

WSAJCA Juvenile Court Training - Speaker Biographies

Julie Bitz

Julie Bitz is currently employed as a Juvenile Counselor 2 as well as the Training Coordinator for the Clackamas County Juvenile Department. Julie has served as a trainer with Oregon's Department Director's Association (OJDDA) since 2000 and enjoys training fellow peers around the state. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of North Dakota with a double major in Criminal Justice and Substance Abuse. She has continued her education and knowledge base through national, state, and local trainings during the past 20+ years. Julie is passionate about juvenile justice, training, and incorporating evidence-based practices throughout her work with juveniles and their families. Working in this field for 24 years has created a need for an increased awareness for self-care for herself and colleagues. Julie enjoys helping others build awareness with a humorous edge. Come prepared to have your paradigms challenged.

Dr. Linda Chamberlain

Dr. Chamberlain, an epidemiologist specializing in childhood exposure to violence and brain development, is the founding director of the Alaska Family Violence Prevention Project and a consultant for the Family Violence Prevention Fund. An internationally renowned keynote speaker, Dr. Chamberlain is known for her ability to translate science into practical information with diverse audiences. Her passionate belief that everyone can make a difference conveys a message of hope and opportunity. Dr. Chamberlain holds faculty appointments at the University of Alaska and Johns Hopkins University. She earned her public health degree from Yale School of Medicine and her doctorate from Johns Hopkins. Dr. Chamberlain has published extensively and is editor for the e-journal, Family Violence Prevention and Health Practice. She serves on the National Advisory Board for the Institute for Safe Families. Awards and recognition for her work include a National Kellogg Leadership Fellowship. Living on a rural homestead outside of Homer, Alaska with her husband and dog team, she has developed a highly innovative lecture series on leadership and teamwork called "Lessons from the Trail" and teaches a graduate course on public health and leadership. For her first book, Arctic Inspirations, she traveled from Alaska through the northern Canada and on to Siberia to gather stories of women starting businesses in the Arctic. She is currently working on a book on "Mushing the Mail on the Iditarod Trail."

Evelyn Maddox

Evelyn Maddox is the Youth Liaison with Washington State Department of social and health services, the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery unit. Evelyn was appointed by the Governor as a member on the Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile justice. As the chair of the youth subcommittee under the partnership council, leading youth to be agents of change. She has lived experience in the juvenile justice system. From age 12-17 she was in and out of Juvenile Justice Facilities down in California and Oregon. During this time she accumulated five felonies by the time she was 17. Often she was told she would either be in prison or dead due to the lifestyle she was living. With the support of her probation officer she relocated to Washington State where

she then created a new life for herself and for her family. For eight years here in Washington, she served youth in Children's long-term inpatient facilities, juvenile rehabilitation facilities, juvenile detention, foster care system, and youth within the Wraparound with intensive services program. Within those eight years she also served on Local community boards; The Tacoma Gang Reduction project, Pierce County Sexual Exploitation of minors task force, Tacoma Gun Safety, and Pierce County Juvenile Court youth and family council as the Youth Tri Lead. During her last two years of direct service, she was the Youth Tri lead for Pierce County WA Family Youth System Partner Round Tables which is a governance structure for youth and families impacted by the system to voice change to all youth serving systems. Evelyn was one of the first youth peer counselors in the State Of Washington to supervise other youth peer counselors at a Behavioral health agency. Her new role with the State allows her to provide technical assistance on utilization of youth peer counselors, youth engagement and leadership to youth serving systems and agencies across Washington State. Evelyn is the Program manager for a Youth Professional Leadership training, A WISE youth coach, FYSPT youth Coach and recently helped create the Washington State Children's Behavioral Health Youth Network. Her vision for the youth is that they will take over what she currently is doing in her work.

Elizabeth Venuto

Elizabeth Venuto, MSW, is the First Episode Psychosis Program Administrator with the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery. She has over 10 years of experience in the behavioral health field including Treatment Level Foster Care, Child Protective Services, Children's Long Inpatient Program, and a Military and Veteran Family Prevention Program aimed at reducing and preventing child abuse. She is committed to the safety and well-being of children and youth, and to ensuring that all youth and families can have early and equal access to services that promote recovery rather than just medication management.