is a lifelong resident of Louisiana with a deep love for her community. Robyn graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2002 and completed her Master of Social Work at Louisiana State University in 2015. Robyn is a Certified Yoga Instructor and incorporates somatic practices in her therapeutic approach. She has experience in harm reduction and recovery support, emergency psychiatric services, and inpatient behavioral health. In her free time, she enjoys dance parties with friends and quality time with her partner Cindy, and Button their three-legged Chihuahua

Topic/Title: “Creating Home: Embracing LGBTQ+ Clients Facing Parental Rejection and Loss” - **1.5 CE Hours**

Summary: Many members of the LGBTQ+ community face an increased chance of losing the support of parents, family members, and friends during the “coming out” process leading to emotional, physical, and spiritual isolation. Losses experienced by this community often results in disenfranchised grief. LGBTQ+ clients may experience minority stress leading to increased depression, anxiety, shame, and low self-esteem. As clinicians, it is our responsibility to meet our LGBTQ+ clients experience through a specialized lens considering their unique experience.



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Speaker: Brittney Williams-Wright

Brief Bio: Brittney Williams-Wright works with individuals and organizations to strengthen their communication, connection and confidence so they decrease the impact of suicidal losses within Region IV. Brittney's down-to-earth humor compels audiences to laugh while they learn. She engages groups from the moment she steps in front of them and leaves them with empowering tools and focused mindsets that they will use long after the lights have gone out on the event. Brittney is passionate about people. When not speaking or training, Brittney can be found spending time with her wife, Shaundrika and her grumpy fur baby, a Yorkshire Terrier affectionately named PawPaw.

Topic/Title: QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Gatekeeper Training-1.5 CE Hours

Summary: QPR is an Evidence-Based emergency mental health intervention for suicidal persons created in 1995 by Paul Quinnett. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer — the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.



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Speaker: Justin T. Guy, MSW, LCSW-BACS, CCM

Brief Bio: Justin T. Guy is a native of Baton Rouge, La. He is a graduate of Baton Rouge Magnet High School. He then attended and graduated from the Southern University and A&M College in 2011 earning a bachelor's degree in psychology. Since then, Justin has been promoted as a supervisor in case management where he humbly serves his team of social workers and nurses whom manages care for Medicaid. Currently, Justin is a doctoral candidate in Tulane University's Doctor of Social Work program. Justin aspires to deliver effective, efficient and genuine care to the community to meet their dire needs. Justin enjoys writing and he is the author a poetry devotional book entitled "Divine Expressions by the Grace of God". He also enjoys traveling, self-care activities, and spending quality time with his family and close friends.

Topic/Title: Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences-1 CE Hours

Summary: An in-depth presentation introducing the short- and long-term effects of ACEs, the findings of the ACE Study, core protective factors, and building resilient communities.



Speaker: Georgann Mire



Brief Bio: Georgann is the president of the Greater Baton Rouge Learning Disabilities Coalition, board member of the Louisiana Branch of the International Dyslexia Association, and the founder of the C W Austin Learning Disabilities Conference. An experienced higher education disability professional and consultant, Georgann works as an advocate in the community to increase awareness on issues related to learning disabilities. In addition, she provides professional development through presentations at conferences, school in-service, community events and as a guest lecturer at LSU, Southern University, Loyola, UNO, Nicholls, University of Southern Mississippi, Delgado and Baton Rouge Community College

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Co-presenter: Susan Thornton, Ed.D. LPC-S, LPP, RPT-S, NCC



Brief Bio: Dr. Susan Thornton currently serves as an *I CARE* Prevention Specialist with the EBR *I CARE* program. In addition to fulfilling her prevention practice and teaching, she serves on the ADRA Board and fulfill several community duties. Thornton is a decorated 30+ year professional who has made notable impact on the Baton Rouge community across prevention, counseling, and educational research. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, Licensed Prevention Professional and a Registered Play Therapist Supervisor. Susan is committed to community uplift and involvement and delivering measurable impact among those she serves. She is an active member of the Louisiana Counseling Association, Louisiana Safe and Drug Free Schools Association and the Association of Play Therapist to name a few. Among all of these, Susan's greatest accomplishment is being a wife and mother.

