



27th Annual MnATSA Conference

April 17-19, 2024

Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
7025 Northland Dr N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428



#MnATSA2024

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REGISTRATION FEES

MnATSA members receive discounted conference fees and year-round benefits!

Refer to the end of the brochure for registration information.

Late fee begins March 25, 2024

MEMBER

Any One Day	\$215
Any Two Days	\$310*
All Three Days	\$425*

NON-MEMBER

Any One Day	\$215
Any Two Days	\$335
All Three Days	\$450

FULL-TIME STUDENT & EMERITUS MEMBER

Any One Day	\$110**
Any Two Days	\$200**
All Three Days	\$245**

***For the member discount**, you must be a current member of ATSA to join MnATSA. You can apply at www.atsa.com. You can become a MnATSA member or renew your membership online at www.mnatsa.org. Organizations and agencies are not and cannot be members. Only individuals can be members.

****For the student discount**, you must be a full-time student and must provide a verification letter from your university registrar confirming current full-time enrollment. **Must register by March 25, 2024**. Please send your verification letter to info@mnatsa.org immediately after registering to receive this discount.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday – April 17, 2024

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Check-in and Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Pre-conference Workshops #1 – 13
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Networking/Break
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet provided by MnATSA
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Pre-conference Workshops
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Networking/Break

Thursday – April 18, 2024

7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.	Yoga
7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Check-in and Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Opening, Welcome, and Announcements
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Keynote Address – Kelly Socia, Ph.D.
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Networking/Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Keynote Address – Ellie Krug, J.D.
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet provided by MnATSA
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Workshops # 14 - 20
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Networking/Break
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Workshops # 21 - 27
4:45 p.m.	Reception – Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar

Friday – April 19, 2024

7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Check-in and Continental Breakfast
7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Presidential Address
8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Address – Patty Wetterling
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Networking/Break
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Workshops # 28 - 34
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch Buffet provided by MnATSA (all) and Annual MnATSA Member Luncheon (members only)
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Workshops # 35 - 41
2:45 p.m.	Conference Adjourns

All times listed are Central Daylight Time (CDT)

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

MnATSA is committed to advancing education, research, and professional intervention in the realm of sexual abuse issues. As the Minnesota chapter, we align ourselves with the national and international initiatives of the Association for the Treatment & Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA).

The 27th Annual MnATSA conference is designed to delve into the treatment, assessment, and supervision challenges encountered when working with adolescents and adults who have engaged in sexually abusive behavior. This conference caters to a diverse audience, including treatment staff, psychologists, social workers, corrections agents, mental health providers, judges, attorneys, sex crimes investigators, polygraph examiners, dispositional advisors, victim advocates, correctional staff, correctional administrators, policy makers, and others involved in these related fields.

Your participation in this conference promises valuable insights and collaborative opportunities within the broader context of sexual abuse prevention and intervention.

Continuing Education Units

MnATSA is pending approval for the following continuing education units:

- Minnesota Board of Psychology
- Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy
- Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy (LPC/LPCC)
- Minnesota Board of Social Work
- Minnesota Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Planning Your Time at the Conference

Please review this brochure to assist in planning which workshops you may be interested in attending.

Wednesday attendees – divide your day one of two ways:

- A. one 6-hour workshop (#1) **or**
- B. one 3-hour morning workshop (#2- #7) **and** one 3-hour afternoon workshop (#8 - #13)

Thursday attendees attend both morning Keynote Addresses and then attend two workshops, one from #14 through #20 and one from #21 through #27.

Friday attendees attend the morning Keynote Address and then attend two workshops, one from #28 through #34 and one from #35 through #41.

Registration information can be found at the end of the brochure.

Late fee begins March 25, 2024

No cancellations or transfers of registration after **March 25, 2024.**

If you have questions, please contact:
info@mnatsa.org

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES



Kelly M. Socia, Ph.D.

University of Massachusetts Lowell

Using Language to Avoid Landmines: How to Convey Scientific Facts and Cut Through Myths

How can we convey important scientific information about stigmatized populations, while cutting through widespread myths and misperceptions? The key is to use effective methods of communicating scientific research, while avoiding the 'landmines' that can derail your message and undercut your believability. This keynote will examine some of the right (and wrong) ways to communicate information about controversial and stigmatizing topics to the public and policymakers, so that the underlying message has the best chance of being listened to and acted upon. In doing so, examples of real-life interactions that went well (and not so well) will be covered, along with best practices when it comes to communicating difficult subject matter to the public, policymakers, and others who may not be receptive to the message being conveyed. Also discussed will be the source of the pervasive (and incorrect) myth of 'frightening and high' sexual recidivism rates.

Understanding Transgender Humans: It's Not a "Choice"

Persons who are transgender have become far more visible, which is reflective of greater societal acceptance. Still, of the letters in the "LGBTQ+ alphabet", the "Ts" (transgender persons) more often face unique challenges relative to personal relationships, public interactions, and many other things that cisgender (non-transgender) persons take for granted. Many of the challenges that "trans" and nonbinary individuals face occur in medical and therapeutic settings. Gender variant humans are both fearful and distrustful of the medical and therapeutic communities because they are true gatekeepers that can gravely impact someone's ability to transition genders and/or to simply live as their true authentic self. Certainly, while doctors, nurses, and therapists are well-intentioned and compassionate, there is always a risk that their life experiences and biases may come into play when interacting with trans or nonbinary people, such as by believing that being "trans" is a "choice." What steps can medical and therapeutic professionals take to make trans and nonbinary people feel welcomed and accepted? What actions or words should they avoid? How does "passing" or not "passing" or the absence of legal rights in many states play into a transgender person's daily life? And what's the mental health effect of state after state passing laws that marginalize trans humans?



Ellie Krug, J.D.

Human Inspiration Works, LLC



Patty Wetterling

Don't Give Up On Your Dreams

Patty reflects on 27 years of searching for Jacob, lessons learned from other victims, and how to get ahead of this problem instead of just knee jerk fear reactions. She will share what kept her going during these difficult times and share her gratitude for the invaluable service that all of you provide.

