



# The CONNECTOR

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Left Image, From Left to Right: Deputy Chief Brian Kohlhepp (Ross Township Police Department), Janet Necessary (Retired Deputy District Attorney Allegheny County), Leah Vallone, MS, (Intake Coordinator II and Law Enforcement Liaison at A Child's Place, PA), Megan Shroeder (Director of Victim Response at Pittsburgh Action Against Rape), and Nikki Florentine (UPMC SANE Nurse and ER Department Forensic Coordinator).

## International Association of Forensic Nurses Conference

On Monday, August 26th, representatives from the SARTAC team (Sexual Assault Response Team of Allegheny County) presented at the 2024 International Association of Forensic Nurses Conference in Denver, Colorado.

The team was asked to perform a panel discussion on the experience they gained after building SARTAC from the ground up in the early 2000's. This group was initially organized by SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) nurses in Allegheny County to provide SANE response to all the hospitals regardless of if they had a specialized team on hand or not. This also ensured proper Law Enforcement and Victim Service response that led to better prosecution and trauma services being rendered in a timely manner.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- [IAFN Conference](#)
- [Forensic Interview Preceptorship](#)
- [Healthy Parenting Impact Story](#)
- [Team Member Spotlight](#)
- [Welcome to the Team](#)
- [Work Anniversaries](#)
- [Law Enforcement Liaison Team](#)
- [Healthy Parenting Spotlight](#)
- [Birthday Crew](#)
- [ACP Open Positions](#)
- [Tech Tip: Split Screen](#)
- [Quote](#)

SARTAC pioneer Leah Vallone, Intake Coordinator II and Law Enforcement Liaison at A Child's Place PA, was contacted to organize the team from Allegheny County to speak at the conference, and the following members who presented worked very hard in making SARTAC a reality: Deputy Chief Brian Kohlhepp (Ross Township Police Department), Janet Necessary (Retired Deputy District Attorney Allegheny County), Megan Shroeder (Director of Victim Response at Pittsburgh Action Against Rape), and Nikki Florentine (UPMC SANE Nurse and ER Department Forensic Coordinator). Deb Shane (Retired UPMC SANE) was unable to attend the conference, but also made significant contributions in pioneering this multidisciplinary team.


Topics discussed during the panel included the building of a response team, multidisciplinary approaches, pros and cons of the team model, and how other states may begin to construct their own response teams, even if they do not have the same capabilities we do. As a team this panel was an excellent demonstration of the cooperation between agencies and how we work together to investigate cases and support survivors.

## Forensic Interview Preceptorship

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ACP Forensic Interviewer, Haley, has taken on a preceptorship with Margaret, a recent Forensic Interviewer at Kay's Cottage, the Child Advocacy Center in Armstrong County, as her preceptee. The overall goal of the program is to connect a newer forensic interviewer with an experienced forensic interviewer to strengthen their interviewing skills, as well as to enhance their confidence in collaborating with multidisciplinary team (MDT) members.

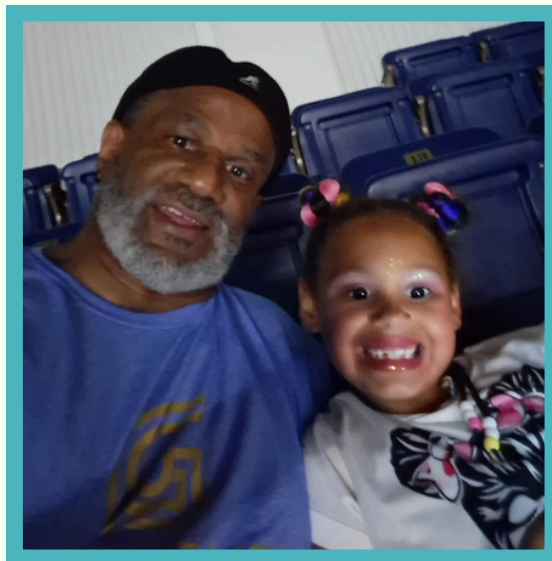
Maggie has been interviewing since February of this year, and has been with Kay's Cottage for just under a year. Throughout the Forensic Interview Preceptorship (FIP), Haley will be providing her with feedback on interviewing in addition to sharing training materials such as research articles and webinars that may be helpful to her journey as a new forensic interviewer. Maggie has already traveled to Mercy Health Center to observe a few of Haley's interviews, and will return in the coming weeks to observe more. Haley will be traveling to Kay's Cottage to observe some of her interviews as well.

If you see her around, make sure to say  hello!

## Healthy Parenting Impact Story

### My name is Vincent S. Scott.

I am the father of four wonderful children, Alia Tenaye 35, Jay Lyn 26, Vincent Elijah 23, and Zipporah Faith 8. I was referred to ACP (A Child's Place PA) during a tumultuous time in my life, dealing with an addiction and life on terms with being a father. Children Youth Services had involved themselves and taken custody of my youngest daughter, Zipporah.



Dr. Deonna Dykes was assigned as my parent advocate, and immediately she began dissecting issues and problems she heard me share with her about my situation. I was given a few workbooks in which to reference and work out of. Unfortunately, I was incarcerated, and the work we were doing halted. However as soon as I was released, I notified Dr. Dykes and asked if she could continue to help me. She accepted, and for many years now she has impacted my life in terms of making me a better father not just to my youngest, but to all my children.



