



Welcome TO THE 32nd Annual PAM Conference!

Welcome to the 32nd Annual PAM Conference!

On behalf of the organizing committee, it is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to this year's PAM Conference. We are honored to host you at this respected event, now in its 32nd year of fostering collaboration, innovation, and excellence in our field.

This conference brings together a diverse group of professionals, thought leaders, innovators, and parents all united by a shared commitment to advancing our profession. We are confident that the discussions, presentations, and networking opportunities today will be both enlightening and inspiring.

We encourage you to take full advantage of the detailed agenda, engage with our esteemed speakers, and connect with fellow attendees. Your active participation is what makes this conference a continued success, and we are grateful for your contribution to the ongoing dialogue and growth within our community.

Thank you for being a part of the 32nd Annual PAM Conference. We look forward to the meaningful exchanges and lasting connections that will emerge from our time together.

Warm regards,
Sara Kirkpatrick, PAM Program Coordinator
32nd Annual PAM Conference Planning Committee

Workshop Key:

ALL = Parenting Topics for Any Age, EC = Early Childhood Focus, MC = Middle Childhood Focus,
AD = Adolescent Focus, IB = Issue Based, SB = Skill Building, PF = Program Focused

Educational Level: B = Beginner, I = Intermediate, A = Advanced

AGENDA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024

7:45-8:45 AM Registration/Breakfast

8:45-9:00 AM Welcome, Housekeeping, Door prizes, Intro

9:00-10:15 AM Keynote Presentation

It Takes 2: Professionals + Parents to Support Strong Families

[ALL, SB, B, I, A] Dr. Jennifer Salerno

Heritage Room

Parent-child relationships have a strong effect on a child's overall health and wellbeing. Having a trusting, supportive relationship developed in childhood lasting through the teen years is key! Learn evidence-based strategies that you can share immediately to help and support parents in navigating everyday conversations as well as deeper discussions.

10:15-10:30 AM Break / Visit Exhibitors

10:30-11:45 PM Breakout Session I

What to Expect When You are Expecting a Teen

[MC, AD, SB, B, I, A] Dr. Jennifer Salerno

Heritage Room

Is this normal? All parents have thought this about their teen's behaviors, emotions, and actions. This session will dig into development - social, emotional, physical, and cognitive changes in children between 9-19 years. Enhance your understanding and equip yourself with strategies to help parents respond to common "normal" behaviors.

Bridging Health and Housing: A Comprehensive Approach through Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hubs [ALL, PF, I] Jaylen Ray and Darien Pipkin
Room A170

Join us for an engaging presentation on creative ways to improve community health through the implementation of Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hubs and innovative programs like Good Housing = Good Health (GH2). We'll discuss how addressing key factors that affect health can help reduce inequalities and foster a healthier, more equitable society.

Father's Get Stressed Out Too! Tips for Helping Male Caregivers Manage Anxiety and Frustration [ALL, SB, B] Kevin Zoromski and Darien Wilkerson
Room B119

Learn ways to help fathers and male caregivers pay attention to stress triggers during times of conflict, frustration and disagreement; especially in times of receiving overwhelming news. We will discuss mindful activities, which can help male caregivers understand their own individual feelings and emotions. We will explore research about mindfulness for fathers, supportive mindful practices and the importance of helping male caregivers move out of "auto-pilot"



Michigan Poison and Drug Information Center: The Poison Hotline and**Beyond [ALL, PF, I]** Denise Kolakowski*Room B120*

This workshop will clarify who works at the poison center, their role in public health and safety, research, legislation, and statewide education and prevention efforts. Workshop participants will be updated on substance use trends reported to the Michigan Poison Drug Center (MiPDC) and the session will be concluded with a Q & A session.

11:45-1:00 PM **Lunch/Visit Exhibitors/Networking/Drawing for Baskets****1:00-2:15 PM** **Breakout Session II****Raising Mentally Strong Children Combining Neuroscience with Felt Sense of Safety [ALL, SB, I]** Gloria Sherman*Heritage Room*

The autonomic nervous system sends messages of safety or danger. Dysregulation happens when a person doesn't feel safe. Our brain searches for safety four times every second and is always alert for safety cues. What if we implemented the word "experiences" instead of consequences through this new lens of discipline? What experiences does this child/adult need to develop a sense of "felt safety?"

Utilizing Parent Café's to Support Families Across Michigan Communities to Build Capacities and Reduce ACE's While Strengthening Families [ALL, IB, B, I]**Katie Logan-Donco and Emily Adams***Room A 170*

This presentation will highlight the specific key elements of a Parent café, share parts of the harvests that occurred at the various cafes, and relate to how actionable steps will aid in the reduction of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through strengthening families and subsequent cafes being offered.