Full-day Pre-Conference Workshops 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Break 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Workshop # 1

- 1. Sexual Wellbeing: Why It Matters For Those Who Have Created Sexual Harm:** Bringing discussions of healthy sexuality to our clients necessitates candor and a comprehensive sexuality education approach. Yet how do we create an atmosphere of positive, non-coercive, and pleasurable sexual expression for individuals with problem sexual behaviors? Using a public health model which incorporates sexual health, sexual pleasure, sexual wellbeing, and sexual justice (Mitchell et al., 2021) and the Circles of Sexuality (Dailey, 1981), we can offer our clients an opportunity to develop the tools they need for consensual sexual and intimate relationships. This session will offer participants the most up-to-date research on effectiveness of comprehensive sexuality education, two models of comprehensive sexuality education for psychoeducational groups, samples of activities for psychoeducational groups, ample time for application of these approaches, and the opportunity for frank discussion about the challenges our clients face.

Presenter: Jane Fleishman, Ph.D., MEd, M.S.
*ASSECT Certified Sexuality Educator
Speaking Of, LLC, Northampton, MA*

Morning Half-day Pre-Conference Workshops 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Break 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Workshops # 2 – 7

- 2. The Application of Evidence-Based Risk Assessments to Enhance the Supervision and Risk Reduction of Sexual Offenders:** Staff who work with sex offenders recognize the potential horrific consequences of failure. Supervising those convicted of a sexual offense is unlike supervising any other offender. They are multifaceted individuals who very often require specialized supervision and specific treatment. The use of evidence-based risk assessments such as the Static-99R, Stable-2007, and Acute-2007 can serve to greatly enhance the efficacy of supervision and treatment practices to aid in the reduction of recidivism risk. Utilizing these risk assessment tools can aid in moving away from a “one size fits all” model of supervision to a tailored individualized approach. Risk assessments provide a framework to determine appropriate “dosage” of supervision as well as specific tools, techniques, and warning signs. This workshop will show how incorporating an evidence-based risk assessment approach will assist in enhancing supervision, treatment, and recidivism risk reduction.

Presenter: Nicholas J. Honyara, M.S.
*RAN Customized Training and Consulting
Douglassville, PA*

- 3. Academic Publishing: Going from Idea to Published Article:** This session provides an overview of the academic research process as it relates to turning a research 'idea' into a published manuscript in a peer-reviewed academic journal. The target audiences are graduate students, early-career academics, and anyone else looking to jumpstart (or rejuvenate) their academic research agendas and get into publishing. This workshop will be interactive, and include exercises that will help you move your writing forward, revise accordingly, and eventually get it published. Highlights of the issues discussed include: How to assess which ideas have the best chance at becoming published research articles; How to modify your writing style to change from 'student writer' to 'scholar'; Framing a manuscript for a scholarly audience; Determining the right outlet for your manuscript; Navigating the journal submission and peer review process successfully; 'Revise and Resubmit' tips and tricks; Thinking about a broader research agenda.

Presenter: Kelly M. Socia, Ph.D.
University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA

- 4. Motivational Interviewing with Adolescents:** This workshop will focus on key skills and concepts in motivational interviewing (MI) with adolescents. Importantly, it also covers recent changes made to MI as a model of change during the past three years. MI is a client-centered counseling method for exploring how and why a person might change, and is based upon a guiding style. Its principles and techniques match those known to produce positive outcomes with people who sexually abuse others (e.g., Marshall, 2005). MI can be very useful for motivating adolescents who are ambivalent about change and ambivalent about engaging in treatment.

Presenter: David S. Prescott, LICSW
Safer Society, Brandon, VT

- 5. Culturally Responsive Care in Sex Offense Treatment:** Cultural humility is the ability to maintain an interpersonal stance that is other-oriented in relation to aspects of cultural identity that are more important to the client. Sociocultural factors in the assessment and treatment of individuals who sexually offend are important to examine. Awareness of implicit biases and the cultural competence of the therapist are essential in ethical treatment. This workshop will assist participants in identifying cultural factors (i.e., racial/ethnicity, language, religion, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability) during assessment to better inform treatment and risk management recommendations.

Presenter: Apryl Alexander, Psy.D.
UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC

- 6. The Rise of Rough Sex: What Parents and Professionals Need to Know:** Over at least the past decade, rough sex behaviors have rapidly increased as part of younger adults' sexual repertoires. For example, about 1 in 3 young adult US women were choked/strangled the last time they had sex. In this talk, Dr. Debby Herbenick will share findings from her team's research on rough sex practices, with a focus on sexual choking/strangulation. These rigorously conducted studies include US nationally representative surveys, college campus-representative surveys, meme analysis, as well as neurological research. The presentation will address issues such as prevalence, frequency, communication, consent, short-term and long-term health implications, as well as educational materials that college instructors, sexuality educators, and clinicians may find useful in their work.

Presenter: Debby Herbenick, Ph.D., MPH
*Indiana University School of Public Health
Bloomington, IN*

- 7. Applying Best Practices to the Treatment and Management of Individuals with Elevated Psychopathy:** Psychopathy is a construct that is viewed as difficult to manage and often presents challenges to treatment. In fact, there has been some literature that suggests treatment of individuals with high psychopathy is ineffective or may even make them worse. There is a good deal of literature on the evaluation and etiology of psychopathy. However, there is little information on effective treatment and management of individuals with high psychopathy utilizing principles of Risk, Needs, Responsivity (RNR). It is essential to understand personality characteristics of high psychopathy and antisocial persons to effectively engage them in treatment and management. This presentation will briefly review the construct and etiology of psychopathy and present practical strategies to successfully engage individuals with high psychopathy in management and treatment. Participants will learn to recognize these traits and develop effective responses. Case examples will be presented to illustrate the strategies presented.

