

From Identification to Lifelong Healing: Judicial Leadership in Building Multidisciplinary Responses to Human Trafficking and Complex Trauma



This session will explore how communities can move beyond fragmented services to develop sustainable and scalable systems that support individuals across the lifespan. Drawing upon Eden's 15-year experience in New Orleans and its expansion into Virginia, the session will share lessons learned as Eden has begun scaling its model from a local anti-trafficking response into a broader, scalable framework for human trafficking intervention, complex trauma care, survivor support, and community-based healing.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

- **Identify the core components of a coordinated continuum of care** for survivors of human trafficking and individuals impacted by complex trauma, including prevention, real-time intervention, emergency shelter, long-term housing, recovery services, economic empowerment, and lifelong community support.
- **Explain the unique role of judges and justice leaders** in strengthening multidisciplinary responses, convening system partners, identifying service gaps, encouraging trauma-informed practices, and supporting accountability while protecting dignity and due process.
- **Recognize how complex trauma affects individuals' interactions with courts, law enforcement, healthcare, housing, education, behavioral health, and social services**, and why long-term recovery requires support beyond the initial crisis intervention.
- **Describe how legal, judicial, healthcare, education, and community-based partners can work together** to identify human trafficking, respond to complex trauma, reduce re-traumatization, and connect individuals to coordinated care.

Speakers:



Jennifer Best, CEO, Eden Centers for Hope and Healing of New Orleans

Jennifer is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor and a National Board Certified Counselor. She received an M.A. in Psychology and Counseling at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She has extensive training in trauma informed care including TBRI, EMDR, and TF-CBT. She has spent her time working in private and nonprofit counseling centers. She has obtained a certificate in Human Trafficking Prevention and Intervention from Florida State University and has been trained as a prevention education facilitator through My Life My Choice in Boston, MA. She is a member of the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force. She sits on the advisory board for The Office of Human Trafficking Prevention and Commission for the State of Louisiana. Through trusted partnerships with Homeland Security Investigations, local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and multidisciplinary teams, Jennifer oversees Eden's trafficking-informed crisis response program.



Dr. Miriam "Mae" Lobrano Furr, University of Virginia Pediatrician; President and CEO, Eden Centers for Hope and Healing of Charlottesville

Dr. Furr recently completed her role as Chief Resident in Pediatrics at the University of Virginia (UVA) and now practices as a general pediatrician across multiple UVA clinics. She earned her undergraduate degree from Tulane University, where she founded the Free the Slaves Coalition to raise awareness of human trafficking and partnered with Eden Centers to help establish their first recovery home for survivors of trafficking and exploitation. During medical school at LSU Health Shreveport, Dr. Furr focused on identifying human trafficking in healthcare settings, developing educational curricula and providing trainings to healthcare professionals across Louisiana and Texas. While at UVA, she helped establish a Human Trafficking Elective for medical trainees. She currently serves as President of the Central Virginia Anti-Human Trafficking Collaborative. Through Eden, she oversees the development of a Complex Trauma Care Navigator program, while also leading healthcare-focused training initiatives. Dr. Furr also serves as Co-Medical Director of Camp Holiday Trails, a nonprofit camp for children and adolescents with chronic illnesses, disabilities, and special healthcare needs.



Hon. Joy Cossich Lobrano, Founding Board of Directors, Eden Centers for Hope and Healing

Judge Lobrano serves on the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal and is a former prosecutor and Juvenile, Family, Civil, and Criminal Trial Court judge. She is a recognized leader in juvenile justice, child welfare, human trafficking prevention, and community-based intervention systems. Judge Lobrano is a founder of the Community CARE Centers for Early Intervention. She also created two school-based prevention and justice education

programs: Project LEAD in 2000, a sixth-grade law-related education program taught by prosecutors, and Project LAWellness in 2009, a judicially led wellness and prevention initiative. Judge Lobrano served as 2017-2019 Chair of the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and is a frequent speaker at the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences at the Vatican. Judge Lobrano earned her B.A. from Tulane University, her J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, and her LL.M. in Taxation from New York University School of Law.



Kara Van de Carr, Founder and President, Eden Centers for Hope and Healing

Kara is an attorney and former United States Diplomat responsible for writing the Trafficking in Persons Report for the country of Jamaica. As a founder, and President of Eden Centers for Hope and Healing, Kara established a first-of-its-kind continuum of care for survivors of human trafficking and exploitation. Under her leadership, Eden has grown from a community-based response into a recognized model providing emergency shelter, long term housing, recovery services, and survivor centered support. Kara continues to lead Eden's next phase of growth, including the scaling of the Eden model beyond Louisiana and the development of replicable systems for other communities. She helped create Eden Market, a social enterprise that supports survivor economic stability. Kara also has taught Continuing Legal Education courses to legal professionals and was an adjunct professor at Tulane University for a course on Human Trafficking. She received her B.A. in Political Economy of Industrial Societies from University of California Berkeley, her J.D. from Tulane Law School, and her LL.M. in International Law from Georgetown Law School.