



# 2022 MENTAL HEALTH COURT CONFERENCE

**May 24-26, 2022 | Virtual Conference Series**

Mental health professionals, treatment providers, law enforcement, case managers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, client advocates and others who serve mental health court participants are invited to attend this comprehensive training.

## Questions?

**Elizabeth Henderson**

South St. Louis County Mental Health Court  
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## OUR SPECIAL SPEAKERS

*Virtual Conference - Hosted via Zoom Webinar, virtual platform*

**24  
MAY**  
12 - 3 CST



Chanson D. Noether, MA, Norma D. Jaeger, Ph.D. (ABD), Beth Elstad & Julie Vena

**25  
MAY**  
12 - 2 CST



Ashley Bridwell, LMSW

**26  
MAY**  
12 - 3 CST



Norma D. Jaeger, Ph.D. (ABD)

**NO REGISTRATION FEE  
REGISTER AT:**

[https://courts-state-mn-us.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_yv8CCJAtS32lt8PqdEQZnw](https://courts-state-mn-us.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_yv8CCJAtS32lt8PqdEQZnw)

## **Chanson D. Noether, MA, Norma D. Jaeger, Ph.D. (ABD), Beth Elstad and Julie Vena**

*Day 1 | Tuesday, May 24th | 12:00pm - 3:00pm CST*

### ***Building in the Magic of Peer Support***

Peers add several invaluable assets to the operation of mental health courts. It is not too strong to claim that peers may be a “game changer” in enhancing outcomes. This presentation will discuss the research and best practices on the use of peer support specialists in treatment courts, with a focus on mental health courts. Examples of successful treatment court peer support programs nationally will be provided. The common dilemmas facing the effort to expand the use of peers in mental health courts combined with strategies to address such challenges and dilemmas will be discussed. Some of the unique challenges facing the peer workforce in rural communities will be considered. Recovery Alliance Duluth, which serves both urban and rural communities, will be spotlighted.

## **Ashley Bridwell, LMSW**

*Day 2 | Wednesday, May 25th | 12:00pm - 2:00pm CST*

### ***An Unidentified Epidemic of Crisis Proportions: TBI in Vulnerable Populations***

This session will address the causes, types, functional impact, and resources regarding individuals with brain injury in vulnerable populations such as domestic violence survivors, the homeless, and incarcerated individuals. Functional impact on physical ability, cognitive function, and psychosocial functioning will be discussed in detail. It will address statistics regarding vulnerable populations and brain injury, as well as psychiatric comorbidities in these populations. It will present ideas regarding the relationship between adverse childhood experiences, homelessness, incarceration, substance abuse and brain injury, brain injury and social failure, how prevalent cognitive impairment is in, specifically, homeless and domestic violence populations, and how differences in cognitive functioning manifest themselves. Implications of cognitive impairment in navigating out of homelessness and into housing and employment will be addressed. Lastly, practical recommendations for direct practice will be discussed.

## **Norma D. Jaeger, Ph.D. (ABD)**

*Day 3 | Thursday, May 26th | 12:00pm - 3:00pm CST*

### ***Risk, Need, Responsivity: Unleash the Power of Responsivity***

This presentation will examine the RNR theory and its application to mental health courts with an emphasis on how the engagement of responsivity can be more effectively accomplished. If Risk tells us who to enroll and Need tells us what to focus on, Responsivity tells us how to reach them. Several approaches to addressing responsivity will be explored.