Presenters: Ernie Marshall, MSW, LCSW
The Change Partnership, New Lisbon, WI

Leslie Barfknecht, MSW, LCSW
The Change Partnership, New Lisbon, WI

Afternoon Half-day Pre-Conference Workshops 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Break 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Workshops # 8 – 13

8. Understanding the Digital Generation of Sexual Offenders: Implications for Supervision and

Treatment: This workshop is designed to assist those who supervise and treat individuals who commit sexual offenses while utilizing the internet. Participants will be introduced to current research on offense motivations, risk assessment, and best practices for the management of individuals who utilize digital devices to commit sexual offenses. Special attention will be paid to the realities and challenges of sex offenders in the online world who have access to cell phones, tablets, and gaming systems. The presenter will discuss interventions/techniques that can aid in supervision and treatment. The session will be interactive with a live demonstration of the capabilities of these devices and will introduce participants to the various ways offenders can use these devices inappropriately. Participants will gain an understanding of how offenders and these devices should be managed, including how to determine which offenders should have access and how these devices should or can be monitored. In addition, participants will learn how these devices can be used to enhance treatment and supervision goals.

Presenter: *Nicholas J. Honyara, M.S.*
RAN Customized Training and Consulting
Douglassville, PA

9. Beyond Empathy to Compassion: Group Therapy as a Process to Foster Compassion for Self and

Others: Treatment with people who have caused sexual harm is typically group therapy based. Research on outcomes for this population indicates effective treatment is related to strong therapeutic alliances and group cohesion. Effective group therapy is rooted in the relationships between group members and the facilitator. However, clinicians often receive little training on strategies to foster relationships and cohesion in therapy groups. There is growing evidence that compassion for others and self-compassion can be learned and is pertinent to effective relationships. This session will provide information, tools, and experiential opportunities to help conceptualize and structure therapy relationships through a compassion-focused lens. Presenters will review research on compassion and risk factors for sexual harm, including the intersection with dynamic risk factors and therapeutic factors in groups. Clinicians will have opportunities to assess and enhance their personal use of self-compassion and to learn teachable strategies designed to foster compassion for self and others.

Presenters: *Robin Goldman, MA, LP*
Independent Consultant & Trainer
Woodbury, MN

Steven Sawyer, MSSW, LICSW
Sawyer Solutions, LLC, White Bear Lake, MN

10. Trauma-Informed Care with Youth Who Sexually Offend:

Research reveals approximately 90% of juvenile justice-involved youth have experienced one or more types of traumatic events in childhood; one study found that two-thirds of detained youth had experienced two or more potentially traumatic childhood events. Indeed, advocates have discussed the trauma-to-prison pathway among justice-involved youth, particularly for girls and women. However, in the juvenile and criminal justice systems, victimization and trauma histories are often ignored or not presented. As various systems are striving to incorporate trauma-informed care into practice, trauma-informed care is an essential area of need for at-risk youth. The presentation will discuss the principles of trauma-informed care, including the prevalence of trauma among youth who sexually offend, realizing the impact of trauma, and recognizing symptoms of trauma and types of trauma justice-involved youth have experienced. The presentation will cover empirically informed approaches to assessment and treatment for justice-involved youth, and considerations for youth who have sexually offended.

Presenter: *Apryl Alexander, Psy.D.*
UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 (continued)

11. Assessing Child Sexual Exploitation Material Offenders: This session will offer an overview of risk assessment and risk management of individuals who have committed crimes related to Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM). We will first provide information about how individuals with CSEM-exclusive offenses differ from those with contact offense histories. We will then address the unique considerations related to risk of recidivism for this population and how our current systems (e.g., legal, treatment) address these considerations – or fail to do so. We will discuss considerations for risk assessment with this population, including measures designed to be used with individuals who have CSEM offenses, and provide information relevant to managing risk with the goal of sexual violence prevention. This will include a detailed presentation of two cases: one from a treatment perspective and the other from an evaluator perspective. As evaluators, we will also discuss our role in accurately representing and communicating an individual's risk state so as to guide sentencing and treatment recommendations.

Presenters: *Elizabeth Egbert, Psy.D., LP*
MN DHS – Forensic Services, St. Peter, MN

Meagan McKenna, Psy.D., LP
MN DHS – Forensic Services, St. Peter, MN

Natasha Auer, Psy.D., LP
MN DHS – Forensic Services, St. Peter, MN

12. Adolescents Who Have Sexually Abused: This workshop will provide attendees with an overview of current knowledge about understanding and treating adolescents who have sexually abused others. It explores the developmental and contextual issues that contribute to sexual abuse by adolescents and the need for trauma-informed care. Finally, it will review the characteristics of excellent programs and professionals. Topics include the origins of sexual aggression, the role of families in preventing re-offense, and examples of effective and ineffective methods.

Presenter: *David S. Prescott, LICSW*
Safer Society, Brandon, VT

13. The Multidisciplinary Response to Human Trafficking and Exploitation: Over the past decade Minnesota has developed a comprehensive, multidisciplinary response to sex trafficking with a specific focus on serving sexually exploited youth through age 24. In recent years the statewide approach has expanded to include labor trafficking and exploitation. This preconference workshop will provide an overview of the Safe Harbor network as well as data describing who is most affected by human trafficking and exploitation in the state, collected through the Minnesota Student Survey and Safe Harbor reporting, as well as other sources from child welfare and law enforcement. After providing foundational information, the session will shift to a panel discussion featuring a Safe Harbor regional navigator, a health care provider, law enforcement investigators, and a survivor subject matter expert to discuss best practices in meeting the needs of victims and survivors of human trafficking. Preconference participants are encouraged to bring questions for the panelists.

