



2026 Conference Schedule

Day 1: Wednesday, May 27, 2026

11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.: 313AB Ballroom Registration & Networking Luncheon
12:30 P.M. – 12:45 P.M.: 313AB Ballroom Welcome Address (Honor Guard & Anthem)
12:45 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.: 313AB Ballroom Opening Keynote Speaker: Kevin Fischer
1:45 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.: 313AB Ballroom Opening Panel- Stabilize and Mobilize Crisis Intervention From Clients to Communities

3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.: Breakout Sessions

- How Am I With Myself? Why Clinical Supervision Matters as a Brave Space for Truth, Tension, and Growth
- Mezzo matters: Bias, Bridges, and Building Better Narratives
- Elevate Your Mental”: Trauma-Informed Cognitive Strategies for Reducing Escalation and Recidivism
- Language Microaggressions Experienced by Bilingual Professionals in Legal Settings and Impact on Professional Identity, Team Dynamics, and Service Delivery

4:45 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.: 313AB Ballroom Information and Updates

Day 2: Thursday, May 28, 2026

8:00 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.: 313AB Ballroom Continental Breakfast & Welcome

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.: Breakout Sessions

- Who Holds the Holder? The Critical Role of Clinical Supervision in Police Social Work.
- Building Capacity for Youth Justice Trainings in CT
- Intern Realities
- Self-Care for Police Social Workers

10:45 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.: 313AB Ballroom “Us vs Them” Documentary-Viewing & Discussion With Cast Members

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.: 313AB Ballroom Lunch (On-site, included)

1:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.: Breakout Sessions

- Embedding Clinical Social Work in Law Enforcement: Practical Models, Ethical Boundaries, and Measurable Outcomes
- How Police Social Workers Change Perception, Practice, and Policy
- Linked Up with Linked: Building Collaborations and Communications Within the Differently Abled and Social Work Community
- Building a Police Social Work Hub: Bridging a Legislative Mandate to a Center

2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.: Breakout Sessions

- Social Work Supervisory Strategies for Growth and Retention
- Shared Decision Making for Older Adolescents and Their Caregivers During
- Recognizing and Managing Boundaries in Police Social Work Practice
- Beyond the Moment: Micro and Mezzo Approaches to Crisis Intervention



3:45 P.M. – 4:45 P.M.: Breakout Sessions

- Elders in Crisis: Meeting Complex Needs with Alternative Response Models
- Introduction to Police Social Work: Immersive Learning Project with Undergraduate Social Work Students
- Engaging and Building Relationships: Working Respectfully and Effectively with LGBTQIA+ Persons
- Zen Den

Day 3: Friday, May 29, 2026

8:00 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.: 313AB Ballroom Continental Breakfast

8:45 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.: Morning Session: Healing in Partnership: Animal-Assisted Services for First Responders Through Attachment, Attunement, and Regulation

10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.: Breakout Sessions

- Law Enforcement Perceptions of Behavioral Health Collaborations
- Two Sides of the Same Badge: Practical Strategies for Police and Clinician Collaboration Across Cultures
- Working with Youth
- Boots on The Ground Capstone Celebration

11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.: 313AB Ballroom Closing Keynote Rep. Jillian Gilchrest

12:15 P.M. – 12:30 P.M.: 313AB Ballroom Closing Remarks

12:30 P.M. – Safe Travels



Workshop Abstracts

Day 1: Wednesday, May 27, 2026

“Elevate Your Mental”: Trauma-Informed Cognitive Strategies for Reducing Escalation and Recidivism Presented by Joy Jegede, DSW, LCSW (1.5 CECs)

Abstract: Cognitive distortions, emotional dysregulation, urban trauma, and trauma-related thought patterns precede behaviors resulting in police contact and patterns of re-arrest among formerly incarcerated individuals. Participants reported significant benefits to learning how to recognize trauma responses, challenging their distorted thinking as requisite to reducing impulsive behavior and managing conflict with authority.

The session focuses on practical integration of cognitive-based trauma-informed skills into police social work to reduce escalation, improve communication and support reentry outcomes.

How Am I With Myself? Why Clinical Supervision Matters as a Brave Space for Truth, Tension, and Growth

Presented by: Chief Michael Paris; Jessica Bloomberg, LCSW; Ashley Carr Hampton, LCSW (1.5 CECs)

Abstract: Police social workers practicing within law enforcement environments are routinely exposed to trauma through repeated responses to suicides, sudden and untimely deaths, and high-intensity crisis situations. While practitioners often remain outwardly competent and effective, the internal impact of this work can subtly influence clinical judgment, ethical decision-making, and professional boundaries over time. In police settings—where emotional control, reliability, and resilience are highly valued—there is often limited space to reflect on how cumulative trauma exposure and moral complexity are affecting practitioners internally.

