

THE GARDEN  FAMILY ADVOCACY CENTER

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Brian L. Bethel, Ph.D.

On behalf of the Garden Family Advocacy Center

Before Members of the Ohio House Health Committee

Opponent testimony on HB No. 172

November 14, 2025

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony of HB 172. If passed this legislation would limit the professional capacities of mental health professionals who serve minors.

Introduction and Professional Experience

My name is Dr. Brian L. Bethel, and I am a Trauma Therapist practicing outpatient counseling in Chillicothe, Ohio. I currently serve as a Trauma Therapist with a nationally accredited child advocacy where I facilitate outpatient counseling services to children and families (across a ten-county region of Ohio) who have been impacted by trauma. In addition, I also provide contract services as an independent trainer and consultant and continue to offer professional trainings to child welfare professionals and foster/adoptive parents throughout the state through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program. As an independent trainer and consultant, I have had the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Department of Homeland Security and provided contract services for Orphans without Borders through the United States State Department. **My attached curriculum vitae will further reflect my experiences across my twenty-five years of clinical practice.**

I am here today to speak from my professional experience as a Trauma Therapist. Throughout my clinical experience I have dedicated much of my professional career to advocating and counseling children and families who have confronted a variety of adversities. As a trauma therapist, I have been trained in various models of scientifically supported clinical models for serving children who present with a history of trauma. As a professional clinical counselor supervisor, I have been trained in various models of scientifically supported models for serving children who present with a history of trauma. Drawing upon my decades of clinical practice, I

have facilitated counseling services with thousands of abused, neglected, and traumatized children as well as minor survivors of human trafficking. Therefore, I believe I hold a unique perspective through a culmination of my professional experience and current clinical practice. As such, I remain deeply concerned with the proposed legislation of H.B. No. 172. **I believe these proposed amendments could place children at increased risk, bring even greater ambiguity to the ethical mandates of mental health professionals, and usurp current avenues for promoting safety of children who confront abuse/neglect and exploitation.**

Opponent Testimony

In the current draft this proposed legislation proposes requirements for mental health professionals when working with minors “Who presents for the diagnosis or treatment of a gender-related condition.” However, the proposal fails to define specifically what constitutes a “gender-related condition.” **Mental health professionals must assess the factor of gender in a variety of diagnoses as gender often represents a greater propensity of individual disorders (i.e. depression, anxiety, various forms of personality disorders, etc.).** This is well documented within the research from the American Psychiatric Association and many other professional organizations.

Risk and Safety Concerns

In addition, the proposed legislation presents a child’s initial interaction with a mental health as a very routine and specific presentation. This is a common misconception regarding the therapeutic process of psychotherapy. The reality being that children typically present for mental health services for a variety of reasons and may not cite “gender related” issues within the first session. Many times, these are emergent issues (suicidal ideation, disclosure of abuse/neglect, exposure to domestic violence, potential concerns of trafficking, etc.) especially for traumatized children. As currently written, this legislation would require clinicians to cease therapeutic interaction at any point if a “gender-related” condition is mentioned. **In cases involving abuse/neglect, exposure to domestic violence, and potential concerns of trafficking this will place children at increased risk.** It is well supported within the professional literature that many children are victimized by familiar trafficking. It is also common that children who are survivors of abuse are typically silenced by adult perpetrators in the home. Likewise, children who are exposed to domestic violence are often quieted by intimidating behaviors of parents and caregivers. Considering these factors, it is unlikely that parents or guardians will not provide consent for mental health practitioners to work with children if these behaviors are part of the family system. While it may be argued that mental health professionals are mandated making such a report does not guarantee safety. Moreover, mental health professionals often work collaboratively with child protective service professionals to assess safety and aide in implementing safety plans.