Presenters: *Caroline Palmer, JD, MPH*
Minnesota Department of Health, St. Paul, MN

Lauren Martin, Ph.D., M.A.
University of MN School of Nursing, Minneapolis, MN

Karla Hurlley, APRN, CRP, NP
Midwest Children's Resource Center, Childrens MN
St. Paul, MN

Anne LaFrinier-Ritchie, B.A.
Someplace Safe, Fergus Falls, MN

Joy Friedman
Joy Friedman Consulting, Minneapolis, MN

Bobbi Jo Pazdernik, B.S., AAS
BCA, MN Dept. of Public Safety, St. Paul, MN

Rachel Pearson
BCA, MN Dept. of Public Safety, St. Paul, MN

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Keynote Address 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Using Language to Avoid Landmines: How to Convey Scientific Facts and Cut Through Myths

Kelly M. Socia, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Lowell

Keynote Address 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Understanding Transgender Humans: It's Not a "Choice"

Ellie Krug, J.D., Human Inspiration Works, LLC

Workshops #14 - 20 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

14. A Mindfulness Approach to Burnout and Compassion Fatigue: What is Mindfulness beyond the buzzwordy memes and marketing mayhem? Why is it so elusive? How can it be both incredibly simple and extremely challenging? How might a Mindfulness practice support YOU, the clinician as much as your clients? In this workshop, led by a Qualified Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Instructor, we'll go behind the scenes, under the surface and into the heart of mindfulness practice to learn, and more importantly practice this ancient and newly popular training that can increase your resilience, alleviate physical and emotional pain and generally re-frame experience for the better. This workshop is designed for you, the participant – P.S. the most powerful way for you, as a clinician or practitioner to bring mindfulness to your clients is to learn, practice and embody it for yourself. Start here.

Presenter: Colette DeHarpporte, M.S.,
Qualified MSBR Instructor, Mindfulness IRL, LLC
St. Paul, MN

15. The UnSpoken Loneliness of Leadership: Navigating the Emotional Landscape of Authority in the Context of Sexual Offender Treatment: Leadership, especially in the high-stakes arena of sexual offender treatment, often comes with a hidden emotional toll. While the role is frequently portrayed as one of authority and decision-making, the less discussed aspects are the feelings of isolation, the weight of responsibility, and the challenges of navigating relationships within the team. This workshop delves deep into the emotional challenges leaders face, from the protective shields they wear to the masks they don to navigate perceptions and rumors. By shedding light on these unspoken aspects of leadership, the session aims to foster empathy, understanding, and open dialogue between leaders and their teams.

Presenter: Ronda Disch, MA, LPCC
Alpha Emergence Behavioral Health
Minneapolis, MN

16. A Panel Discussion on New Student Research – The SAFR Lab Projects: This workshop will consist of a panel discussion presented by clinical psychology doctoral students in the Nova Southeastern University, College of Psychology, Sexual Abuse and Forensic Research (SAFR) lab. Students will cover a variety of current and future research projects in multiple areas of sexual abuse, offending, and interventions. In addition to current projects, students will also outline their “research lines” as they move from systematic literature reviews to empirical research projects. How student led research will impact sexual abuse treatment and prevention will also be addressed as well as how clinicians from various fields can become involved in student mentorship.

Panel Coordinator: David M. Feldman, Ph.D.
*Nova Southeastern University College of Psychology
Ft. Lauderdale, FL*

Understanding and Addressing Sexual Violence Within Immigrant Communities

Samantha Guajardo

This is a preliminary literature review that will explore the prominence and impact of sexual violence within immigrant populations. The corresponding research project will delve into the intersection of immigration legal policy and clinician-focused culturally informed work that is necessary for providing services to immigrant women who have experienced gender-based violence.

Navigating Justice: Unveiling Judicial Bias and its Influence on Decision Making with Sex Offenders

Haley Barry

This preliminary literature review seeks to explore the biases exhibited by judges in cases involving individuals who have committed sexual offenses. The subsequent phase of this research will delve deeper into these biases and their potential ramifications for sexual abusers.

Utilization of Animal Assisted Interventions with Sexual Abusers

Kelsey N. Applegarth, MS

This preliminary literature review examines the benefits and usefulness of animal-assisted interventions with sexual abusers in correctional settings. The current literature review is acting as a pilot study leading to future empirical studies investigating the usefulness of animal-assisted interventions as a method of treatment for sexual abusers.

Exploring Therapeutic Pathways: Treatment Modalities for Female Sex Offenders

Abigail King

This preliminary literature review examines the pitfalls of previous treatment modalities for female sex offenders and what is currently being done to mediate for the gendered nuances of female sexual offending. Future directions for a comprehensive understanding of how treatment would impact female offending and how it specifically addresses the differences between male and female typologies will be explored.

Mental Health Treatment for the Children of Sexual Offenders

Bethany Laesch

This preliminary literature review seeks to examine the challenges surrounding children whose parents are incarcerated for a sexual offense. Topics will include effects of parental sexual offending on adolescent self-esteem, development, and identity. Interventions for assisting adolescents towards positive self-growth will also be discussed.

Deaf Victims of Sexual Assault: A Preliminary Analysis

Hope Marceaux, MS

As victimology and the development of preventative interventions advance towards more multi-faceted approaches, both Routine Activities Theory and Rational Choice Theory hold basic elements that touch on the vulnerability of Deaf persons targeted by sexual abusers. However, the research on the sexual victimization of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals is scarce and typically embedded within broader literature that focuses on disabilities holistically, without regard to Deaf cultural aspects. An important question that lingers is whether our prevention and treatment systems are equipped to handle the challenges of culturally competent intervention to Deaf survivors.

17. Alternative Sexual Lifestyles 101: More and more, we hear about people living alternative sexual lifestyles, such as ethical nonmonogamy, BDSM, and LGBTQ+ populations to name a few. We would be remiss to believe that our treatment clients are not a part of those communities, though they may be fearful about sharing that information. To assist clients in fully exploring and understanding what healthy sexuality means for them, as treatment providers, we need to be not only informed but also courageous enough to introduce these topics, allowing for discussion and identification. This workshop will cover everything from definitions of different lifestyles to the importance of high levels of communication and self-awareness to how this relates to the clients you see, risk factors, and treatment, whether in inpatient or outpatient settings.

