



# 2025 CONFERENCE BIOGRAPHIES



**Jason Anderson** - Upon his discharge from the United States Army, Jason obtained his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Moorhead State University. After a 25-year career in community corrections, having served as a probation/parole officer, a project manager, probation department director and trainer of several topics, Jason transitioned into a full-time role as a consultant and trainer in early 2023. Within his community corrections career, he served as a Regional Training Coordinator for the National Institute of Corrections for 5 years. Jason participated in the international Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers train-the-trainer event in 2010. He has been affiliated with The Montana Institute doing curriculum development and training since 2014. He spent a number of years as an active member of 2 school-based substance abuse

coalitions and as a member of the Itasca County Veteran's Crisis Response Team which supports veterans experiencing mental health crisis. An avid outdoorsman and storyteller, Jason enjoys singing in his church choir and dabbles in community theater.



**Sergeant Tyler Milless** graduated in 2015 from Minnesota State University, Mankato with a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and an associate's degree in psychology. In 2022, he went back to school where he obtained a Master's Degree in Business Management and Leadership from Western Governor's University. He attended the Minnesota State Patrol academy in 2016. After graduating from the academy, he was stationed in Fairmont, Minnesota, for just over a year. He then transferred to West Metro dogwatch, where he spent a year before transferring to the Elk River station. He has been a Phlebotomist since 2017, a DRE since 2018, and a SFST/DRE instructor since 2018. Sgt. Milless was promoted in July 2020 to be Minnesota's Drug Recognition Evaluation Coordinator. In this role, he has overseen several new DRE classes, expanded the phlebotomy program, implemented enhanced standards for the DRE program, and coordinated the deployment of the oral fluid projected in Minnesota. Sgt. Milless is a frequent presenter around the State of Minnesota and the country, sharing

his experience and knowledge on various forms of impairment, proper investigation methods, and best practices for courtroom testimony.



**Dr. Jody Janati** teaches in the Communication Studies department at the University of Minnesota. She has an Ed.D. degree in Organizational Leadership, and a M.A. degree in Speech Communication. Her primary interest area pertains to interpersonal conflict resolution strategies. She offers a variety of public and professional trainings on conflict reduction tactics and effective interpersonal communication skills.



**Steve Fredlund** is a multi-passionate visionary who has had profound impact as an award-winning actuary, humanitarian, coach, consultant, author, speaker, podcaster, entrepreneur and leader of African safaris. For ten years, Steve's journey included two parallel paths: a good life that was becoming increasingly unfulfilling and humanitarian trips to east Africa that ended on safari. Like chocolate and peanut butter, Steve's research into happiness and his experiences leading African

adventures blended into something remarkable. He discovered the "Big 5" factors that impact both, becoming the foundation of his approach to life, work and leadership. "The Safari Way" has become a movement increasing the happiness and success of people around the world. Steve's best-selling new book, "Do the Unright Thing: Memoir of a People Pleaser" shares his incredible transition from someone focused on doing everything 'right' (as defined by everyone else) to finding great joy in doing 'unright' things. As a two-time TEDx speaker, Steve communicates in a compelling way, using remarkable stories and memorable phrases that keep his ideas front-of-mind years into the future. His captivating, authentic and humorous approach keeps audiences engaged and longing for more. Steve has been called "genuine", "hilarious" and "the only actuary, in the history of actuaries, you actually WANT to sit next to during dinner." Steve earned fellowship in the Society of Actuaries and holds a Masters in Business Administration. When not working, he can be found on the disc golf course, playing a poker tournament or suffering through another season as a Minnesota sports fan.



**Bobbi Jo Pazdernik** SAIC Bobbi Jo Pazdernik has been working for the MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) since 2006. SAIC Pazdernik is assigned to the Metro Predatory Crimes Unit to supervise Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), Predatory Offender Registration (POR), and the MN Human Trafficking Investigators Task Force (MNHITF). She was instrumental in creating MNHITF, a BCA-led statewide human trafficking task force, in 2017. She previously worked in the Narcotics Unit and was deputized as a Federal Task Force Officer at the Minneapolis DEA Task Force. SAIC Pazdernik has served over 31 years as a sworn police officer. Before being hired at the BCA, she was a WI DCI Special Agent in the Narcotics Bureau and a WI State Trooper. She is a graduate of St. Mary's University with a

BA in Leadership in Criminal Justice.