Therapeutic Rapport

In addition, the legislative draft of H.B NO. 172 presents the counseling of minor children as a predictable and consistent process. The facilitation of therapeutic services (diagnosis and treatment) typically requires flexibility as not all children with disclose issues of abuse/neglect, exploitation, domestic violence, parental substance use, trafficking, etc. during the initial session. Therefore, some of the most fundamental skills of the psychotherapy process comes from the development and maintenance of the therapeutic rapport. These competencies require on-going interaction and contact with the child. The proposed draft indicates that if a child shares “gender-related” concerns, therapists will need to obtain parental permission to continue to provide services even if suspicions of child abuse/neglect, exploitation are present. **Sadly, knowledge of such mandates would likely reinforce rates of delayed disclosure and sabotage therapeutic progress with children.**

Ethical Considerations

In the current form H. B. No. 172 will bring counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapist into conflict with the ethical mandates of their national professional organizations. In particular, the National Association of Social Workers hold an ethical mandate to “Social workers respect and promote the right of clients to self-determination and assist clients in their efforts to identify and clarify their goals. Social workers may limit clients’ right to self-determination when, in the social workers’ professional judgment, clients’ actions or potential actions pose a serious, foreseeable, and imminent risk to themselves or others” (NASW 1.02 Self Determination). Professional Counselors have ethical duties to “The primary responsibility of counselors is to respect the dignity and promote the welfare of clients” (ACA, A.1. Client Welfare). **The draft of H.B. No. 172 will likely create incongruence with state law and the code of ethics for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapist and potentially placed many professionals in situations of ethical violations.**

Need for Collaboration

While I am unaware to the specific rationale or motivate to amid current ORC, I will assert that the state of Ohio has well defined processes for investigating ethical complaints of mental health professionals. If a parent, guardian, professional or legislators have concerns of a counselor, social worker, marriage or family therapists’ interaction with minors there are procedures for reporting these concerns. However, it does not appear that there has been any effort to consult with the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board in drafting H.B. No. 172. **I would opine that it is paramount to discuss concerns of ethical behaviors, current ORC, and proposed amendments with professionals who have knowledge and competencies of mental health practices.**

In conclusion, I remain significantly concerned with this proposed legislation and ask this committee to consider the potential risks that these amendments could pose to children. As a clinician, I have dedicated much of my professional experience to counseling children who are survivors of trauma. I believe it is important to note that many survivors bring significant vulnerabilities into the counseling relationship. Tragically, the counseling relationship can be the

only source of support that children have when confronting issues of abuse/neglect, exposure to domestic violence, and potential exploitation. Enacting restrictions to the counseling relationship could create a substantial likelihood of for traumatization for this marginalized population. **As citizens of Ohio, we all hold an ethical duty to protect our most vulnerable populations. For this reason, I remain in opposition to the proposed legislation of H.B. 172.**

I have appreciated the opportunity to share my concerns with this committee. Thank you for your time and attention and I welcome the opportunity to respond to any questions that you may have at this time.

Dr. Brian L. Bethel

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Counselor Education and Supervision, Ohio University (CACREP and CORE accredited) 2017

M.Ed. Masters of Education Clinical Counseling, Ohio University (CACREP accredited) 2002

M.Ed. Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling, Ohio University (CORE accredited) 2002

BA, Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Psychology, Ohio University, 1994.

AAS, Associates of Applied Science in Human Services Technology, Ohio University, 1992

LICENSURE, CERTIFICATIONS, AND ADVANCED TRAINING

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor-Supervisor (LPCC-S) State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board (License number E4376)

Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC III), Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (License number 991594)

Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor (RPT-S), Association of Play Therapy (S-1012)

Internationally Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (12293)

Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR)

Child Family Traumatic Stress Intervention

Child Parent Interaction Therapy

Child First -Finding Words-Forensic Interview Training

RADAR Forensic Interviewing training

Ohio Department of Mental Health and The American Red Cross Disaster and Terrorists Events Certification

Critical Incident Stress Management Certification, Basic and Advanced Courses

Second Step Pre-School Violence Prevention Program

Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Child Protection Center of Ross County, Child and Family Therapist, 2010- present

Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, Independent Trainer/Consultant, 2005 – present

Ohio Human Services Training System: Trainer/Consultant, 2017- present

Whole Life Counseling Services, Clinical Supervisor/Outpatient Clinician, 2020-present

Interplay Counseling and Consulting, LLC. Private Practice in Clinical Counseling, January 2010- present

Health Ed, Independent Trainer/Consultant, 2011-2014

Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center, Outpatient Services Director, 2005 – 2009

Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center, Child/Adolescent Therapist, 2002 – 2005

Pickaway Ross Career and Technology Center, Educational Instructor for Social Psychology, 2001-2002

Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center, Emergency Services Specialist, 1999 – 2002

Ross County Children Services, Protective Services Supervisor, 1994 – 1998

Ross County Juvenile and Probate Courts, Bailiff, 1994

Sun Spot Bronzing Studio, Tanning Technician, Manager, 1986 – 1994

EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Walden University, Department of Counseling (2021-present)

Instructed and Facilitated Courses: Crisis, Trauma, and Response

Duties Include: Facilitation of discussion boards regarding assigned reading and literature. Delivery of educational curriculum specific to crisis intervention and clinical response to trauma. Assessment of student assignments and student evaluation.

Capella University, Department of Psychology Curriculum Development for Play Therapy Certification (2014-present)

Instructed and Facilitated Courses: Play Therapy 2: Theories and Practice of Play. Duties Include: Facilitation of discussion boards regarding assigned reading and literature. Facilitation of weekly Live Sessions via Adobe Connect for delivery of lecture on specific play therapy theories. Assessment of student assignments and student evaluation.

Educational Trainer and Consultant with The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (2005-present). Develop and Facilitate Continuing Educational Curriculum for Child Welfare Professionals and Social Service Professionals throughout the state Ohio. Areas of Specialization included Clinical Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders, and Childhood Trauma.

Educational Trainer and Consultant with The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (2017-present). Develop and Facilitate Continuing Educational Curriculum for Social Service Professionals who advocate and serve the older adult population throughout the state of Ohio. Areas of Specialization included Clinical Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders, Assessment and Treatment for individuals who have experienced Trauma.

Ohio University Chillicothe Co-Instructor for Counseling Practicum (Winter 2015)

Ohio University Co-Instructor for Introduction to Play therapy course (Summer 2008)

Co-facilitator for Duluth's Men Domestic Violence Psycho-Education Group (2000-2009). Co-Facilitated Men's Domestic Violence Batters Intervention Program using the standardized Duluth Model. Provided Group Psychoeducation for men who were charged with domestic violence. Monitored participant attendance and provided progress reports to Probation Officers.

Pickaway Ross Career and Technology Center, Educational Instructor for Social Psychology (2001-2002). Instructed Adult Education class in Social Psychology. Facilitated lecture and assessment of participant performance.

Southeastern Business College, Instructor for various courses (2000-2001)

CONSULTATION SERVICES

Department of Homeland Security -Human Trafficking Conference for the Multidisciplinary Team, 2025

United Nations –Orphans Without Borders, Pathways to Healing –Trauma Based Therapeutic Curriculum for Ukrainian survivors of war, 2023

Whole Life Counseling Services, Clinical Supervisor, 2020-present

Ohio Child Welfare Training Program: Independent Trainer/Consultant (2005-present)

Ohio Human Services Training System: Independent Trainer/Consultant (2017- present)

Health Ed. Inc. Independent Trainer/Consultant and Program Planning Team (July 2011-2014)

The Ohio Department of Mental Health: Early Childhood Mental Health (2010)

Capella University: Curriculum Development for Play Therapy Certification Program (2010)

Chillicothe City Schools: Mental Health Consultant (2010)

London City Schools: Mental Health Consultant, Behavioral Specialist (2010 – 2011)

Ross County Head Start Program: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant (2005-2009)

PUBLICATIONS

Unpublished Papers and Theses:

The Use of Music Therapy as a Counseling Technique for Individuals with Disabilities (Masters Seminar Thesis, Ohio University, 2002)

Dissertation:

Bethel, B. L. (2017). A Qualitative Case Study: Stories of Healing Children with Disabilities and Play Therapy. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2017. 10626770

Books and Chapters

Bethel, B. L. (2025). Pin the Stickers on the Body. In L. Lowenstein (Ed.) *The Game Therapy Toolbox: 114 Innovative Activities to Help Kids Address Anxiety, Trauma, Grief, Attachment, Self-Regulation, Social Skills, Family Relationships, and More*. Pesi Publishing Eau Claire, WI.