Presenter: Shelley Rorvick, MA, LMFT
Shelley Rorvick LLC, Duluth, MN

18. Waaaaay Out of the Box: Using Technology to Bridge the Gaps in Reentry for Returning Citizens with Sexual Behavior Problems: Individuals incarcerated for sexual offenses have complicated reentry challenges. This workshop describes how Iowa has introduced technology into prisons to assist individuals in remaining connected with their community to work through the challenges of reentry. Presenters will discuss how technology assists their clients in working through their unique reentry challenges throughout their prison term from reception to release. Incarcerated individuals are provided a tablet for communication with community staff, attending any community treatment groups, and completing re-entry tasks prior to release. This ensures they stay connected to the community during incarceration and re-entry is successful for these returning citizens.

Presenters: James D. Varland, MA LMHC, LMFT, SOTPII
2nd District Iowa, Department of Correctional Services, Fort Dodge, IA

Jeremy Larson, BA
Newton Correctional Facility, Newton, IA

Joshua Drewelow, BA
2nd District Iowa, Department of Correctional Services, Fort Dodge, IA

19. Childhood Trauma & Healing: In this workshop, attendees will learn first-hand the experiences of a victim and survivor of childhood sexual abuse, childhood trauma, physical abuse, verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and how addressing those experiences can transition into long-term healing. This workshop will also provide attendees with knowledge and tools to work with victims and survivors.

Presenter: William Dinkel, BA
*Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
Arden Hills, MN*

20. New Strategies for Growth in Treatment: Is there a "moral compass" that turns off while offending? Can it be 'turned off' and then 'turned back on later? The answer is yes – we can convince ourselves that moral rules do not apply in certain contexts. This is called moral disengagement and it is a new way of thinking about the thought processes that lead to sexual offending. Join us as we explore eight different ways the human mind morally disengages and learn new tools for targeting this within sex offender treatment.

Presenters: Julia Cease, Ph.D., LP
MSOP, Moose Lake, MN

Bridget R. Kennedy, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate
*LPC-S & LSOTP-S (Texas)
MSOP, St. Peter, MN*

Sara Snipes, M.S.
MSOP, Moose Lake, MN

Thursday, April 18, 2024 (continued)

Workshops #21 - 27 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m

- 21. I Forgot to Set the Timer, and Now I'm Burnt: Stress, Burnout, and Self-Care for the Helping Professional:** Individuals are reporting higher levels of stress and burnout now more than ever. For those of us working with difficult clients and often in challenging environments, it has become not just important, but necessary to take care of ourselves. But what exactly does that mean? And how do we do it? This workshop will help attendees learn the difference between dealing with your stress and dealing with the things that cause your stress. We will discuss how to recognize the signs of burnout in both ourselves and others through a variety of examples. Typical “self-care” strategies often have barriers and limitations, and quite frankly require time that most of us do not have. This workshop will focus on small changes and self-care skills that can be applied in even the most difficult settings.

Presenter: Mindy Malm, M.A., LMFT
MN Department of Corrections, Lino Lakes, MN

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- 22. Polygraph for Probation & Treatment:** This workshop will share the current best practices for the use of polygraph from the presenter's extensive experience as both a law enforcement sex crimes investigator and sex crime polygraph examiner, serving many of the treatment and probation programs in Minnesota. He will cover what the polygraph experience is like for the client taking one, how to prepare a client to take a polygraph and how to make the most effective use of polygraph in your probation and treatment program. The workshop will also include what sort of things the polygraph can cover and what it cannot. Polygraph examples used in treatment and probation will be presented.

Presenter: Mike Sommer, M.A.,
Forensic Polygraph Incorporated, St. Paul, MN

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- 23. Being SETS Up for Success: Supervision, Education, Treatment Support for Chaperones:** This workshop will share the process that the 2nd District of the Iowa Department of Corrections goes through to approve chaperones for supervising clients who commit sexual abuse if they are to be permitted to have minor contact or engage in a potentially risky situation. The curriculum taught to support persons, the process for approval, and safety planning process will be explained, as well as the purpose for why this expectation is put in place. Further discussion will take place surrounding the importance of social supports. A case study will also be discussed.

Presenter: Ashley Lappe, M.S., LMHC,
*SOTP-II, Iowa Department of Corrections – 2nd
District, Ames, IA*

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- 24. “I Could Never Do That Job”: Learning How to Respond to Occupational Stigma as a Skill of Career Sustainability:** Most working in the field have heard the words, “How can you do that?” or “You’re such a good person” in response to sharing their work. These comments are expressions of occupational stigma—harmful or limiting stereotypes that create psychological distance from discomfort. Stigma significantly impacts career sustainability by amplifying work-stress. Yet, many do not know how to respond effectively to these daily interactions. If you’ve ever been exhausted by or tried your best to avoid these conversations, then, join us! We will build participants’ knowledge about occupational stigma and co-create response strategies. Come ready to learn, collaborate, and build new ways of managing the polite comments, the cruel jokes, and everything in between.

Presenter: Johnanna Ganz, Ph.D.
J. Ganz Consulting, LLC, St. Paul, MN

25. Crossing the Point of No Return: Sexual Boundary Violations in Treatment: The first and one of the most important lessons in new employee orientation in any treatment program is often related to the maintenance of professional boundaries between clients and service providers. This is particularly true for those working in sex offense-specific treatment, where clients presenting concerns and treatment interventions potentially create a fertile ground for boundary crossings and serious boundary violations. It is critical for clinicians to be aware of the continuum of boundary crossing behaviors from minor self-disclosure to sexual misconduct, as well as warning signs to observe in themselves, peers, and supervisees. This workshop will review the literature highlighting the effects of boundary violations recommended monitoring and intervention strategies for both new and experienced clinicians to avoid crossing the point of no return.

