



THE MELISSA INSTITUTE
For Violence Prevention and Treatment

26th Annual Conference
Safety, Mental Health, and
Healing During Uncertain
Times

Victoria Banyard, Ph.D.
Rev. Gena C. Jefferson, LCSW
Leena K. Augimeri, Ph.D.
Wayne Rawlins
Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D.
Wendy Silverman, Ph.D., ABPP

Friday, May 6, 2022
8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m.
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

26th Annual Conference

Safety, Mental Health, and Healing During Uncertain Times

Friday, May 6, 2022, 8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m. | *Virtual Conference*

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Experiences related to the pandemic have led to increases in anxiety and depression among youth, gun violence, and intimate partner violence, while highlighting important limitations of our mental health system to address the increased needs for services in times of crisis. What we do today to strengthen and help heal those in need has important implications for the safety, mental health, and overall stability of our communities for years to come. Thus, it is critical for mental health professionals and others to take stock of proven clinical strategies and sound research to assist those in need. Led by an international group of experts, The Melissa Institute's 26th Annual Conference offers proven clinical strategies, innovative frameworks, and research-based recommendations to mitigate the impact and promote growth and healing during these uncertain times. Participants will learn how to effectively assist distressed youth, how to prevent gun violence, and how to improve our mental health system's response during times of crises.

Victoria Banyard, Ph.D. and Rev. Gena Jefferson, LCSW will talk about strategies to build resilience and mindfulness practices. Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D. will teach tools and the effective treatment for youth who engage in self-harm behaviors. Leena Augimeri, Ph.D. will discuss how to use technology to enhance mental health services. Wayne Rawlins will examine innovative gun violence prevention initiatives that have led to a reduction in gun violence in Miami-Dade County. And finally, Wendy Silverman, Ph.D. will talk about ways to reduce stress and anxiety in youth, particularly during times of big changes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

1. Describe a strengths-based perspective for working with youth to promote well-being and leadership.
2. List ways to create a comprehensive mental health framework.
3. Implement evidenced-based tools to help youth who engage in self-harm behaviors.
4. Explain ways to reduce gun violence.
5. Apply evidenced-based practices for reducing stress and anxiety in youth.

PRESENTERS



Victoria Banyard, Ph.D.

Dr. Banyard has dedicated her academic career to finding better ways to help communities prevent and respond to interpersonal violence. Banyard – who received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (and a Certificate in Women's Studies) from the University of Michigan – has worked with colleagues across the U.S. and abroad to help shape policy at the national, state, and local level through a rigorous examination of violence-prevention programs centered on a critical question: Do they work? Banyard uses multiple methods, both quantitative and qualitative, to understand how, where, and why prevention strategies and programs succeed or not. Her research, begun more than 25 years ago, underscores the importance of listening well to the strengths of survivors and empowering those in a position to help them – be they policy makers, practitioners, or bystanders – with the best practices available. Dr. Banyard regularly collaborates with practitioners and community agencies, centering community engaged approaches to research. She has authored nearly 200 articles and book chapters and regularly teaches courses on the causes, consequences, and prevention of interpersonal violence.



Rev. Gena C. Jefferson, LCSW

Rev. Gena C. Jefferson, LCSW, is the founder of Just As I Am (JAIA) YOUth Empowerment, a leadership program promoting mental wellness, mindful and moral development in youth. For three years, she served as the Sr. Prevention Manager at the NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault, previously in partnership with JAIA. Her work for over 30 years focuses on impacting youth, families, and professionals in the areas of positive youth development, mindfulness education, and fostering resilience in communities of color through healing justice and mental wellness education. Gena has Master's degrees in Education, Social Work, and Educational Administration. She has lectured at the MSW programs of Fordham, Columbia, and Rutgers Universities. She is also the Co-Owner at Overture Wellness, LLC, Spiritual Life Coaching, and Consulting Services.



Leena K. Augimeri, Ph.D.