## **Chanson D. Noether, MA**

Chanson Noether is a Vice President at Policy Research Associates (PRA). In this capacity, Mr. Noether oversees a large portfolio of criminal justice and behavioral health-focused training and technical assistance initiatives for PRA. In this role, Mr. Noether serves as the Director of SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation. As Director of SAMHSA's GAINS Center, Mr. Noether oversees all training and technical assistance activities for the Center, including the How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses training initiative and Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshops. Mr. Noether also serves as PRA's Director for the BJA-funded Academic Training to Inform Police Responses National Initiative to Enhance Police Engagement with People with Behavioral Health Conditions and Developmental Disabilities. Mr. Noether is former Director of the Law Enforcement and Community: Crisis Intervention Team Training Model program funded under the Bureau of Justice Assistance's VALOR Initiative and has previously served as Project Director for several other initiatives at PRA, including SAMHSA's Statewide Family and Consumer Networks TA Center and the NIMH-funded Suicide Prevention for Justice System Gatekeepers training program. Mr. Noether received his MA in Community Psychology and Counseling from Russell Sage Graduate School. Mr. Noether has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and publications and presents frequently at a variety of national meetings and conferences. Mr. Noether is also an adjunct professor for research and evaluation at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY. His research and practice interests include criminal justice, trauma, and peer integration, as well as training and program evaluation.



## **Norma D. Jaeger, Ph.D. (ABD)**

Norma Jaeger spent more than thirty years managing and evaluating addiction and mental health programs in North Idaho, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington. As the Statewide Coordinator for Idaho's 70+ Drug and Mental Health Courts she worked to establish Idaho's 9 mental health courts and obtained federal grants to support the mental health court effort and to obtain recognition for the Bonneville Mental Health Court as a national learning site. She served two terms on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, and received the Stanley M. Goldstein Hall of Fame Award from that association in 2018. She taught for fifteen years at Boise State University in the Department of Criminal Justice and currently serves as Executive Director for Recovery Idaho, a statewide recovery community organization. She holds a Masters' Degree in Health Administration and is completing a dissertation for a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Boise State University focused on procedural justice. She is honored to serve as Executive Producer for *I Married the War*, a documentary film illuminating the challenges and the resilience of wives of combat veterans.



## Beth Elstad

Beth Elstad is the co-founder and Executive Director of Recovery Alliance Duluth, the first recovery community organization located in Northeast Minnesota. She earned her BA in Accounting and Management from the College of St. Scholastica and a certificate in Addiction Studies from Mesabi Range Community College. Beth is a Peer Recovery Specialist and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor with over 24 years of experience in non-profit administration. Beth has been active in the recovery community for over 25 years and has dedicated her life to working in ways that make a positive impact on the lives of others.



## Julie Vena

Julie Vena is the co-founder, and Program Director, and Peer Recovery Specialist for Recovery Alliance Duluth. She is a woman in recovery, a mother, and passionate business professional. She dedicates much of her personal time to connecting with people to establish their own path to recovery and supporting them through the process. She has been an active peer recovery specialist for over 10+ years and has trained over 1200 peers in the last 2 years. Northeast Minnesota continues to have a tremendous need for peer-based recovery support. She has a true passion for serving the community to the highest level and meeting people where they are in their lives with support, community and hope.



## Ashley Bridwell, LMSW

Ashley Bridwell is the coordinator and co-founder of the nation's first program to address traumatic brain injury in the domestic violence population at Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ. The Domestic Violence program was featured on The Today Show and National Public Radio in the summer of 2018 and more recently in the New York Times Magazine Sunday Edition in March of 2022. Ashley started her career with Barrow in 2004 and continues to provide clinical social work services for Barrow Outpatient Neuro Rehab, the Center for Transitional Neuro Rehab and recently facilitated the development of the Barrow Bridge Neuro Rehab, a new partial day treatment program. Ashley has dedicated her career as a social worker to address and bring awareness to traumatic brain injury in vulnerable populations through community and direct clinical care. Since finishing her masters at Arizona State University (ASU) in 2004, she has worked for Barrow Neurological Institute and served on various boards and city commissions to advocate for people with disabilities. Ashley has taught at ASU School of Social Work and is the subject matter expert for TBI in vulnerable populations at ASU's Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy. Since 2013 Ashley has provided education as a certified peace officer trainer to the City of Phoenix Police Department on cognitive disabilities. Ashley's work was published in the Journal of Neuro Trauma in the spring of 2017 and the NASW Health Section in the summer of 2017. Ashley was proud to be named as one of the Phoenix Business Journals Top 40 Under 40 in 2017 and the YWCA Advocacy Leadership Award in the Winter of 2016. She dedicates her spare time to local politics.