Bethel, B. L. (2022). Weekly Check-Ups. In L. Lowenstein (Ed.). *Assessment and treatment Activities for Children, Adolescents, and Families Volume 4: Practitioners Share Their Most Effective Techniques*. Toronto, Canada: Champion Press.

Bethel, B. L. (2021). Virtual Instruction in Higher Education: Going Viral. In D. Stein and H. Glazer (Eds). *Driving Innovation with For-profit Adult Higher Education Online Institutions*. IGI Global Publisher (In-Print)

Bethel, B. L. (2021). The Duplicity of Disability and Abuse. In M. M. Joseph and M. Robinson (Eds). *Fundamentals of Rehabilitation Counseling*. Cognella: San Diego

Henderson D. L. and **Bethel, B. L.** (2020). Embracing Cultural Sensitivity From a Social Justice Perspective. In J. D. Andrew and C. W. Faubion (Eds). *Rehabilitation Services: An Introduction for the Human Services Profession Fourth Edition*. Linn Creek, Mo: Aspen Professional Services.

Bethel, B. L. (2019) Messages of Mourning, Childhood Grief and Parental Substance Use Disorders. In H. R. Glazer and M.D. Clark (Eds.), *Understanding the Journey of Grief A Lifespan Approach to Working with Grieving People*. Springfield, IL: C. Thomas.

Bethel, B. L. (2019) Children and Traumatic Loss. H. R. Glazer and M.D. Clark (Eds.), *Understanding the Journey of Grief A Lifespan Approach to Working with Grieving People*. Springfield, IL: C. Thomas.

Bethel, B. L. (2015). Searching for Happily Ever After: Play Therapy for Children with Depression. In S. Brooke and C. E. Myers (Ed.), *The Use of Creative Therapies for Depressive Disorders*. Springfield, IL: C. Thomas.

Bethel, B. L. (2015). Home Grown Play Therapy: Play Therapy in the Appalachian Culture. In S. Brooke (Ed.), *Therapist Creating a Cultural Tapestry: Using Creative Therapies Across Culture*. Springfield, IL: C. E. Thomas.

Bethel, B. L. (2010). No Longer Alone: Play Therapy for Children with Autism. In S. Brooke (Ed.), *The Use of Creative Therapies for Children with Autism*. Springfield, IL: C. Thomas.

Bethel, B. L. (2009). All Bottled Up, Play Therapy for Children in Chemically Dependent Homes. In S. Brooke (Ed.), *The Use of Creative Therapies for Survivors of Domestic Violence*. Springfield, IL: C. Thomas.

Bethel, B. L. (2008). Beyond the Bruises: Play Therapy with children exposed to Domestic violence. In S. Brooke (Ed.), *The Use of Creative Therapies for Survivors of Domestic Violence*. Springfield, IL: C. Thomas.

Bethel, B. L. (2008). Healing Hunger through Play: An Overview of Play Therapy Techniques for Counseling Children with Eating Disorders. In S. Brooke (Ed.), *The Use of Creative Therapies with Eating Disorders*. Springfield, IL: C. Thomas.

Bethel, B. L. (2006). Play Therapy Techniques for Sexually Abused Children. In S. Brooke (Ed.) *Creative Therapies Cases: Art, Play, Dance, Music, and Drama Therapies with Sexual Abuse Survivors*. Springfield, IL: C. Thomas.

Research Publications:

Henderson D. L., **Bethel B. L.** , Robinson R, & Malone-Pringle O. (in review). Play, Practice, and Promise: Play Therapy and Disability Adjustment for Autism. *The Journal of Special Education*

Henderson, D. L. & Bethel, **B. L.** (in review) Breaking Barriers: (in review). Counseling children with disabilities impacted by abuse. *Child Abuse & Neglect*.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Invited International Conferences

B. Bethel (2025). Wounded Warriors: Integrative Play Therapy with Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse. Association for Play Therapy International Conference. Houston, Tx.

B. Bethel (2025). Wounded Warriors: Integrative Play Therapy with Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse. National Child Advocacy Center's 33rd International Symposium on Child Abuse (Symposium). Huntsville, Al.