Introducing MiFamily: Michigan's Prenatal Through Post Secondary Family Engagement [ALL, SB, B] Al Thomas*Room B119*

Michigan's prenatal through postsecondary family engagement framework released in 2020 provided a launching point for equitable family engagement practices and supports. Attendees will be introduced to MiFamily, gain understanding of the MiFamily Engagement Centers, and leave with equitable, family engagement practices that support improved outcomes for children and families.

Current Drug Trends: What Parents Need to Know [MC, AD, IB, B, I, A]**Kayla Dadswell and Jade Cruz***Room B120*

Current Drug Trends: What Parents Need To Know will teach participants about the current drug trends identified by youth and the impact that substances have on youth and the community. Participants will be able to identify potential risks for substance misuse and ways to talk to youth regarding substances. Participants will be provided with resources for Parents and Caregivers whose youth might be using substances.

2:15-2:30 PM **Break**

2:30-3:45 PM

Breakout Session III

When the War Comes Home: Understanding and Supporting Military-Connected Parents, Infants, and Young Children [EC, PF, IB, SB, B]

Dave Vogel, Tina Thompson, and Angela Beebe

Heritage Room

Military culture and trauma exposure can impact veterans' ability and willingness to attach and bond with their infants and young children, yet many helping professionals have never been trained on how to work with this population. In this workshop, participants will explore how military culture and common mental health challenges veterans face can impact family functioning and child outcomes. Through a review of current research, veteran testimonials, and Infant Mental Health (IMH) case presentations, participants will learn how to best support and intervene with military-connected families.

Healthy Outcomes Positive Experiences (HOPE) Workshops for Families to Build Capacity and Mitigate ACE's and Strengthen Families [ALL, PF, SB, B]

Katie Logan-Dinco

Room A170

What is foundational is that we cannot change a person's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) score, but we can mitigate the effects of ACEs with the Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs). The HOPE framework is a strengths-based flexible approach, not a curriculum, that supports children and families by prioritizing equitable access to PCEs through identification and promotion.

Sleep and Well-Being: How All Parents Can Promote Healthy Sleep

[EC, PF, IB, SB, B, I] **Ann Raftery**

Room B119

The Pajama Program continues the critical discussion on sleep, defining healthy sleep and how it affects growth and development, sharing parents' common sleep problems - including data from foster care parents, providing evidence-based tools and strategies, and sharing Pajama Program's resources and impact data.

An Earlier and Broader Approach to Building Youth Resilience [ALL, SB, B]

Cori Hammond and Olivia Root

Room B120

This workshop will demonstrate the importance of a comprehensive, earlier, and broader approach to healthy child development and building youth resilience – foundational elements for helping to prevent or reduce the risk of youth substance use and mental health, social, and behavioral problems.

3:45-4:00 PM

Conclusion/Exhibitor Passport Drawing



MEET THE PRESENTERS



Dr. Jennifer Salerno - Keynote Speaker

Possibilities for Change

Dr. Jennifer Salerno possesses over 25 years of experience as a pediatric nurse practitioner and translational researcher within the field of adolescent risk and prevention. Dr. Salerno has worked in partnership with clinicians, researchers and youth to develop and evaluate technology-based risk screening and coaching tools. In tandem she has created e-learning and live workshops designed to equip professionals with motivational interviewing strategies to improve the quality of risk reduction coaching provided to youth. Building on her motivational interviewing work with professionals, in 2016 Dr. Salerno released *Teen Speak: A how to guide for understanding and communicating with your teen* books and curriculum to equip parents with communication strategies that foster strong family relationships – a key factor in improving youth risk.



Jalen Ray

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Jalen Ray serves as the Grant Coordinator for the SDOH Hubs Program, where they manage grant contracts and provide technical and programmatic support to 14 Hub sites across Michigan. With over two years of experience in environmental and public health at both the federal and state levels, Jalen brings a strong background in environmental science to their role.



Darien Pipkin

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Darien Pipkin serves as the Senior Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Project Manager for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Office of Policy and Planning. With a Master of Science from Indiana University, she envisions health equity for all and is dedicated to finding creative solutions to complex healthcare challenges. As a project manager, Darien assists with many efforts that address social determinants of health, health disparities, public health policies, and a wide range of other strategic initiatives. She administers and monitors innovative, community-driven policies and programs that advance health equity. Her expertise spans across program management, grant management, process improvement, community relations, and strategic planning. Darien's passion for health and well-being drives her commitment to improving health outcomes and fostering equitable communities.