Presenters: *Dr. Michael Knoll, Ph.D., LP*
MSOP, St. Peter, MN

Kristin Dehrkoop, M.S., MSW, LICSW
MSOP, St. Peter, MN

26. Understanding and Treating Female Sexual Offenders on the Antisocial Continuum: Female offenders in general are rarely studied and even more so, females who sexually offend. A body of emerging research and clinical experience suggests that they can be understood along an antisocial continuum that facilitates the diagnostic approach as well as treatment considerations. This workshop describes the development of offending behaviors from early experimentation to advanced psychopathy, developmental factors and features, differences from male offenders, and customizing treatment to female clients.

Presenters: *David X. Swenson, Ph.D., LP*
College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN

Gerald Henkel-Johnson, Psy.D., LP
College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN

27. Responsivity and Psychopathy: Managing the Dark Passenger: Certain clients are considered hopeless, but the true numbers will only be known if we approach their psychology with the right tools. Clients want to be seen in totality before they're willing to change at a core level and radical responsivity is a hybrid tool with sufficient complexity and flexibility to accomplish that. This workshop examines psych testing, the HARE Psychopathy Index, film clips, action figures, specialized group work, as well as the metaphor of the Dark Passenger as keys to breaking down the power of psychopathy.

Presenter: *Jerry Fjerkenstad, M.A., LP*
Self-Employed, Minneapolis, MN

Friday, April 19, 2024

Keynote Address 8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Don't Give Up On Your Dreams

Patty Wetterling

Workshops #28 - 34 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- 28. Leveraging Psycho-Education as an Agent of Change:** Psychoeducation is a vital component of sex offender specific treatment. This workshop will explore how psycho-ed can be delivered in group therapy as an interpersonal, relational, experiential intervention that elicits experiences, ideas, feedback, challenge, and assessment through a 12-month recurring cycle of ATSA endorsed topics. Participants in this workshop will examine the topics that support desistance and protective factors; participate in hands-on activities that can be taken into their own groups; learn how to use psychoeducation for assessment; and more! Psycho-education included in programming can support factors proven to be supportive of a non-offending life!

Presenters: Stefanie Hofman, M.A., LMFT
NewPath Mental Health Services, Golden Valley, MN

Catherine Hutchinson, M.S., LPCC
NewPath Mental Health Services, Golden Valley, MN

- 29. The Buddha and the Psychopath: An ACT and Eastern Philosophical Framework for Working with Psychopathy:** In this workshop, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the overlap of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and secular Buddhism, and the benefits this framework offers for treatment and risk reductions within sex offender treatment. The presenters will offer information on psychopathy as a disorder of relationships and morals and how ACT/secular Buddhist approaches can be utilized as a part of Risk-Need-Responsivity treatment interventions. ACT and Buddhism can motivate and clarify prosocial values and guidelines for living that make sense to the psychopathic mind.

Presenters: Ernie Marshall, LCSW
*Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center, State of WI –
DHS, Mauston, WI*

Stephanie Wachter, LPC, SAC
*Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center, State of WI –
DHS, Mauston, WI*

Friday, April 19, 2024 (continued)

- 30. Guided Self-Muscle Massage: Relax & Relieve Tension!:** Self-muscle massage uses a tennis ball and clinically proven myofascial release techniques to relieve stress, improve circulation, and promote holistic wellness through preventative health management. A simple tennis ball offers a helpful and portable way for anyone (of any age or mobility) to take care of their body and treat/prevent soreness or tight muscles that can lead to discomfort or injury. You can even utilize this self-care modality during your workday! This technique of myofascial release is particularly useful for folks who have difficulty with physical touch due to past trauma; it provides an autonomous way to experience touch positively. This is an interactive/experiential workshop for all ages and abilities; participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes they can move easily in as needed. *Some yoga mats will be provided on a first come first serve basis, and participants are encouraged to bring their own mats if they have them.*

Presenter: Julie Marie Muskat, Founder, Deeper Water Arts & Mind/Body Center, Hopkins, MN
BFA Dance, Certified Pilates Instructor, Progressing Ballet Technique® Certified, IADMS Member

- 31. When Supervision and Treatment Work Together:** Communication between probation/parole and treatment staff can be strained at times. Proper teamwork between these two entities can make the difference between clients feeling they are supported in their recovery or being ignored by the system. This workshop will provide information and tactics to improve the relationship between treatment and supervision staff, and to help build a cohesive team to help clients make positive changes in their lives. This workshop will also include ideas to work as a team and ways to implement strategies for client success. We will also have time to brainstorm ideas for specific issues that are individual to your area.

Presenter: Shane Bailey, B.S., SOTP-I
*Iowa Department of Corrections – 2nd District
Fort Dodge, IA*

- 32. The Red Pill or the Blue Pill: Exploring "Inceldom":** Involuntary Celibacy, or "Incel" for short, is a self-identifying term used mostly by males across online forums, digital communities, and social media. The "Incels" describe themselves as socially isolated individuals who are unable to garner sexual and romantic attention from females. Recently, there has been an influx of attention and research into "Inceldom" culture, as it has been linked to toxic masculinity, physical and sexual violence, and other fringe beliefs. Though this subject has garnered attention, research and treatment considerations for this population are still in their infancy. This workshop sets out to cover common terminology, previous research, treatment considerations, and ideas for future research.

Presenters: Kelly McKnight, B.S., M.A.
MSOP, Moose Lake, MN

Joshua Roeper, B.S., M.S.
MSOP, Moose Lake, MN

- 33. Adding the Dynamic Risk Guide (DRG) to your Supervision Toolbelt:** In this workshop, attendees will spend time learning about how the Dynamic Risk Guide (DRG) was created and how you can use it to aid in effective and affective supervision of sex offenders. Probation and Parole Agents have a few tools to work with and a good tool can provide tangible interventions for sex offenders. The DRG helps agents know what risk factors to look for and how the identification can help with the success of prevention of new crimes. This tool is not intended to take the place of treatment, but rather complement the work of treatment providers.