B. Bethel (2024). Making Harmony-The Integration of Music, Play Therapy and EMDR Strategies. National Child Advocacy Center's 32nd International Symposium on Child Abuse (Symposium). Huntsville, Al.

B. Bethel & J. Oates (2019). Play Therapy and PTSD, I Can't Forget It. Association for Play Therapy International Conference. Dallas, Tx.

B. Bethel & J. Oates (2019). I Can't Forget It: Playful Strategies and TF-CBT for Children with PTSD. National Child Advocacy Center's 35th. International Symposium on Child Abuse (Symposium). Huntsville, Al.

B. Bethel (2019). Double Jeopardy: The Relationship Between Substance Use Disorders and Child Maltreatment. National Child Advocacy Center's 35th International Symposium on Child Abuse (Symposium). Huntsville, Al.

B. Bethel & J. Oates (2018). Secrets and Silence, Play Therapy and the Disclosure Process with Sexual Trauma Survivors. Association for Play Therapy International Conference. Phoenix, Az.

B. Bethel & J. Oates (2018). Secrets of Silences, Play Therapy and the Disclosure Process with Sexual Trauma Survivors. National Child Advocacy Center's 34th International Symposium on Child Abuse (Symposium). Huntsville, Al.

B. Bethel & J. Oates (2017). Wounded Warriors: Play Therapy with Sexually Abused Males. National Child Advocacy Center's 33rd International Symposium on Child Abuse (Symposium). Huntsville, Al.

J. Oates & **B. Bethel** (2017). Building Bridges over Troubled Waters: Play Therapy with Traumatized Children. National Child Advocacy Center's 33rd International Symposium on Child Abuse (Symposium). Huntsville, Al.

B. Bethel (2016). Working with Male Victims of Human Trafficking: Our Silent Survivors. National Child Advocacy Center's 32nd International Symposium on Child Abuse (Symposium). Huntsville, Al.

B. Bethel & H. Glazer (2014). Wounded Warriors: Play Therapy for Sexually Abused Males: Association for Play Therapy International Conference. Houston, Texas.

H. Glazer & **B. Bethel** (2014). What Makes Supervising Play Therapist Different? Association for Play Therapy International Conference. Houston, Texas

Bethel, B., Henderson, D., Oates, J. & Robinson, M. (2011, March). *Building Bridges: Play Therapy for Children with Disabilities*. Italy Play Therapy Institute, Old Dominion University. Italy.

Refereed Invited National Presentations

B. Bethel (2020). Trauma and Addiction: Fire and Ice. American Association of Service Coordinators National Annual Conference. Virtual.

B. Bethel (2020). Suicide Assessment and Intervention. American Association of Service Coordinators National Annual Conference. Virtual.

B. Bethel (2020). Chronic Pain and Substance Use Disorders: A Tough Pill to Swallow. American Association of Service Coordinators National Annual Conference. Virtual.

B. Bethel (2018). Searching for Happily Ever After, An Overview of Depression. American Association of Service Coordinators National Annual Conference. Austin, Tx.

B. Bethel (2018). Healing the Hunger: An Overview of Eating Disorder. American Association of Service Coordinators. National Annual Conference.

B. Bethel (2018). A Matter of Life and Death Suicide Assessment and Prevention. American Association of Service Coordinators National Annual Conference.

B. Bethel (2016). Against All Odds: An Overview of Gambling Addiction. American Association of Service Coordinators National Annual Conference.

B. Bethel (2016). The Games People Play: Working with Individuals with Personality Disorders. American Association of Service Coordinators National Annual Conference.

B. Bethel (2016). Wasted: An Introduction to Substance Abuse. American Association of Service Coordinators National Annual Conference.

Henderson, D. & **Bethel, B.** (2015). Racial Discussions in Counseling: It's not just Black and White. National Council on Rehabilitation Education Spring Conference, Newport Beach, California.

B. Bethel, (2014). Wounded Warriors: Play Therapy for Sexually Abused Males: National Survivors Conference, Newark, N. J.

B. Bethel (2014). Wounded Warriors: Play Therapy for Sexually Abused Males: American Counseling Association's Annual Conferences. Honolulu, Hawaii.