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Co-Presenter: Joy Duhon, PLPC, PSIT

Brief Bio: Joy Duhon hails from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In 2012, she obtained her Bachelor's of Science from Louisiana State University, in Early Childhood Education. After educating prekindergarten students for nearly a decade, she earned her Master's of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Southern University A&M in 2022. She is currently working towards her licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Prevention Professional. Joy is an *I CARE* Specialist, providing prevention education in the areas of alcohol, violence, tobacco, and other drugs. The *I CARE* Prevention Program serves students and families throughout the Baton Rouge Community.



Topic/Title: Experience the Frustrations of Learning Disabilities-1 CE Hours

Summary: This empathy building interactive simulation presentation helps participants understand the frustrations of people with learning disabilities in a typical classroom setting and how to create a successful classroom experience for them. Understanding their struggles from the inside is the first step toward reaching out to support their efforts to increase academic success and emotional wellbeing.

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Speaker: Ashley Gaston, LPC, NCC

Brief Bio: My name is Ashley N. Gaston. I am a full-time practitioner in private practice. The name of my organization is Renewing of The Mind Counseling Services. I am a University of Holy Cross doctoral student seeking a Counseling Education and Supervision degree. I am an alumna of Southern University Agricultural and Mechanical College in Baton Rouge, La. While attending Southern University, I obtained my undergraduate degree in psychology and my Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Through my experience as a counselor, I have gained competencies in mental processes and disorders and various therapeutic techniques such as behavior modification techniques, positive self-talk, coping skills, mindfulness, anger-management skills, and much more.

I have a strong passion for educating and sowing into the lives of others. I am a dedicated professional committed to improving each client's social, emotional, and overall quality of life. I am a very accommodating and versatile individual with the natural gift to counsel, encourage, enrich, and inspire those with mental health challenges and illnesses.

Topic/Title: Exploring the Complex Issue of Substance Abuse Among Adolescents: Causes, Consequences, and Prevention-**1 CE Hours**

Summary: This seminar aims to shed light on the multifaceted issue of substance abuse among students, examining its underlying causes, potential consequences, and effective prevention strategies. By delving into this topic, we can gain a deeper understanding of the factors contributing to substance abuse, its impact on student's physical and mental well-being, and the importance of community involvement in curbing this alarming trend.



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Speaker: Rebecca Chiasson, MS

Brief Bio: Rebecca has a BS (Nicholls State University) and a MS (University of Louisiana at Lafayette). In the 20 years since beginning her career at LSPCL, she has performed drug chemistry, crime scene analysis and testified over 20 times. As chemistry manager, she oversees the toxicology and drug units which identify new dangerous substances, assist in banning new synthetic drugs, and provide impaired driving data to the Highway Safety Commission. She has been appointed to the State Epidemiology Workgroup, the Prevention Systems Committee, the Governor's DWI-Vehicular Homicide taskforce, the Governor's Drug Policy Board and co-chairs the Capital Region Impaired Drivers Emphasis Team.

Topic/Title: Polydrug Use & Associated Illicit Substances-1 CE Hours

Summary: This presentation will discuss polydrug use based on toxicology data from impaired driving cases and possible sources of these substances based on results of seized drug analysis concentrating on illicitly made counterfeit pharmaceuticals reported by the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab.



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Speaker: Dr. Jantrell Johnson, LPC-S, NCC, LAC, CCS

Brief Bio: Dr. Jantrell R. Johnson, LPC-S, NCC, LAC, CCS, holds a Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree from Southern University and A&M College and a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of Holy Cross. Dr. Johnson prides herself as a leader in the mental health and addiction counseling field and has served as a clinical supervisor to fellow interns, counselors in training, and provisional licensed professional counselors over the last 7 years. Dr. Johnson believes that the counselor-client relationship is essential to effective counseling and views herself as a change agent and advocate. Dr. Johnson wears many hats and spends her spare time teaching at Walden University and Grand Canyon University in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling department. Lastly, Dr. Johnson has presented at the following professional conferences: 2018, 2019, 2022 LCA Conference, 2019-2023 LASACT Conference, 2020 Terrell Conference.