Presenter: Daniel Schroeder, B.A.
*WI DOC – Division of Community Corrections
Madison, WI*

Friday, April 19, 2024 (continued)

34. GPS: A Supervision and Management Tool: GPS is widely used throughout the nation to assist in supervising and managing sexual abusers whom reside within our communities. Research has shown that this can be a useful tool for supervision and management programs, along with traditional supervision to reduce recidivism. This workshop will explore the research that supports and identifies shortcomings of this supervision tool. Furthermore, a look at how the Minnesota Sex Offender Program is using this technology with clients on Provisional Discharge and placed into the community will be discussed.

Presenters: Scott Halvorson, B.S.
MSOP, St. Peter, MN

Kelly Esser, B.S.
MSOP, St. Peter, MN

Workshops #35 - 41 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

35. #illegalimages: Treating Individuals Who View Child Sexual Abuse Media: This workshop will focus on the specific treatment issues noted in the literature as important to address with individuals who engage with child sexual abuse media. Treatment issues related to emotional management, social skills development, compulsive sexual behavior, deviant sexual behavior, problematic technology use, and victim awareness will be discussed. Special attention will be paid to treatment activities grounded in “responsivity” in order to engage clients in the treatment process.

Presenters: Elizabeth Griffin, M.A., LMFT
Internet Behavior Consulting, St. Louis Park, MN

David Delmonico, Ph.D., LPC
Internet Behavior Consulting, St. Louis Park, MN

36. Applying Personality-Informed (PI) Assessment and Treatment Strategies to Clinical Practice: Personality factors are all too often overlooked or ignored by those providing mental health care today. This is despite consistent evidence that problematic personality traits are associated with psychopathology, and are considered to be a crucial, prospective, risk factor for ill-health and all-cause mortality. Dr. Nevins contends personality is not just something that should be addressed if the person has a diagnosable personality disorder. Rather, personality functioning needs to be factored into any thoughtful and comprehensive psychotherapeutic undertaking. The workshop introduces an innovative new strategy to clinical practice, Personality-Informed (PI) therapy, which was developed to serve as a new strategy to clinical practice.

Presenter: Bradley G. Nevins, Ph.D., LP
Allied Mental Health Specialty Group, Hudson, WI

37. Stewarding Your Fire: Preventing Burnout: Attendees will explore concepts and practices of empathy, mindfulness, collective regulation, somatic self-regulation and generative inquiry. We will creatively disrupt and unpack these topics to reveal the components that can powerfully shift your practices of self- and collective care. Each attendee will identify personal practices that meet their specific needs for burnout prevention, and will develop a strategy for regularly implementing those practices. People working in all areas, including service delivery, prevention, education, advocacy, and policy, are welcome to attend this session.

Presenter: Lucinda Pepper, CMT CYT, E-RYT-1000, Lucinda Pepper, LLC
St. Paul, MN

- 38. Dr. Jekyll or Mr. Hyde: Healthy vs. Risk-Related Sexuality and Sexual Fantasy:** This workshop will delineate between healthy vs risk-related sexual fantasies/interests. The audience will become familiar with a brief history of the research on sexuality as it relates to sexual fantasy in the general population and the offending population. We will explore how to address sexual fantasy in treatment to include how to identify if a fantasy/interest is risk-related. Additionally, we will discuss how our own biases as therapists and cultural biases might impact how we perceive potential risk in our clients. The audience will gain a better understanding of how to identify potential treatment objectives that will encourage healthy sexuality and mitigate risk-related sexual behaviors.

Presenters: Alison Talley, M.A., LPC
Colorado DOC, Colorado Springs, CO

Robin Richards MAFP, LPC
Colorado DOC, Colorado Springs, CO

- 39. Sexual Health in Lesser Restrictive Settings: An Intensive Outpatient model used in the community to provide therapy to people with histories of sexual offense behavior:** This workshop will include a synopsis of the clinical approach used at Life Development Resources to integrate multiple therapeutic strategies that give structure to Intensive Outpatient treatment. Leaders will discuss the use of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy as a foundation for stabilizing clients, leading to the ability to utilize trauma-informed care through EMDR, while maintaining a high level of attention to Risk, Needs, and Responsivity principles to create a comprehensive mosaic that provides sufficient opportunity for meaningful change.

Presenters: Luke Moulder, M.A., LPCC
Life Development Resources, PA
Lakeville, MN

Matt Zamastil, M.A., LMFT
Dakota County Community Corrections
Apple Valley, MN

- 40. Building a Responsivity Toolbox:** Is traditional sex-offender treatment working with your patient? Have you ever wondered if your patient will ever meet the criteria for release? This interactive workshop will pull together research and evidenced based best practices for patients with unique and challenging responsivity issues. This workshop will highlight various case studies of patients at Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center (SRSTC) whose responsivity difficulties stem from: major mental illness, intellectual disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Neurocognitive Disorder (dementia, Parkinson's), Traumatic Brain Injuries, and complex trauma. Attendees will walk away with at least one intervention or treatment tool to add to their toolbox.

Presenters: Lindsay Wert, MSW, LCSW
Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center,
Mauston, WI

- 41. What is resiliency when working with individuals who sexually offend?: Lessons learned from research & professionals:** Join us for a discussion on what is resiliency as we dive into what the research tells us, as well as thoughts from individuals working in the field. Following a brief presentation, you will break into small group discussions where you'll be able to explore and share your thoughts and experiences. At the end of our time together, you'll come together and discuss how your personal experiences align with research and others' experiences.

Presenters: Skye Brister Korby, Psy.D.
MSOP, Moose Lake, MN

Kathryn Lockie, M.A., LPCC
MSOP, Moose Lake, MN

Registration Information



MnATSA Membership & Member Conference Rate

We encourage all eligible individuals to join our state chapter for only \$15 per year. **You must be a current member of ATSA to join MnATSA.** Once you become a member of both, you will receive a discounted MnATSA conference rate when you register. If you work outside of Minnesota and are a member of ATSA, you may join MnATSA as an affiliate member, which entitles you to membership but without voting rights or eligibility for a Board position. Go to our website to join at: www.mnatsa.org. Only individuals can be members.