Bethel, B. & Henderson, D. (2013). Mission Possible: Supportive Employment for Persons with Mental Illness. National Rehabilitation Association Conference. Brooklyn, New York.

Henderson, D. & **Bethel, B.** (2013). Play Practice and Promise: Play Therapy and Disability Adjustment for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. National Council on Rehabilitation Education Spring Conference, San Francisco, California.

B. Bethel, (2012). Wounded Warriors: Play Therapy for Sexually Abused Males: National Male Survivors Conference, New York City.

Bethel, B. (2011). Home Grown Rehabilitation Counseling: Rehabilitation Counseling in Appalachian and Rural America. National Association of Multicultural and Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC), Atlanta, Ga.

Bethel, B. (2011). Child's Play: Working with Children in Crisis, Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel. Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B. & Henderson, D. (2010). Treating Children with Disabilities Who Are Survivors of Abuse. National Association of Multicultural and Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC). Las Vegas, NV.

Henderson, D. & **Bethel, B. (2010).** It's All Relative: The Impact of Autism on Siblings and Families. National Association of Multicultural and Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC). Las Vegas, NV.

Bethel, B. & Henderson, D. (2009). The Land of Misfit Toys: Play Therapy and Children with Disabilities: National Association of Multicultural and Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) Memphis, Tn.

Bethel, B. (2009). Building Bridges over Troubled Waters: Crisis Intervention with Traumatized Children Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel scheduled for Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B. (2008). Calming the Storm, Crisis Intervention with Traumatized Children. Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel scheduled for Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B. & Oates, J. (2008). The Untold Stories of the Beverly Hillbillies: Crisis Intervention in the Appalachian Culture. Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel scheduled for Chicago.

Bethel, B. (2006). It's not the Brady Bunch, Family Effects of Addiction. Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel, Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B. & Burkeholder, D. (2005). Court is Now in Session: Legal and Ethical Issues in Crisis Intervention. Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel, Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B. (2004). Child's Play: Working with Children in Crisis, Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel. Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B. (2003). Child's Play: Working with Children in Crisis, Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel. Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B. (2002). Male Call: Working with Men in Crisis, Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel. Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B. (2001). Singing the Blues Away; Music Therapy and Crisis Intervention. Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel, Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B. (2000). After the Accident: Crisis Intervention for Traumatic and Disabling Injuries. Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel, Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B., Oates, J. & Kefgen, A. (1999). The Many Hats of Child Abuse and Neglect. Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel, Chicago, Illinois.

Bethel, B. (1997). *Male Call: Working with Men in Crisis*. Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel, Chicago, Illinois.

State and Local Presentations

B. Bethel (2025). It's not the Brady Bunch-Family Effects of Addiction. The Ohio CASA/GAL Association Celebrate Kid's Conference. Columbus, Ohio

B. Bethel (2025). Understanding Trauma in Juvenile Populations. Ohio Juvenile Detention Services Association's Annual Conference. Columbus, Ohio

B. Bethel (2024). Making Harmony-The Integration of Music, Play Therapy and EMDR Strategies. Michigan Association of Play Therapy. Lansing, MI

J. Oates and **B. Bethel** (2024). Calming the Storm-Play Therapy following School Violence. Michigan Association of Play Therapy. Lansing, MI

B. Bethel (2021) Ethics in Play Therapy, The Many Hats of Play Therapy. Midwest Play Therapy Institute Summer Boot Camp.

H. Glazer & **B. Bethel** (2021) For the Sake of Children, When the Play Therapist is Working with Children of a Contentious Divorce. Midwest Play Therapy Institute Summer Boot Camp.

B. Bethel (2021). Documentation in Play Therapy: Dotting the I's and Crossing the t's. Midwest Play Therapy Institute.

B. Bethel (2021). Play Therapy and Traumatized Children: Finding the Eye in a Hurricane. Michigan Association of Play Therapy Annual Conference. Virtual.

B. Bethel (2020) When You're Making a Living Instead of a Life, Self-Care for Play Therapist. Midwest Play Therapy Institute. Cincinnati, Ohio.