This interactive workshop invites participants to engage with the reflective question, “How am I with myself?” as a core professional competency rather than a wellness or self-care concern. Facilitated by a Chief of Police, an embedded police social worker, and her clinical supervisor, the session examines how clinicians assess internal alignment, capacity, and integrity while practicing in high-impact law enforcement contexts. The Chief of Police offers a leadership perspective on why clinical supervision is essential to ethical practice, sound decision-making, workforce sustainability, and public trust.

Language Microaggressions Experienced by Bilingual Professionals in Legal Settings and Impact on Professional Identity, Team Dynamics, and Service Delivery

Presented by Isabel Logan, Ed.D., LCSW (1.5 CECs- Meets Cultural Requirement)

Abstract: Bilingual professionals in legal setting often experience microaggressions amid working with individuals and families. This workshop will report on the findings of qualitative research that explored the experiences of bilingual professionals who work in the court system through a microaggression lens and the impact of those experiences in their professional identity, team, dynamics, and service delivery. Insight into how microaggressions impact the work of bilingual professionals from the first point of entry into the court system, police departments, to dispositions of the cases will be discussed. At the end of this workshop participants will be able to identify the different concepts of microaggressions experienced by bilingual professionals and



their impact on professional identity, team dynamics, and service delivery. Lastly, participants will walk away with tools to help navigate microaggressions in legal settings.

Mezzo Matters: Bias, Bridges, and Building Better Narratives

Presented by Lieutenant Nicholas Rankin

Abstract: To Begin the presentation, participants will be introduced to the 6 Moral Foundations And several relevant cognitive biases, to gain a clearer understanding of why group and individual relationships begin to fracture. Participants will then be offered a hypothesis as to why out-grouping narratives are a primary focus for sewing a divided community and given specific methods of engagement to begin unravelling said narratives. Finally, participants will be familiarized with and asked to begin building an implementable narrative specific to their community. This will be done utilizing literary and Jungian lenses.

Day 2: Thursday, May 28, 2026

Building Capacity for Youth Justice Trainings in Connecticut

Presented by Michaelangelo Palmieri; Eva Ott Hill; Dr. Danielle Cooper

Abstract: This workshop explores an approach used to develop juvenile justice training in collaboration with a Connecticut police department. The training was designed to strengthen police responses to youth and community while aligning with State of Connecticut POST Council standards and best practices in juvenile justice. Participants will leave with practical tools, partnership strategies, and a framework to develop training models that advance youth-centered, community-driven, and prevention-focused approaches to juvenile justice and family response.

Building a PSW Hub: Bridging a Legislative Mandate to a Center

Presented by Isabel Logan, Ed.D., LCSW (ICEC)

Abstract: This workshop will give insight into the creation of the Social Work and Law Enforcement (SWLE) Center for Police Social Work at Southern Connecticut State University in response to CT-HB 6004 on Police Accountability and Transparency. With the focus on bridging communities through the ethical and effective integration into of social work students and social workers into law enforcement settings the center serves as a hub for the field police social work through education, training, research, and policy advocacy. Starting with a brief history of police social work and CT-House Bill 6004, as well as, real-life story telling, participants will learn key steps in moving from a policy to the formation of a center from the early planning stages to navigating challenges and lessons learned.

Elders in Crisis: Meeting Complex Needs with Alternative Response Models

Presented by Carlton Smith, LMSW, MBA; Ashely Dunstan, LMSW; Dr. Heidi Lubetkin (1 CEC)

Abstract: This workshop will focus on HEARTeam's evolving role in responding to crises involving older adults, highlighting the unique behavioral health and social needs that often accompany aging. HEARTeam has successfully responded to over 5,536 calls to date (December



2025) demonstrating that community-based crisis response models can safely and effectively support adults, while reducing reliance on law enforcement and emergency medical services for lower acuity cases. As HEARTeam enters its fifth year, presenters will discuss how planning decisions prioritized identifying and responding to elder-related crises that may not be readily recognized through traditional first-responder frameworks. These include concerns related to isolation, cognitive decline, unmet behavioral health needs, housing instability, and caregiver stress many of which emerge through non-911 referral pathways. The session will examine how HEARTeam adapted call routing, referral processes, and team roles to better support older adults through both co-response and community response models, discuss post-launch adaptations, including expanded referral pathways and call types that better capture elder-specific needs, as well as outcomes related to safety and service engagement.