Student Registration – ends March 25, 2024

Full-time students with a verification letter from their university registrar confirming current full-time enrollment may register through March 25, 2024. **You must send the verification letter to info@mnatsa.org immediately after registering.** If you do not provide the documentation within 7 business days, you will be charged at the member or non-member rate.

Late Fee – begins March 25, 2024

Beginning March 25, 2024, a \$25.00 late fee will automatically be added to each registration. This late fee will also be added when registering at the conference doors.

Cancellations or Changes to Your Registration

Notice of cancellation, changes or transferring of your registration must be provided by 5:00 p.m. on March 25, 2024, to receive a refund. For a cancellation or transfer, send an email to info@mnatsa.org. If you have not canceled by March 25, 2024, and do not attend the conference, you will still be billed and will owe the full amount.

Payment Options

Credit Card Payment: Credit card payments are processed through PayPal at the time of registration. Note: often **government credit cards** have a restriction which must be temporarily lifted by the finance department before you register. Please contact your business manager before registering so your card can be authorized for use with PayPal. Your business manager will then lift this ban for a specified time period. Note: this will only be for a few hours, so you need to coordinate this.

Check Payment: Send a check with your name clearly identified to: MnATSA, P.O. Box 362, Circle Pines, MN, 55014. The check must be received within five days of registration.

Split Payments: If your employer is paying a portion of the registration, you will enter the dollar amount they are paying in the labeled box on the registration site along with the email address of where the invoice should be sent. The registration system will then calculate the portion you owe and you can pay your portion with either PayPal/credit card or check. MnATSA will then invoice your employer for their portion owed.

Invoice Payment: If your employer needs to be invoiced for your entire registration cost, enter the dollar amount in the “Amount to invoice to employer” and enter the email address where the invoice should be sent.

MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	FULL-TIME STUDENT
Any One Day \$215	Any One Day \$215	Any One Day \$110
Any Two Days \$310	Any Two Days \$335	Any Two Days \$200
All Three Days \$425	All Three Days \$450	All Three Days \$245

Register for the conference online at:

www.mnatsa.org/conference

Whova App

Whova will be utilized again this year as the platform for attendees to connect with each other outside of the in-person conference, read about the presenters, have access to all presenter handouts and complete evaluations. The app will also have the keynote, pre-con and workshop details and you can create your own personalized agenda to follow along with at the conference.

Once registered, you will receive the link to either login (if you joined us in-person in 2023 or in 2021 & 2022 virtually) or create an account.

Conference Program Updates

There will not be a detailed printed conference program for 2024. Attendees can access information via the Whova app while at the conference. If you would like a printed version while at the conference, you can access a copy in Whova to print and bring with you.

Sponsor a Student

In the interest of personal growth and professional development, the MnATSA conference provides an opportunity to sponsor an ATSA membership for students attending our conference. If you are interested in sponsoring a student's first year of ATSA membership for \$35, please contact Robin Goldman (robingoldman.psych@gmail.com) or Jessi Noehring (noehringjessica@gmail.com).

Conference Food

Daily continental breakfast, lunch buffet, and coffee breaks are included in your conference registration. You can select a meal accommodation when you register for the lunch buffets. It will be noted on the back of your conference badge that you will show to banquet staff. Please contact us at info@mnatsa.org if you have questions.

Conference Reception

A reception will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024, beginning at 4:45 p.m. Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar while networking with friends and colleagues. This social hour is hosted by MnATSA and our generous sponsors. For students, there will be a reserved table to network at as well.

MnATSA Member Lunch

A MnATSA members-only lunch will be held on Friday during the conference. There will be a formal member meeting/program along with a space to connect and network together.

Exhibitors

Exhibit space will be available throughout the conference. More information can be found at www.mnatsa.org/conference-exhibitor or contact info@mnatsa.org. Sign up early to select your booth location! Exhibits are located in the break area where breakfast and snacks are provided. This offers excellent potential for interaction with the attendees. Exhibit space includes food for one person but does not include attending conference presentations or workshops. Application deadline is March 22, 2024.

Hotel Internet Service

MnATSA has contracted with the Marriott, so internet access will be available in the entire building, including your hotel guest room and in the conference center.

Transportation to the Hotel

The Minneapolis Marriott Northwest is located at the intersection of I-94 and Boone Avenue North in Brooklyn Park, MN. It is approximately 12 miles from downtown Minneapolis and 25 miles from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Uber, Lyft, and various taxi services are available from the airport. Public transit options are also available at: www.metrotransit.org

Hotel Reservations

The rate for guest suites is \$145 per night (plus tax) for single or double occupancy for conference participants who register by **Monday, April 1, 2024**. This rate applies only for April 16 – April 19, 2024. There are a limited number of rooms available at this conference rate, and it is strongly recommended that you make your reservation early. Once that number of rooms is booked, the rate increases substantially.

To book your hotel room, call toll-free 1-888-236-2427 or 763-536-8300 and ask for “the room block under MnATSA” or online at

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1683743423797&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

1. Check-in will be available after 4:00 p.m. each day.
2. Check-out on your date of departure will be at or before 11:00 a.m.
3. The room block and room rates are guaranteed until midnight on Monday, April 1, 2024, or until the number of contracted rooms is reached – whichever is sooner. The hotel will continue to accept reservations past the cut-off date based on availability, but at a substantially higher price.
4. Complimentary parking is available in the large parking lots.
5. There is a hotel policy of a 48-hour cancellation on all guestroom reservations.

Marriott Rewards Points: If you are a Marriott rewards member and reserve and pay for the room yourself, you can receive rewards points. You may also redeem points for your reservation.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Be an **Exhibitor!**

Increase awareness of your business or organization with professionals who need to know about you. Identify yourself as a key resource, leader, and supporter.

More information at www.mnatsa.org/conference-exhibitor
or email at info@mnatsa.org