For the past 35 years, Dr. Augimeri has developed a comprehensive mental health and crime prevention model being adopted around the world for young children engaged in antisocial and disruptive behaviour that includes community referral mechanisms, risk/need assessments and evidence-based gender sensitive programs. A key focus of her work has been development, research, dissemination and implementation of one of the longest and most fully developed evidence-based intervention for children under 12 years of age in conflict with the law and/or disruptive behaviour problems – the SNAP (Stop Now And Plan) Model. She has authored numerous publications, has conducted hundreds of presentations and participated in U.S. national demonstration projects. Dr. Augimeri has also received several prestigious awards including being a National Recipient of the CAMH Difference Makers of 150 Leading Canadians for Mental Health, Child Welfare League of Canada's inaugural Outstanding Achievement Research and Evaluation Award, Prime Minister's Regional Social Innovation Award and Elizabeth Manson Award for exemplary contributions to the promotion of children's mental health. She is currently leading a multi-million dollar 5-year national implementation strategy to bring SNAP to 100 communities across Canada using an innovative venture philanthropy model to help create massive social change and help change the landscape of children's mental health in Canada.



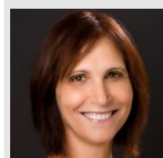
Wayne Rawlins

Wayne E. Rawlins, President of Ummah Futures International, is a strategic planning consultant who has assisted rural and urban communities nationwide in developing, implementing and evaluating successful community revitalization strategies. Rawlins is the Project Manager for Miami-Dade County's Anti-Violence Initiative, a four-year \$7 million strategy, that includes "Group Violence Intervention" and the nationally acclaimed "Walking One Stop," which has shifted the paradigm on how services are delivered to Miami-Dade's most challenged neighborhoods by bringing a one-stop victim services center to the doorstep of residents traumatized by gun violence. He also serves as the Director of the South Florida Reentry Task Force. From 1995-1997, Rawlins served as the executive director of Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) and increased the organization's funding by 500% in 15 months while increasing the job placement rate from 22% to over 90%. During his tenure as the executive director of Miami-Dade Weed & Seed (1997-2002), Rawlins developed several nationally recognized initiatives and was honored with the Director's Community Leadership Award from the Federal Bureau of Investigations in Washington, D.C. He served as the lead executive consultant for Project Safe Neighborhoods (2003-2012), a law enforcement and human services coalition that included scores of federal, state and local criminal justice agencies and more than 150 social and economic service providers all working together to reduce gun and gang violence in the Southern District of Florida.



Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D.

Dr. Santisteban was a tenured professor at the University of Miami and is now the Director of Research and EBT Implementation with TIA International. He has published 50 scientific articles and book chapters on family therapy outcomes, family processes, cultural competence, adolescent co-occurring disorders, and the blending of research and practice. He is the co-editor of the book *Family Psychology: Science-Based Interventions*. In addition, he has received numerous awards including the 2020 Distinguished Career in Research Award. American Psychological Association – Division 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race) and the 2004 American Family Therapy Academy award for Distinguished Contribution to Family Systems Research. He has been a contributor to national NIH grant review committees, treatment guidelines panels, journal editorial boards, and consults with State agencies focused on bridging research and practice.



Wendy Silverman, Ph.D., ABPP

Before Yale, Dr. Silverman developed and directed the Child Anxiety and Phobia Program (CAPP) housed within the Department of Psychology at FIU. Dr. Silverman has developed and evaluated evidence-based assessment and treatment procedures for use with children who have anxiety disorders. She has received numerous research grants including a mid-career development award from the National Institute of Mental Health. She has published extensively in the area of childhood anxiety disorders including five books. She is current co-editor of *Clinical Psychology Review* and past editor of *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, associate editor of *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, president of the Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, and past chair of a NIMH grant review panel.

Credits for Continuing Education

PSYCHOLOGISTS: Baptist Health South Florida has been approved by the Florida Board of Psychology to sponsor 6 continuing education credits for psychologists. Baptist Health South Florida CE Broker Provider #50-182. (Approval pending.)