B. Bethel & H. Glazer (2020). Play Therapy Ethics: An Ohio Perspective. Midwest Play Therapy Institute Summer Boot Camp. Virtual.

H. Glazer & **B. Bethel** (2020). What Makes Supervising Play Therapist Different? Midwest Play Therapy Institute Summer Boot Camp. Virtual.

B. Bethel (2020). Wounded Warriors: Play Therapy with Sexually Abused Males. Midwest Play Therapy Institute Cincinnati, Ohio.

B. Bethel (2020). Up the Spout Again, Building Resilience After Early Childhood Trauma. Midwest Play Therapy Institute. Cincinnati, Ohio.

- B. Bethel** (2020). Coping with Corona, Play Therapy in a Pandemic. Midwest Play Therapy Institute. Cincinnati, Ohio.
- B. Bethel** (2020). Coping with Corona, Play Therapy in a Pandemic. Midwest Play Therapy Institute. Cincinnati, Ohio.
- B. Bethel** (2020). Foundations of Play Therapy. Basics and Beyond. Midwest Play Therapy Institute. Chillicothe, Ohio.
- B. Bethel & J. Oates** (2018). Secrets and Silence, Play Therapy, and the Disclosure Process with Sexual Trauma Survivors. Ohio Association for Play Fall Conference. Columbus, Ohio
- B. Bethel** (2018) Messages of Mourning, Play Therapy and Complex Grief. Midwest Play Therapy Institute Summer Boot Camp.
- B. Bethel** (2018) I Can't Forget It, Play Therapy and PTSD. Midwest Play Therapy Institute.
- B. Bethel & J. Oates** (2018) I Can't Forget it, Play Therapy and Traumatized Teens. . Michigan Association of Play Therapy
- J. Oates & **B. Bethel** (2018) It's All Relative, Play Therapy and Family Engagement After Trauma. Michigan Association of Play Therapy
- B. Bethel** (2017) Beyond the Bruises Play Therapy for Children of Domestic Violence. Midwest Play Therapy Institute Summer Boot Camp.
- B. Bethel** (2017) Home Grown Play Therapy, Play Therapy in Rural and Appalachian Cultures. Midwest Play Therapy Institute Summer Boot Camp.
- B. Bethel** (2017) When You're Making a Living Instead of a Life, Self-Care for Play Therapist. Midwest Play Therapy Institute Summer Boot Camp.
- B. Bethel** (2017). Double Jeopardy: The Complexity of Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder. Michigan Association of Service Coordinators Annual State Conference. Mt Pleasant, Michigan.
- B. Bethel** (2017). Double Jeopardy: Wasted: An Introduction Into Substance Abuse. Michigan Association of Service Coordinators Annual State Conference. Mt Pleasant, Michigan.
- B. Bethel** (2017). Double Jeopardy: Going Out on a Limb: Working with Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Michigan Association of Service Coordinators Annual State Conference. Mt Pleasant, Michigan.

- B. Bethel** & J. Oates (2017) Wounded Warriors: Play Therapy with Sexually Abused Males. Michigan Association of Play Therapy
- B. Bethel** & J. Oates (2016). Court is Now in Session: Sound Legal and Ethical Practice for Play Therapist. Ohio Association of Play Therapy Fall Workshop. Columbus, Ohio
- B. Bethel** (2016). Working with Male Survivors of Human Trafficking: Silent Survivors. Public Children's Services Association of Ohio Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio.
- B. Bethel** (2016). PTSD and Children: I Can't Forget It. Public Children's Services Association of Ohio Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio.
- H. Glazer & **B. Bethel** (2014). Play Therapy Ethics: An Ohio Perspective. Ohio Association for Play Therapy. Columbus, Ohio.
- B. Bethel** (2014). Wounded Warriors: Play Therapy for Sexually Abused Males: Ohio Association for Play Therapy Columbus, Ohio
- B. Bethel** (2014). Buried Beyond Belief: An Overview of Hoarding Disorder. Public Children's Services Association of Ohio Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio.
- B. Bethel** (2014). Just What the Dr. Ordered: Psychopharmacology and Children . Public Children's Services Association of Ohio Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio.
- B. Bethel** (2012). The Worry Web: Obsessive Compulsive Disorders with Children. Public Children's Services Association of Ohio Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio.
- Henderson, D. & **Bethel, B.** (2012). Play Practice and Promise: Play Therapy and Disability Adjustment for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. "The Beach Conference", Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.
- Bethel, B.** & Jones, J. (2011). It's not Child's Play: The Complexities of Clinical Supervision for Counselors Serving Children: Ohio Counseling Association Annual Conference.
- Glazer, H., **Bethel, B.** & Tingle, T. (2011). Ethical Concerns for Play Therapists, an Ohio Perspective. Ohio Counseling Association Annual Conference.
- Bethel, B.** & Oates, J. (2010). Building Bridges over Troubled Waters: Play Therapy with Traumatized Children Ohio Counseling Association Annual Conference.
- Bethel, B.** (2010). Out on A Limb: Play Therapy for Children with Disabilities: Ohio Counseling Association Annual Conference.