Topic/Title: Secondary Traumatic Stress & Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Adverse Effects of Substance Abuse Counseling- **1 CE Hours**

Summary: The shortage of substance abuse counselors has reached catastrophic levels (National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors [NAADAC], 2018). Possible reasons for the deficiency of substance abuse counselors can be credited to the onset of baby boomers retiring, turnover rates, lack of new professionals seeking out a career in substance abuse counseling, and the incumbent spike in the need for substance abuse treatment. Professional quality of life typically suffers due to the demands of the job, large caseloads and exposure to traumatic events (Perkins, & Sprang, 2013). Researchers typically explore turnover but never the burnout, secondary traumatic stress, and compassion satisfaction tied to substance abuse counseling. It is important to further examine the factors associated with burnout, secondary traumatic stress, and compassion satisfaction with regard to substance abuse counselors and the counselor-client relationship.



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Speaker: Smita Prasad, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., FASAM

Brief Bio: Dr. Prasad is board certified in Family Medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine and Addiction Medicine by the American Board of Preventive Medicine. She completed her residency training at the Baton Rouge General Family Medicine Residency Program in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2016 & fellowship training at the Tulane Addiction Medicine Program in New Orleans. She was the second fellow to complete the program and is currently serving as faculty with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences as an Assistant Professor of Addiction Medicine. She is the Medical Director of the Louisiana Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority Board. She serves as the President of the Louisiana Society of Addiction Medicine and as the Medical Director of the Longbranch Recovery Center inpatient program, the Longbranch North Shore Intensive Outpatient Program, & several other Longbranch programs. She provides outpatient addiction medicine services at the Tulane Addiction Medicine Clinic in New Orleans. She lives with her husband, three young daughters, and five dogs in Springfield, Louisiana.

Topic/Title: Cannabis Use in Adolescence-1.5 CE Hours

Summary: Will discuss epidemiology of cannabis use among this population, neurological changes associated with use, as well as diagnosis & treatment



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Speaker: Marcela Hernandez, LMSW

Brief Bio: Marcela was born and raised in Colombia, South America. She obtained a double degree in Social Work and Sociology from Southern University. Upon graduation, she started working with the Latino community in Baton Rouge and became an active member of the immigrant and refugee community. Marcela decided to pursue a Master's degree in Social Work, and in 2015 she obtained her title from Louisiana State University. Today, Marcela works at the Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants (LORI) as Program and Organizing Manager. In company of her beloved, beautiful, intelligent 5-year-old daughter, Marcela continues seeking opportunities to enhance Immigrant and Refugee communities in The United States, and continues dedicating her efforts to pursue equality and justice for all.

Topic/Title: A Light of Hope for immigrant Children and Youth: Promotion of Solidarity, Awareness and Cultural Competence-**1.5 CE Hours**

Summary: Education and advocacy for an inclusive and compassionate system; improving agency/organizational policies; provision of resources available; promote equity and justice among immigrant children and youth.



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Speaker: Cpl. Saundra J. Watts

Brief Bio: I am a Corporal with the Baton Rouge Police Department, where I have been employed for approximately 15 years. I spent three years in Uniform Patrol and have spent the last 12 years in Violent Crimes. I was a homicide detective for the last 7 years and recently transferred to the Media Relations Division.

Topic/Title: “Juvenile Involvement with Gun Violence”- **1.5 CE Hours**

Summary: I will discuss the latest trends and what is influencing juveniles in becoming more involved, including but not limited to environment and social media trends.



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Co-Presenter: Kenya Huggins

Bio: I'm Kenya Huggins and I'm a native of New Orleans Louisiana. I attended Delgado Community College where I graduated in 1998 with an Associate of Criminal Justice Degree. I then attended Southern University of New Orleans, where I obtained my Bachelor's in Criminal Justice with a minor in Social Science in 2003. While attending college, I was employed by the New Orleans Police Department, where I spent the majority of my career in specialized crime abatement units. I then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps where I was an Aviation Supply Specialist. I was attached to an attack helicopter squadron who additionally provided flight line security.

After earning my Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, I returned to East Baton Rouge School District. In February of 2022, I was promoted to an **I CARE** Specialist, which is the position that I hold currently.



I CARE has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 5454. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. **I CARE** is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

