



Southwest Regional HSJCC Conference Agenda

October 8, 2025

TIMELINE	PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION	PRESENTERS
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Registration/Refreshments/Networking/Donation Collection	Stacy Van Acker & Liv Tomchick (St. Leonard's Community Services)
9:00 am - 9:05 am	Opening Remarks & Land Acknowledgement	Trevor Tymchuk & Stacy Van Acker (South West Regional HSJCC Co-Chairs)
9:05 am - 10:35 am Presentation Title: FASD-101 (Inclusive of Q&A)	Member Introducer: Julie Wyatt (Co-Chair of Elgin-Oxford HSJCC & Member of South West Regional HSJCC) Presentation Description: FASD 101 Training provides an introduction to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), exploring what it is, how it affects brain function and daily living, and ways to provide effective, person-centered support. Participants will gain a foundational understanding of the impacts of prenatal alcohol exposure, learn strategies to reduce stigma, and explore practical tools for supporting individuals with FASD in various settings.	Presenters: Amy Burrows is a graduate of the Social Service Worker program at Lambton College and has dedicated my career to supporting individuals in the developmental services sector. For the past 17 years, she has worked with Lambton County Developmental Services, where she's had the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally while supporting people and their families. In 2019, she began her current role as Resource and Planning Coordinator, where she continues to focus on person-centered supports, collaboration, and building stronger connections across the community. That same year, she also had the opportunity to complete FACETS training, which allowed her to become an FASD Facilitator. This training expanded her knowledge and deepened her passion for working alongside individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and their support networks. She provides training opportunities both within and outside her agency, groups for people with FASD as well as sit on the Sarnia Lambton FASD network committee. Throughout her career, she has been committed to promoting inclusion, equity, and growth. Her work has given her the privilege to learn from the people she supports, partner with families and colleagues, and contribute to meaningful change in the developmental services field.

		<p>Karen Holland has worked in disability advocacy and supportive roles for 27 years ranging from Provincial Advocate to Family Engagement to her current role as the Provincial FASD Worker for Lambton County.</p> <p>She has been in her current role of FASD Family Resource Worker at Pathways Health Centre for Children since 2021; her position offers solution- focused consultation with caregivers, family and the community to increase knowledge, skills and competence in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. She also co-chairs the Sarnia- Lambton FASD Network Committee, whose purpose is to establish a standardized community of practice that supports and enhances the community’s capacity to offer appropriate and effective services and supports for individuals and families impacted by FASD. She strives to help people with FASD and their families achieve personal growth and success by providing research based FASD strategies and supports, fueled by a passion for equity, inclusion and positive impact.</p>
10:35 am - 11:00 am	Health Break/Networking	Stacy Van Acker (South West Regional HSJCC Co-Chair)
11:00 am – 12:10 pm Presentation Title: Practical Strategies for Supporting Individuals with ABI in the Justice System: A Case Study Approach (Inclusive of Q&A)	Member Introducer: Dana St. Jean (Chair of Windsor Essex HSJCC & Member of South West Regional HSJCC) Presentation Description: This presentation is designed to provide attendees with a better understanding of acquired brain injury and the challenges (physical, behavioural, emotional, and cognitive) that one may experience while trying to navigate a complex justice system. Through two case studies, we will highlight common difficulties as well as provide relevant, practical strategies that you can use to understand and support clients with acquired brain injury.	Presenters: Karen Taylor , B.Sc., BST, CBIST (she/her) is a Behaviour Therapist who has been working in the field for 21 years at a community based ABI organization, Dale Brain Injury Services. She has an undergraduate degree in psychology, a diploma in Behavioural Science Technology, and is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer with the Brain Injury Association of America Allyson Heidinga , BA (Hon), CBIS (she/her) is a Behaviour Therapist who has been working in the field for 20 years at a community based ABI organization, Dale brain Injury Services. She has an undergraduate honours degree in Kinesiology, a certificate in Applied Behaviour Analysis, and is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist with the Brain Injury Association of America.
12:10 pm - 1:20 pm	Lunch/Networking	Trevor Tymchuk (South West Regional HSJCC Co-Chair)

1:20 pm - 2:40 pm

**Presentation Title:
Navigating Dual
Diagnosis in the
Justice System:
Integrated Case
Management
Approaches
(Inclusive of Q&A)**

Member Introducer: Nicole Maurice (Member of South West Regional HSJCC)

Presentation Description:

As service systems grow more interconnected, there is a noticeable increase in the intersection of dual diagnosis, justice involvement, and complex support coordination. This presentation explores the evolving landscape of case management for individuals experiencing both mental health conditions and cognitive disabilities who are also engaged with the justice system.

We will examine the uptake of integrated approaches, the unique challenges faced by this population, and the systemic barriers that contribute to recurring cycles of crisis, incarceration, and service disengagement. Drawing on real-world practice, and cross-sector collaboration models, the presentation highlights how coordinated, person-centered interventions are transforming outcomes for some of the most vulnerable and underserved individuals in our communities.

Presenters:

Daniel Ross is an experienced Dual Diagnosis Justice Case Manager with over 12 years of dedicated service at Regional Support Associates, supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health diagnoses within the justice system. He holds a Developmental Service Worker diploma from Fanshawe College and has furthered his education in Disability Studies at Toronto Metropolitan University. Daniel's work is centered on advocacy, breaking down systemic barriers, and ensuring that individuals can navigate the court system with dignity, respect, and the support they deserve. He provides service across the communities of Oxford/Elgin, London/Middlesex, Huron/Perth, and Grey/Bruce, working within the Community Networks of Specialized Care – Southwest Region.

Carly Baz-Ficociello holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Disability Studies and brings over 13 years of experience in the field of Developmental Services and Dual Diagnosis. Her career has spanned a variety of roles including direct support, administration, education, facilitation, and case management, giving her a well-rounded perspective to navigate both client care and service delivery. Since 2018, Carly has been a valued member of the Case Management Team at Regional Support Associates. In her current role as a Dual Diagnosis Justice Case Manager, she provides specialized support to adults with developmental disabilities who have encountered the criminal justice system. She provides service across the communities of Windsor-Essex, Chatham-Kent, and Sarnia-Lambton, working within the Community Networks of Specialized Care – Southwest Region. Carly is passionate about advocating for inclusive, person-centered care and support for individuals with complex needs and is deeply committed to the individuals and communities she serves. She continues to learn from her clients, colleagues, and community partners across all sectors

Alexis Bilyea

With over a decade of experience in the field of Developmental Services, and 8 years at Regional Support Associates Alexis Bilyea is a dedicated and knowledgeable Complex Support Coordinator committed to improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. A graduate of the Developmental Services Worker (DSW)

		<p>program from Fanshawe and holding a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Queen's University, Alexis brings both academic insight and practical expertise to her work. Throughout her career, Alexis has been dedicated to supporting individuals with high and complex needs, navigating interdisciplinary teams, advocating for clients, and collaborating closely with families, service providers, and community partners. Her person-centered approach, and strong communication skills have made her a trusted resource within the developmental services sector.</p> <p>Alexis is passionate about fostering inclusion, promoting self-determination, and ensuring equitable access to services for all individuals she supports.</p>
2:40 pm – 3 pm	Closing Remarks	Trevor Tymchuk (South West Regional Hsjcc Co-Chair)