Kevin Zoromski

Michigan State University Extension

Kevin received his Bachelor's of Science Degree from Oakland University focusing in Psychology and completed a Master's of Science Degree focusing in Counseling and School Psychology from the University of Nebraska. Kevin works in the Preparing Michigan's Children and Youth Institute where he focuses on child and family development. He has a background in early childhood development and in developmental evaluation. As part of the Child and Family Development Team at MSU Extension, Kevin focuses on providing information to parents/caregivers, and professionals, in areas such as fatherhood, early childhood literacy, social emotional development, positive discipline, and the purpose of play.



Darien Wilkerson

Michigan State University Extension

Darien Wilkerson is a licensed mental health therapist within the state(s) of Michigan and Ohio. Darien has been a part of MSU Extension since 2023, and is primarily located within Flint, Michigan, although offering state wide responsibilities. Within his role at MSU Extension, Darien operates as the 4-H Healthy Living Emotional Wellness Educator. As an extension educator, Darien is a certified Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid instructor and facilitates wellness curriculums for school administrators, teachers, and youth. Furthermore, Darien's area of focus is school violence prevention, to counter the effects of mental health crises and prevent or reduce instances of bullying.





Denise Kolakowski

Michigan Poison & Drug Information Center

Denise Kolakowski is the Poison Center Educator with the Michigan Poison & Drug Information Center (MiPDC) at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Throughout her time with the MiPDC, she has been an active member of the America's Poison Centers Public Educators Committee and presenter at the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. She leads the MiPDC Coalition for Poison Prevention and participates and partners with the Michigan DEC (Drug Endangered Children) Alliance, the Michigan Prevention Network, the Substance Use, Gambling, and Epidemiology division with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and currently serves as the co-chair of the Region 2 South Injury Prevention Education subcommittee. Denise authors the Poison Periodical, the MiPDC quarterly newsletter, creates and manages content for the Michigan Poison & Drug Information Center's website and social media platforms, and carries out all community education outreach activities. Denise holds a B.B.A. in Healthcare Services Administration and continues her studies toward an M.S. in Community Health Education. By providing tools and educational content to the public and private sector she hopes to reduce injuries related to poisonings and help prevent poison-related exposures wherever Michiganders live and work.



Gloria Sherman

Parenting and Teaching with G.L.O., LLC

Gloria focuses on emotional, physical, relational, and educational wellness. Gloria's passion/focus is continuous learning about brain-body connections, neuroscience behind behaviors, adverse childhood experiences, resilience-building interventions, and co-regulatory strategies. Her work experiences include Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in foster care, adoptions, day care licensing, protective services, and delinquency services. She worked as a middle school counselor and provided parenting classes to the community. She is currently working as a therapist. Gloria's work experiences demonstrate a commitment to helping others develop their inner wealth and understanding the importance of relational connections. Our need for connections is stronger than our need for food and shelter. Gloria has presented at local, state, national, and international conferences. She trained early childhood providers, foster parents, bus drivers, teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, and staff at various community agencies. Gloria has also worked in classrooms teaching children about their brains and strategies to help in those difficult moments. Gloria is a certified trainer of many national programs. Gloria co-founded Parenting Partnership and taught parenting classes for more than 25 years. Gloria established her company, Parenting and Teaching with G.L.O. (Great Learning Opportunities) LLC.



Katie Logan-Dinco

Children Trust Michigan

Katie has been with CTM since July 2022 as the Parent Partner Coordinator. She is working to elevate parent/caregiver voice in all 83 counties as well as at the state level. Prior to that she was a SAHM, Parent Leader, and a college professor. She earned an MS in analytical chemistry focusing on neuroscience from Michigan State University. Katie is currently earning her MSW degree at MSU focusing on Organizational and Community Leadership to better serve Michigan families. She is also working on a Combat Veteran Certification in her MSW. Katie is certified as a trainer in HOPE, Strengthening Families, and Parent Cafe's. She is well-versed in attachment theory and attachment style parenting, respectful parenting, and infant mental health.



Emily Adams

Children Trust Michigan

Emily began her career as a foster care case manager, she dedicated herself to supporting families within the child welfare system. Transitioning to the role of project coordinator for Healthy Families Kent County in Michigan, Emily facilitated support and quality improvement projects to benefit the community. Now as the Family Resource Center Coordinator at Children Trust Michigan, Emily oversees the current 11 FRCs across the state. Emily also helps facilitate Parent Cafes throughout Michigan. Emily's commitment to serving vulnerable families aligns with her passions of making a difference.





