



NATIONAL SAFE HAVEN ALLIANCE



## **Connection**

2025 INFANT ABANDONMENT  
PREVENTION CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2025

7AM - 2PM MST,

10AM - 2:30PM EST

VIRTUAL EVENT



# Conference Schedule

## 2025 Infant Abandonment Prevention Conference

November 1st, 2025 | 10AM - 2:30PM ET | Virtual Event

10:00 am- Welcome and Introduction- Case presentation: Heather Burner  
10:20 am- Safe Haven story- Carrie Parlier  
10:25 am- Infant Abandonment & Safe Haven efforts in South Africa: Dr. Whitney Rosenberg  
10:40 am- Safe Haven story- Tera Naset  
10:45 am- Perinatal Mood Disorders: Liz Brockland  
11:05 am- Break (10 min)  
11:15 am- Protecting Infants Through Policy & Public Education: Leah Kipley NSHA & Aajai Johnson UT DHHS  
11:45 pm- Lunch Break (30 min)  
12:15 pm- Substance Exposure & Infant Abandonment: Maura McGlynn  
12:35 pm- Safe Haven Family- Debi & Ella Gillette  
12:40 pm- In Hospital Infant Abandonment: Dixie Weber  
1:00 pm- Break (15 min)  
1:15 pm- Volunteer of the Year Award  
1:20 pm- Rebuilding Connection: Supporting Families After Early Attachment Trauma: Catherine Hallam (APT Credit 1 hour)  
2:20 pm- Gift drawing  
2:25 pm- Conclusion





# Guest Speakers



Dr. Whitney Rosenberg

Dr Whitney Rosenberg obtained her law degree in 2010, her Masters in Contract law in 2011 and her doctorate in Family law in 2020 all from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. She is also an admitted attorney of the High court of South Africa. Currently Whitney is an Associate Professor at the University of Johannesburg where she lectures the Law of Persons and Family in the Department of Private law as well as Law and Language for the Masters in Contract law. She is an emerging researcher and has over the years produced and published several publications in well-known accredited and internationally recognised journals. She is the holder of the second runner-up WOZA Women in Law Award for social justice activist/ pro bono lawyer in 2022. She has also co-founded a non-profit organisation called Baby Savers SA, which fights for the legalisation of safe relinquishment to prevent unsafe infant abandonment in South Africa. Her research interests are in Child law, Human Rights law and International law as it pertains to children to name but a few.



Liz Brockland, NP

Liz Brockland is a Chicago-based psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner with over a decade of nursing experience in community-based mental healthcare. She provides individual psychotherapy and medication management to the postpartum population through Rush University's Family Connects program.



Leah Kipley

Leah leads Safe Haven efforts in her state and assists NSHA with national and international partnerships, Safe Haven training, legislative and state program initiatives, and NSHA's volunteer and state representative program. Leah assists the Executive Director with communication and organizational operations as needed and her passion is advocating for vulnerable children and parents through establishing holistic policy, best practice procedures, and programs that provide direct support. Leah lives in Richmond, Virginia with her husband, three children, and their pets. She serves on her state board for domestic and sexual violence prevention, maternal health data task force, and leads the Baby Safe Haven of VA program (NSHA affiliate.) She previously lived overseas, in the Philippines, and has been involved in volunteer, disaster relief/mission work in North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. She received her B.S in Psychology, and Graduate Business Certification. Leah previously served with the International Mission Board as an Event Planner, Director of Communications for pregnancy support center in VA, and a VA State Representative for NSHA. She has 20+ years of experience in non-profit work and speaks nationally and internationally, advocating for Safe Haven laws and support resources for vulnerable children and families.



Ajai Johnson

Aajai Johnson, a native of Salt Lake City, Utah, earned her Bachelor's from Western University in Bellingham, Washington, with a unique double major in Ethnic Minority Studies and South American Tribal Studies, as well as a degree in Botany. She furthered her education at the University of Utah, where she obtained her Master's degree in Botany, specializing in native plants. Her career began at the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS) in the Office of Child Care. She later transitioned to the Refugee Center to provide counseling and support to refugees across the state. Now, Aajai serves as the new DHHS Utah Newborn Safe Haven Coordinator for the Division of Family Health. In this role, she is dedicated to raising awareness and providing training on the Utah Newborn Safe Haven law to various groups, including schools, universities, non-profit organizations, and counseling services.

# Guest Speakers



Dr. Maura McGlynn

Maura McGlynn is a pediatric occupational therapist and a clinical child psychologist. Dr. McGlynn has specialized training and experience with infant and perinatal mental health, including focusing on parent-child relationships beginning in pregnancy up through the age of five-years-old. Dr. McGlynn's experiences with medically-based perinatal mental health (labor and delivery, NICU, and postpartum units) has yielded opportunities to support families in high adversity contexts, including correctional medical environments, prenatal substance exposure/neonatal abstinence syndrome treatment, child services and foster placement, high-conflict family environments, and parental behavioral health challenges. These experiences built a passion and a knowledge-base to support safe infant surrender and holistic family care.



Dixie Weber, MSN, RN

Ms. Weber received the Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nursing 2020 Distinguished Professional Service Award for her work nationally to improve women's access to health care, improve maternal health outcomes, and advocate for child health initiatives.

She has extensive experience in providing best-practice care to Unique Perinatal Populations, including women making an adoption plan, struggling with substance use disorder, pregnant and incarcerated women, giving birth after sexual assault, and families growing via surrogacy. She works with the Maternal Mortality Review Program and supports performance improvement programming in hospitals across the state of Washington.

Dixie earned her master's degree in health systems management and a second master's in adult learning theory from Regis University in Denver, CO.



Dr. Catherine Hallam, Ph.D.,  
LPC, CCMHC, BC-TMH, RPT-  
S, ACAS  
Co-Owner, Chapter & Page  
Counseling

Dr. Catherine Hallam is a Licensed Professional Counselor, as well as a board-certified counselor with expertise in three specialized areas. She is a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC), Board Certified Telemental Health Counselor (BC-TMH), Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor (RPT-S), and an Advanced Certified Autism Specialist (ACAS).

With a passion for supporting neurodivergent adolescents and adults, Dr. Hallam specializes in helping individuals develop sustainable, lifelong skills. Her clinical work is complemented by her academic research, which focuses on bridging gaps in education and career development for the neurodivergent population. Her doctoral dissertation explored the impact of autism-specific professional development on K-12 teacher self-efficacy, while her master's thesis addressed the need for trained career counselors to better serve neurodivergent individuals.

In addition to her clinical practice as the co-owner of Chapter & Page Counseling, Dr. Hallam serves as Chair of the Behavioral Health Department at Grand Canyon University. In this role, she mentors future counselors at both undergraduate and graduate levels and provides licensure supervision across multiple counseling specialties.

Dr. Hallam holds a Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis in Cognition and Instruction from Grand Canyon University, an M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Northwestern University, and an M.Ed. in Professional Development with a concentration in Counseling from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

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