Embedding Clinical Social Work in Law Enforcement: Practical Models, Ethical Boundaries, and Measurable Outcomes

Presented by Chief John Ewanciw, Stevenson Monchery, and Charles Linnen Sr.

Abstract: This workshop will provide an overview of police social work as a discipline, explain the integrated model of hybrid integration, and delve into ethical and legal considerations. Case examples, lessons learned are provided to emphasize the use of this model, and lastly, this presentation outlines measuring outcomes and demonstrating value to stakeholders.

How Police Social Workers Change Perceptions, Practice, and Policy

Presented by Caroline Ban MSW, DSW (1 CEC)

Abstract: This paper presentation will cover original research on police social work roles, needs, and changes within police agencies. The study employed a focus group and individual interview design, and the research will explain the six themes that emerged from data analysis.

Intern Realities: Pathways and Pitfalls

Presented by Captain Garn Delmonte and Lieutenant Nicholas Rankin

Participants will be introduced to practical methods for developing, supervising, and integrating social work interns within the culture of a police department. The presentation will address role clarity, appropriate boundaries, officer buy-in, and ways interns can contribute beyond case work. Participants will leave with strategies for creating internship experiences that support student learning, strengthen agency culture, and improve service to the community.

Introduction to Police Social Work: Immersive Learning Project with Undergraduate Social Work Students

Presented by Dr. Ronald Dolon EdD, MSW (1 CEC)

Abstract: The Project focuses on developing impactful training materials to educate the community about the critical role of police social workers. By fostering a deeper understanding of their work, the initiative aims to enhance public safety, strengthen police-community relations and advance the field of police social work. This project aligns with national discussions on reimagining public safety through interdisciplinary approaches. Studies show that integrating social work into law enforcement leads to measurable benefits, such as reduced recidivism rates, improved mental health outcomes for individuals in crisis, and increased job satisfaction among police officers (Wood, Watson, & Barber, 2020). The Muncie Police Social Work Unit serves as



a model for scalable practices that other communities can adopt to enhance their public safety frameworks.

Recognizing and Managing Boundaries in Police Social Work Practice

Presented by Robert G. Madden LCSW, JD (1 CEC)

Abstract: Police social workers encounter many situations in which professional boundaries must be maintained. The presentation will explore dynamics of social work practice in law enforcement settings that present challenges to maintaining strong professional boundaries. The presentation will define and explore transference and countertransference and establish expectations for maintaining appropriate boundaries in communication with clients, police department colleagues, and community members.

Shared Decision Making for Older Adolescents and Their Caregivers During Mental Health Crisis

Presented by Kara Mia Vigilia Escobar, MSW (1 CEC)

Abstract: This session will be delivered as an interactive workshop designed for practitioners with foundational knowledge of, or experience in, mental health crisis response. The workshop focuses on the use of Shared Decision Making (SDM) as a supportive practice approach in adolescent mental health crises where treatment decisions are made under time pressure, legal constraints, and heightened risk.

Social Work Supervisory Strategies for Growth and Retention

Presented by Ingrid Aarons-Porter, DSW, LMSW (1 CEC)

Abstract: This presentation examines the critical role of supervision in advancing professional growth, emotional safety, and retention in the social work field, particularly for women of color who often face systemic barriers to professional development. Drawing on research that utilized the Supervision Evaluation and Supervisor Competence Scale (SE-SC8; Gonsalvez, 2021) and the Supervisory Relationship Questionnaire (S-SRQ; Cliffe et al., 2016), revealing disparities in comfort levels between supervisees and supervisors of different racial identities, gaps in reflective and emotional support, and inequities within feedback and promotion processes. These findings underscore the need for supervisory frameworks that are inclusive, culturally responsive, and intentionally structured to mitigate bias and support diverse staff.

