

Social Work HEALS - Pre-Conference Workshop

Afternoon Bios

(2 Sessions per topic/speaker(s) – 1:00-2:30 & 2:30-4:00)

Innovative Approaches to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

Social Work & Law Enforcement Collaboration - The Yellow Line Project:

Ricki Pribyl, MSW, LICSW, Horizon Homes

Ricki is a resident of the Mankato Area. Ricki holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Social Work, both from Minnesota State University. Ricki has been working in the social work field employed at Horizon Homes, Inc. in Mankato for 14 years. She has worked in or supervised community mental health programs such as Adult Mental Health Rehabilitative Services, and Mobile Crisis Services. She has also worked in residential treatment including 90-day Intensive Residential Treatment Services, Crisis Residential Services, and Adult Foster Care settings. She is currently the Clinical Director at Horizon Homes, providing clinical consultation, development, and oversight to the organization's community mental health programs.

Commander Matt DuRose, Mankato Department of Public Safety-Police

Matthew DuRose has a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement and a Master's of Public Administration, both from Minnesota State University-Mankato. He has worked for the Mankato Department of Public Safety for 19 years as a patrol officer and Public Safety Commander. He currently oversees the support services of the department and previously supervised in the patrol and investigative divisions. He is actively involved in the community by coaching youth sports for his 2 kids and sits on the board of directors for the Mankato YMCA and Project for Teens.

Social Work in Libraries

Ruby Rivera, LGSW – Wilder Foundation:

Ruby Rivera is the Library Social Worker for the Saint Paul Public Libraries. She is contracted through the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in St. Paul. She has worked with diverse populations in multiple settings, including substance abuse, education, and the social service field. She has 15 years of experience in serving families, adults, and children. She has a passion and interest in people having access to getting their needs met. She is very excited to have this innovative position that allows her to help people right where they are. Ruby holds a Master of Science in Social Work from the University of North Dakota. She was born and raised in New York City. In her spare time she enjoys exercising, reading, and spending time with her family.

Maternal & Infant Health

Erica Gerrity, LICSW - Minnesota Prison Doula Project

Erica Gerrity is a co-founder and the Executive Director of the Ostara Initiative, a hybrid non-profit dedicated to innovation at the intersection of health and mass maternal incarceration. Erica designed, launched, and replicated the Minnesota Prison Doula Project over the past twelve years, supporting more than 2,000 incarcerated mothers during that time. She has attended the births of women in prison and supported families affected by incarceration as a child and family therapist. Today she is working to bring human-rights based reproductive health care to pregnant

detained people in three countries. She gets out of bed in the morning with the mission to collectively reimagine what justice can look like in our lifetime, and to disrupt the womb to prison pipeline in America in partnership with formally incarcerated people.

Transforming Organizations through an Equity Lens

Anna Vangsness, LICSW, Community University Health Care Center (CUHCC), Therapist

Anna Vangsness (pronouns she/her) is a clinical social worker who has lived and worked in south Minneapolis for the past 13 years. She is white, of mostly northern European heritage and is an apprentice with the community group, Healing Roots. Before obtaining her MSW from the U of M in 2012, she worked for Project Minnesota-Leon in Nicaragua, facilitating community development and cultural exchange programming. Upon returning to Minnesota she began working in the Family Services department at Children's hospital, helping families apply for public programs including MA, SSI, TEFRA and Food Support. Anna was a social worker at Children's Minnesota from 2013 – 2018, where she provided clinical services to children and their families and collaborated on community health and equity initiatives. Currently, she is an outpatient mental health therapist at Community University Health Care Center (CUHCC), where she provides services to children and adults. She attempts to use practices of deep listening, cultural humility, structuring safety and holding space for client and community stories in her daily work.

Lisa Skjefte, Health Equity Specialist and American Indian Community Liaison, KWESTRONG Founder

Lisa is a citizen of the Red Lake Nation of Ojibwe. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in sociology. Lisa is the founder of an Indigenous Women's Wellness movement called KWESTRONG, "Kwe, pronounced 'qway' in the Ojibwe language, means woman." KWESTRONG organizes an American Indian Women and girls triathlon, Run Bike Canoe, each year at Bde Mka Ska, in Minneapolis.

Lisa began working at Children's Minnesota in the fall of 2014. In her current role, she works to connect patient experience and community voice back to Children's. Lisa has helped launch an initiative called The First Gift, a space for American Indian community members to come together to make baby moccasins to give back to American Indian families whose babies are in the Special Care Nursery and NICU units. Lisa also launched an American Indian Volunteer Cohort, recruiting, training, and on-boarding American Indian community members into the hospital to come hold American Indian babies.

Lisa is also working on systems change Health Equity work. Currently in her role she is partnering and leading efforts to institutionalize equity further into the practice of social work at Children's Minnesota.