FLORIDA BOARD OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING: The Melissa Institute has been approved by the Florida Board of Psychology and the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling to sponsor 6 continuing education credits for mental health professionals. CE Broker Course #20-772217.

EDUCATORS: Conference registration and payment to The Melissa Institute must be completed prior to registering for Miami-Dade County Public Schools professional development credit online at <http://calendar.dadeschools.net>. Seven (7) master plan points will be awarded to participants who have completed a follow-up activity and have preregistered online with M-DCPS. (Approval pending.)

MEDIATORS: The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment is a recognized provider of Continuing Mediator Education (CME) credits for Florida Supreme Court-certified mediators. This course is eligible for up to 7 CME hours for certified mediators. Mediators are required to self-report those hours applicable to their areas of certification at the time of their renewal. For more information on the CME requirement, visit www.flcourts.org and select Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation.

NURSES: This continuing education activity has been approved for 6 credits for Nursing and Nurse Practitioners. Baptist Health South Florida CE Broker Provider #50-182. (Approval Pending).

PHYSICIANS: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essentials and Standards of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint providership of Baptist Health South Florida and The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment. Baptist Health South Florida is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Baptist Health South Florida designates this live activity for a maximum of 6 AMA PRA Category 1 credits. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. This activity has been approved for 6 credit hours by the Florida Boards of Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, and Psychology (6 hours). (Approval pending.)

305-284-2930

www.MelissaInstitute.org • www.TeachSafeSchools.org • www.ReadingTeacher.net

Board of Directors

Lynn Aptman, M.Ed.
President
Michael Aptman, M.D.
Kenneth M. Bloom, Esq.
Karyn I. Cunningham, B.A.
Pastor Charles Lee Dinkins
Michael A. Haggard
Jesse Leon, B.S.
Phillipp N. Ludwig, M.S., MBA
Treasurer
Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
Research Director
Virginia Pereira Alvarez, B.S.
Lissette M. Perez-Lima, Ph.D.
Trish Ramsay, M.A.
Wayne E. Rawlins
Vanessa Lopez Silverman, CPA
Secretary Marguerite Snyder, Esq.
Vice President
Megan Staubit, MPH

Scientific Board

Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D.
Leena K. Augimeri, Ph.D.
Victoria Banyard, Ph.D.
John Briere, Ph.D.
Colleen Cicchetti, Ph.D.
Lisa A. Goodman, Ph.D.
Annette M. La Greca, Ph.D., ABPP
Sherry Hamby, Ph.D.
Jim Larson, Ph.D.
Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
Guerda Nicolas, Ph.D.
Debra J. Pepler, Ph.D.
Alex R. Piquero, Ph.D. (On Leave)
Isaac Prilleltensky, Ph.D.
Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D.
Ron Slaby, Ph.D.
Wendy K. Silverman, Ph.D.
Dale M. Willows, Ph.D.
Marleen Wong, Ph.D.
Frank Zenere, Ed.S

Honorary Board

Jo Baxter, MBA]
Patricia E. Deering
Frank G. DeLaurier, Ed.D.
Martha C. Journey
Remi J. Kajogbola, MBA
Judith S. Katzen
Suzanne L. Keeley, Ph.D.
David Lawrence Jr.
The Hon. Cindy Lederman
Ira H. Leesfield, Esq.
The Hon. Carlos J. Martinez
Alyse Messinger
Marie D. Osborne, Esq.
The Hon. Orlando Prescott
The Hon. Katherine Fernandez Rundle
The Hon. Nushin G. Sayfie
Fred Stock, MSW, NHA

Staff

Ashna Ahya
Office Assistant
Etiony Aldarondo, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Elise Suna, M.S.Ed., LMFT
Education Director

The mission of The Melissa Institute is to prevent violence and promote safer communities through education and application of research-based knowledge.

EDUCATION • COMMUNITY SERVICE • RESEARCH SUPPORT • CONSULTATION