“Us vs Them” Documentary Film

Presented By: Charles Grady; Jeremy Brewer

In a time when the conversation around law enforcement is fraught with complexity and urgency, the new dynamic short documentary film “Us vs Then” emerges as a clarion call for reflection, empathy, and transformation. Conceived by a veteran law enforcement official with decades of firsthand experience, this film steps boldly into the debate, inviting viewers to confront the ingrained “bad guy vs good guy” culture that has long defined the American policing narrative. This session includes a Q&A with some cast members. For more information on the documentary visit: <https://usthemfilm.com>

Who Holds the Holder? The Critical Role of Clinical Supervision in Police Social Work

Presented by Ashley Carr Hampton LCSW (1.5 CECs)



Abstract: Police department social workers operate in one of the most complex practice environments in the social work field—embedded within systems shaped by hierarchy, power, public scrutiny, and ongoing exposure to trauma. These professionals are frequently tasked with supporting officers, victims, and communities while simultaneously navigating ethical tensions, role ambiguity, and organizational pressure. Despite these demands, clinical supervision for police social workers is often inconsistent, informal, or undervalued. This session centers the essential question: Who holds the holder?

This presentation will examine clinical supervision as a critical infrastructure for ethical practice, professional sustainability, and quality care in police-embedded social work roles. Grounded in supervision theory, trauma-informed practice, and real-world police social work contexts, the session will explore how supervision functions as a protective and developmental space for clinicians working within law enforcement systems.

Day 3: Friday, May 29, 2026

Boots on the Ground Capstone Celebration

Presented by the SWLE Center For Police Social Work

Abstract: Every year, the "Boots on the Ground" Capstone Celebration aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of police social work interns (PSWIs) integrated in police departments in response to Connecticut Public Act 20-1 on police accountability. The Boots on the Ground Capstone Celebration showcases the important work of social work interns in police departments. In this workshop, PSWI students showcase the work that they have done during the 2025-2026 academic year. Students highlight their work with clients, using the nine core competencies and law-enforcement best practices. Statistical evidence collected by students will also be presented. Ultimately, through the Boots on the Ground Capstone Celebration, the SWLE Center for Police Social Work seeks to bridge communities and build trust through transparency, education, research, and service over time.

Healing in Partnership: Animal Assisted Services for First Responders through Attachment, Attunement, and Regulation

Presented by: Kate Nicoll, LCSW, RPT., Bradford Cole, and Sgt. Tracy Gonzalez

Abstract: First responders and their families face chronic exposure to trauma, operational stress, and cumulative grief, placing them at increased risk for PTSD, anxiety, and compassion fatigue. Animal-Assisted Services (AAS) have emerged as an evidence-informed, integrative approach to support psychological resilience and relational well-being in these populations. This presentation explores the application of AAS across modalities, including police comfort dogs, therapy dogs, K9 crisis response teams, and equine-assisted therapy. Grounded in the Nicoll model, AAS effectiveness is conceptualized through four core mechanisms: attachment, affirmation, affect regulation, and attunement. This presentation also highlights applied frameworks, including Brad Cole's K9 First Responder model, which outlines structured, risk-informed deployment of crisis response dogs in acute trauma settings. Additionally, police social work and police wellness programs will be explored in how the human-animal bond may be a support to first responders.



Law Enforcement Perceptions of Behavioral Health Collaborations

Presented by Raquel Derrick, PhD; Katheryne Pugliese; Dr. Steigman

Abstract: This presentation offers an overview of the behavioral health services (e.g. crisis stabilization center drop-off and telehealth mobile crisis services) that are provided to law enforcement by the behavioral health agency, explains how partnerships with local police departments were established to ensure that police utilize the services, and research findings are discussed. This research presents officer perceptions of the benefits of police behavioral health collaboration, officer perceptions of the challenges of police behavioral health collaboration. Upon completion of this session, participants will understand how social workers should best support law enforcement when they are responding to a behavioral health crisis. Participants will receive recommendations for establishing or enhancing police and behavioral health partnerships and learn the components that law enforcement partners prioritize for a successful police behavioral health partnership.

Two Sides of the Same Badge: Practical Strategies for Police and Clinician Collaboration Across Cultures

Presented by Veronica Delgado Torres (1 CEC)

Abstract: The workshop opens with a brief orientation to the purpose and structure of the session, followed by an overview of why police and clinician collaboration is essential to effective mental health and family response. Presenters will introduce common challenges to collaboration, including cultural differences, communication barriers, and role ambiguity, framing these issues across micro (individual officers and families), mezzo (teams and community systems), and macro (organizational culture and policy) levels of practice.

Throughout the 90-minute session, participants actively engage through discussion, reflection, and skill application, ensuring they leave with concrete, transferable strategies applicable across urban, rural, and frontier settings.