- Bethel, B.** (2010). Out on A Limb: Play Therapy for Children with Disabilities: Ohio Association of Play Therapy Conference.
- Bethel, B.** (2009). Child's Play: An Overview of Play Therapy: Central Ohio Counseling Association
- Bethel, B.** (2009). Building Bridges over Troubled Waters: Play Therapy with Traumatized Children Ohio Association of Play Therapy Conference.
- Bethel, B.** (2009). Appalachian Fatherhood: Fatherhood Summit. Zanesville, Ohio.
- Bethel, B. & Henderson, D.** (2008). The Land of Misfit Toys: Play Therapy and Children with Disabilities: Ohio Rehabilitation Conference.
- Bethel, B. & Oates, J.** (2008). The Real Stories of the Beverly Hillbillies: Play Therapy in the Appalachian Culture. Ohio Association of Play Therapy Conference.
- Bethel, B. & Oates, J.** (2008). The Real Stories of the Beverly Hillbillies: Play Therapy in the Appalachian Culture. Louisiana Association of Play Therapy Conference.
- Bethel, B.** (2002). Male Call: Working with Men in Crisis. Rosemont Center, Columbus, Ohio.
- Bethel, B.** (1996). What do we need to do our jobs? Public Childrens Sevices Association of Ohio Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- EMDR International Association
- American Counseling Association
- Association for Play Therapy
- Ohio Association of Play Therapy
- Ohio Counseling Association
- Ross County Family Violence Council
- Ross County Children and Family First Council

PROFESSIONAL BOARDS

Ohio University's College of Education Department of Counseling and Higher Education: Advisory Board Fall 2009 – present.

Planning Committee for the Ohio Treasurers Office's Fiscally Fit Fathers Symposium Fall 2009

The Child Protection Center of Ross County, Board of Directors, January 2005 – December 2009.
Public Relations Chair 2009

Ross County Family and Children's First Council 2005 - 2009

Ross County Family Violence Council, Member, June 2002 – 2009 (2008- 2009 Co-Chair)

Assistance House, Board of Directors, June 1996 – January 1998

AWARDS AND HONORS

Northeast Ohio Regional Trainer of the Year Award-Ohio Child Welfare Training Program 2025

Award of Excellence for Outstanding Research, The Association for Play Therapy 2018

Linda Pope Trainer of the Year Award: Ohio Child Welfare Training Program 2014

President's Award for Outstanding Services, Ohio Play therapy Association 2010

Cambridge Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals in Counseling and Development "Honors Edition" May 2008

Pinwheels for Prevention Award, Child Advocate. Ross County Job and Family Services Child Prevention Month 2008

Rising Star: Trainer of the Year Award, Ohio Child Welfare Training Program. 2007

Documentation of Excellence Award, Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center, Summer 2004

Documentation of Excellence Award, Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center, Summer 2005

Chi Sigma Iota, Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society International,
April 2002

Case Worker of the Year Award, Public Children Services Agency of Ohio, September
1996

Volunteer of the Year for Ross County Social Service Council, April 1992

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Rowntown Players Theatre, Orchestra Director for Production of “Grease.”

Wellston High School Marching Band, 2005 – present

Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center, Crisis Center, 1990 – 2002
5,400 hours of volunteer service

American Red Cross