Al Thomas

MiLEAP

Al Thomas, an Education Consultant with MiLEAP, has been serving families in education for the past 19 years, first starting as an elementary and middle school teacher, then principal all in rural Northern Michigan. For the past ten years, he has been an Education Consultant in the Office of Educational Supports, working with approximately 50-75 school districts in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. Al has served on the Family Engagement Leadership Team since 2018 and contributed to MiFamily: Michigan's Prenatal Through Postsecondary Framework, released in 2020. He especially enjoys presenting family engagement best practices to schools, at conferences, and to teacher prep programs. Al resides in McBain with his wife Anne (Middle School Special Education Teacher) and four kids: Alan (14), Charlotte (12), Casey (9), Selah (7) and their two German Shorthair Pointers Sparty and Winnie. Al helped start a parent advisory committee and the WatchDOGS program at his children's elementary school. In his spare time, Al helps coach his kids' baseball and football teams and serves on the athletics booster club.



Kayla Dadswell

CARE of Southeastern Michigan

Kayla is the Director of Substance Use Prevention with CARE of Southeastern Michigan. Kayla is a Certified Prevention Consultant through the Michigan Certification Board for Addiction Professionals and a Clinical Licensed Social Worker in the State of Michigan. Kayla has an extensive history of working with youth, adults, families, and communities pertaining to Substance Use and Mental Health. Kayla seeks to empower local communities to take action to provide solutions and prevent substance use through collaboration and the use of evidence-based programs. Kayla earned a Bachelor of Social Work from Adrian College and a Master of Social Work from Wayne State University.



Jade Cruz

CARE of Southeastern Michigan

Jade Cruz is a dedicated professional specializing in community health education, substance use prevention and public relations. With a robust academic background and a diverse career portfolio, Jade brings a wealth of experience and a multifaceted skill set to her roles. Currently serving as a Prevention Program Manager at CARE of Southeastern Michigan, Jade is at the forefront of community outreach and substance use prevention. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Community Development with a focus on public administration; she also has a juvenile service background. In this role, she is instrumental in fostering community resilience by organizing prevention coalitions and building strong connections with local organizations, community members, and elected representatives. Her efforts aim to enhance public awareness and support for substance use prevention initiatives across Macomb County.



Dave Vogel

Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties

Dave Vogel, LLMSW, IMH-E, is a Mental Health Therapist at the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. He serves as Co-President of the Capital Area Network for Early Years and is set to join the Michigan Association of Infant Mental Health Social Action Committee in January 2025. Dave earned his Bachelor of Social Work from Eastern Michigan University in 2020 and his Master of Social Work from Michigan State University in 2023. He holds a Limited License in Social Work and an Infant Family Specialist Endorsement. Additionally, he has completed Michigan State's Combat Veteran Certificate.



Tina Thompson

Michigan State University

Tina Thompson, LMSW, is a Senior Clinical Instructor and Coordinator of the award-winning Combat Veterans Certificate for the School of Social Work at Michigan State University. She is also the spouse of a United States Marine Corps (USMC) Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veteran who has been significantly impacted by Post Traumatic Stress, Moral Injury, and Suicidality.





Angela Beebe

Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties

Angela Beebe is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and a Level 2 Infant Family Specialist. She works with expecting mothers in their third trimester, as well as children aged 0-6 years and 10 months, and their families. Angela specializes in infant mental health and play therapy, dedicating her time to building meaningful relationships and helping families overcome challenges.



Ann Raftery

Pajama Program

Ann Raftery holds a Masters of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction, a Michigan elementary teaching certificate, and is trained in the HighScope curriculum for preschool teachers as well as PD provider courses through NYAEYC. Ann is a member of NHSA and NAEYC, and has presented to NAEYC, MHSAs, MIAECY, MHSA, PAM, and multiple parenting conferences.



Cori Hammond

Partnership to End Addiction

Cori Hammond coordinates Partnership to End Addiction's prevention programming. She currently works with partners in New Jersey on the NJ Student Support Services (NJ4S) project to bring evidence-based services and resources to public school students, caregivers, and school faculty. Prior to her work with the prevention team, Cori was a part of Partnership's Science & Technology of Early Prevention (STEP) research team and specialized in innovative substance use screening and brief intervention tools for pregnant and postpartum populations. Cori received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree from Tulane University and her Master of Public Health from New York University.



Olivia Root

Partnership to End Addiction

Olivia Root is a recent graduate from the University of Colorado Boulder with a major in psychology and a minor in communications. She developed a passion for prevention during her senior year while studying under Dr. Karl Hill and working with a startup to gain experience in the behavioral health field. Now, Olivia works on the prevention team under Dr. Linda Richter assisting in designing and developing informational tools, resources, and customized training materials for educators, healthcare providers, parents, policymakers and other key target audiences.

Thank you

to our generous sponsors for
making this event possible



Developmental Disabilities • Mental Health • Substance Recovery



Connect Space