We have all benefited from work I've done with Dr. Dykes. When we started the work I had supervised visits with Zipporah once a week for 2 hours, and today I get unsupervised weekends and holidays. I was the best man at my son's wedding this past year. My oldest daughter includes me in her and my granddaughter's life. My estranged daughter has reached out to me and asked me to come meet my three grandchildren. All these things I have mentioned would not have happened had not been for the suggestions, directions, and guidance from Dr. Dykes. I credit her for helping me build a positive relationship with my children.



# Hi, I'm John!

- **Position:** *Law Enforcement Liaison*
- **Team Start Date:** February 2019
- **Office Location:** Westmoreland County, but I cover both Westmoreland and Fayette Counties
- **What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?:**  
Interacting with the officers at the various departments
- **What are you looking forward to most this year at ACP?:** Getting to meet new team members and visiting Police Departments that I've not yet been able to connect with
- **What is your definition of success?:** Working hard to achieve one's goals and achieving that goal
- **What do you like to do in your spare time?:** Hunting and Motorcycle Riding
- **If you were to write a self-help book, what would the topic be?:** "You Got This"
- **Favorite go-to Pittsburgh spot:** Actually I try to avoid Pittsburgh
- **Favorite movie and/or book:** **Movie:** A toss up between Forest Gump and The Great Raid. **Book:** "It Doesn't Take a Hero"
- **If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?:** Australia

Get to know [John](#) better and reach out!

## Welcome to the Team!

**Gloria**  
*Family Advocate*



## Work Anniversaries

**Alicia**  
*Parent Educator*  
**3 Years**

**Greg**  
*Parent Educator*  
**2 Years**

**Christine**  
*Parent Educator*  
**1 Year**

# Law Enforcement Liaison Team

## Upcoming Trainings

The Law Enforcement Liaison Team is developing their fourth educational topic for Law Enforcement Workshops. Previous workshops were designed to be presented to Children, Youth, and Family Services (CYF) and the District Attorney's office; however, this round of workshops will be geared directly toward Law Enforcement. In collaboration with the District Attorney's office, the upcoming topic is titled, "How to Build a Case-Guide for Investigators." Two sessions will first be offered in Allegheny County on October 4th and October 25th.

## Outreach

Law Enforcement Liaison, Ann, and Parent Educator, Megan, presented at a department wide training at West Homestead Police Department on August 2nd. Ann spoke about the services A Child's Place, PA offers, including Forensic Interviews, Medical Exams, Victim Advocacy, and more. Megan presented information about the Healthy Parenting Program at ACP and how police officers can use it as a resource to offer families. Approximately fifteen officers participated in the training.

Megan & Ann also made visits to speak at Eastern Regional, Findlay Township, North Fayette, and Moon Township Police Departments. They spoke directly with the Police Chief at Eastern Regional Police Department, who had not heard of our agency before, and was very interested in learning more about the services we offer.

## Healthy Parenting Spotlight

### Allegheny County

— Women's Behavioral Health IOP (Intensive Outpatient Program) and Hearth Parent Chats continued this month. After a brief summer break, Triple P groups are continuing at: Auberle, Passages, and Sojourner. Triple P groups also continue at the Allegheny County Jail with great success!

## Beaver County

— August was chock-full of Back to School Events to support parents and their little ones as they prepare to enter an exciting new school year! Parent Educators Greg and Shannon tabled an event sponsored by CYS-Truancy at Beaver Valley Mall. Haircuts and backpacks full of school supplies were offered to children in attendance at no cost. Meanwhile, our Parent Educators provided information about the programs we offer to attending parents. Educators Greg and Christine also attended an event at Ambridge Middle School, and Educators Greg and Shannon participated in an event at Central Elementary for their Back-to-School night.

— Healthy Parenting Program Manager, Jenyne, and Assistant Coordinator, Megan C., spoke to approximately 100 parents and caregivers at a Back to School Event at Fairview Elementary School in Beaver County. Together they presented the topic of “Kindergarten Readiness for the Family.” The topic was met with much enthusiasm, and partnership with this school will continue in the future.

— Parent Educators Christine and Shannon tabled two Block Parties at Rochester Family Apartments Housing Authority and Mt Washington Housing Authority. These events are intended to provide housing authority residents with resources that could be useful to them, including details about our agency.





## Birthday Crew!

**Ann**

*Law Enforcement Liaison*

**Shelva**

*Intake Coordinator*

**Colleen**

*Nurse Practitioner*



Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn and you will.

- Vernon Howard

## ACP Open Positions

- [Family Advocate - All Sites](#)
- [Nurse Practitioner - All Sites](#)
- [Case Manager - Allegheny County](#)
- [PAT Parent Educator - Beaver County](#)
- [Triple P Parent Educator - Allegheny County](#)
- [Triple P Parent Educator - Fayette County](#)
- [Triple P Parent Educator - Westmoreland](#)

## Tech Tip: Split Screen

When you're on the go with a laptop, or working with a single monitor, it's easy to miss out on the convenience of a dual monitor desktop setup.

If you ever find yourself in a situation where you need to look at two tabs at once, press the Windows button on your keyboard followed by the right or left arrow key. This will split your screen in half and allow you to view your tabs side-by-side within the same monitor.

