

Workshop #23
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009 – Session 5 (1:00-2:30)

**BRIDGING THE GAP: BRINGING SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT & VICTIM
ADVOCACY TOGETHER TO INFORM THE WORK OF PRIMARY PREVENTION**

Presenters

- Sally Thigpen, MPA
Prevent Child Abuse Georgia
- Randi Stephens, MA, LMFT
Medlin Treatment Center

Workshop Summary

There are challenges on both sides of the prevention paradigm. For professionals who clinically treat persons who have sexually abused, there is a constant struggle for understanding with the public. For the victim advocate and prevention educator, there is a constant struggle for credibility that prevention is more than incarceration and registry. Bringing the two sides of this paradigm together not only fills in the gaps for the two professions – but it also completes a comprehensive picture for the community to more effectively implement prevention strategies.

This workshop will review the five-year history of two Atlanta-based program's work together to bridge the gap via strategic alliances and carefully placed public displays of organizational "affection." Presenters will share lessons learned along the way and facilitate an exchange of ideas with the audience. Presenters will also share the core components of a community education workshop developed to bring the expertise from the field of community management and treatment together with concrete strategies for primary prevention of child sexual abuse. Evaluation data of this workshop will be shared.