**Mitten, Amanda (PS2-C)**

**Enhancing the Multidisciplinary Response to Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior**

Children with problematic sexual behavior (PSB) are heterogeneous who are increasingly being identified by professionals in child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental health (American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 1999; Araji, 1997; Burton, Nesmith, & Badten, 1997; Chaffin et al., 2008; Department of Social and Health Services, 1992; National Task Force on Juvenile Sexual Offending, 1993; Righthand & Welch, 2001). Since 2010, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in conjunction with the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking began providing support for communities to target evidence-based treatments for families affected by PSB. The National Children’s Alliance, the governing body of child advocacy center’s nationwide, made PSB a national initiative (2016). Several states have conducted statewide training in evidence-based treatment for children with PSB (New York, 2016; Missouri, 2017; & New Jersey, Maryland, & Oklahoma, 2019). While children with PSB are highly responsive to evidence-based treatment and have very low recidivism rates, current practices and policies of professionals and systems typically working with these children result in families being divided among treatment agencies, systems, and ultimately, from one another, all of which hinders the success of treatment and healing for the family as a whole. This presentation is designed for a multidisciplinary audience and will provide an overview of the current research on children with PSB and strategies to promote provision of comprehensive services to these children, child victims, and their families in a way that preserves the family and promotes effective healing.

Learning Objectives**:**  Participants will:

* Learn how to define and identify problematic sexual behavior in children.
* Be able to differentiate between common misconceptions regarding children with sexual behavior problems and what is supported by research.
* Identify strategies for how to educate and engage professionals across disciplines to better serve children with problematic sexual behavior, their child victims, and their caregivers.

Key words: children, problematic sexual behavior, research-based intervention, multidisciplinary response.

Amanda Mitten, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., LPC

Paul Shawler, Ph.D.