**Kim Larson** is the Program Administrator for MNCAB. She started in the role in January 2024 and has led MNCAB's efforts to create and implement a statewide, independent competency attainment system. Prior to joining MNCAB, she worked for sixteen years at the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO) where she held a variety of leadership positions, including as the deputy director supporting statewide programs such as the Psychological/Psychiatric Services Program and the Statewide SRL Program. Prior to joining SCAO, Kim was an attorney with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid representing clients in the areas of family, housing, and immigration law, as well as working with individuals living with mental illnesses and traumatic brain injuries. Kim is an ICM Fellow and a graduate of Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, MN.



**Dr. Lewis P. Zeidner** serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Meridian Behavioral Health (MBH) one of the largest providers of residential and intensive outpatient substance use disorder and mental healthcare to Medicaid and Commercially insured patients in the State of Minnesota. MBH provides co-occurring whole person care to patients who have both mental health and substance use disorders offering a full continuum of services. Prior to joining Meridian Behavioral Health, LLC Dr Zeidner served as Vice President for the Mental Health and Addiction Service Line at MHealth Fairview. In his role, he is

responsible for reducing barriers in accessing care for patients with mental health and substance use needs. He launched Minnesota's first EmPATH program to meet the needs of those experiencing a mental health crisis and opened a virtual Transition Clinic allowing patients to start care while waiting for an appointment. Through his career Dr. Zeidner has focused his work on addressing the challenges people face in accessing and complying with recommended care plans at both a population and individual level. Much of his work has focused on obstacles to medication compliance including the structure and care models of retail pharmacies. Dr. Zeidner believes that while we have made significant progress through the last decades in de-stigmatized mental illness for patients and their families; we continue to have significant work to do in ensuring access, care and financial parity within healthcare providers and payment systems.



**Investigator Ryan Fisher** is a veteran police officer with over 20 years of experience and currently works as a criminal investigator for the Cass County Sheriff's Office. Ryan has a master's degree in criminal justice leadership and is currently working on a doctorate. He is a certified instructor in numerous disciplines including defensive tactics, Taser, the ALICE protocol, and is a facilitator of critical stress debriefs. Currently, Ryan is a part-time, fixed term instructor for Bemidji State University in the Criminal Justice Department where he teaches classes on Ethics and Diversity, Police Process, Emergency Management, and Policing on Tribal Lands.





**Carrie Stumne** is a Project Director at Strategic Technologies Inc., the provider of development and support services for the CSTS application. As a Project Director, Carrie oversees development projects for the criminal justice application practice and is one of the lead technical architects of CSTS. She has 22 years of experience with CSTS and 27 total years of experience within the software industry. She is a frequent presenter at CSTS training sessions and at Probation Delivery System Conferences. Ms. Stumne is a graduate of the University of Saint Thomas..



**Lieutenant Kyle Prall** MCF-Red Wing. I have been working for the DOC for 21 years. Corrections has been a part of my family for over 30 years, as my father took a position at Red Wing in 1989 followed by my uncle and sister. Over the years I have been an Officer, Sergeant, Recreation Therapist, Case Manager and currently a Lieutenant.



**Erik Meier** I have worked for the Department of Corrections- Red Wing since May 1998, primarily with the juvenile population. I began as a Corrections Officer I, was promoted to Corrections Officer II a year later, then Corrections Sergeant a year after that in 2000, where I was the lead worker in multiple roles for the next six years. In September 2006, I was promoted to Corrections Lieutenant and during the next 14 years supervised several living units and taught new staff how to be effective authority figures. I was promoted to Corrections Captain in December 2020. As Captain, I have been responsible for the security of the facility, overseen uniforms for the Department and had many other roles. My favorite role has been teaching staff the nuances of leadership and seeing the positive effect

that relationship-based authority has on the residents and the safety and security of our facility.



**McKenzie Lorentz, MSW, LGSW** has a master's degree in social work and am currently a Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW). I received my master's degree in social work from Aurora University and my bachelor's in social work from Minnesota State University, Mankato. I have been in the field for a little over 5 years and have experience working in a correctional setting and with adolescents and adults. I have experience working with various mental health diagnoses and substance use disorders. I practice within various approaches, including Narrative therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Solution-Focused therapy. I chose to become a therapist because I feel passionate about working with individuals and helping them achieve their goals, I believe that if we can manage mental health symptoms

and work on coping skills, quality of life will greatly improve. In my free time, I enjoy reading, spending time with friends and family, being outside, exercising, and tending to my plants.