**Speaker List**

**Session 1: Opioid Abuse: The Cost to Business**

**Jonathan Ahl, St. Louis Public Radio, Rolla, MO**

Jonathan Ahl reports from the Rolla Bureau for St. Louis Public Radio. Before coming to St. Louis Public Radio in November 2018, Jonathan was the general manager for Tri-States Public Radio in Macomb, IL. He previously was the news director at Iowa Public Radio and before that at WCBU in Peoria, Illinois. His 25-year career in public radio has also included reporting positions in central Illinois for public radio stations. Jonathan is originally from the Chicago area. He has a B.A. in music theory and composition from Western Illinois University and an M.A. in public affairs reporting from the University of Illinois at Springfield. He is an avid long distance runner, semi-professional saxophonist and die-hard Chicago Cubs fan. He lives in Rolla with his wife Anita and kids Tommy and Lily.

**Session 2: Understanding the Illness, Treatment, and Recovery**

**Clif Johnson, Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health, Farmington, MO**

Clif Johnson is a certified reciprocal advanced alcohol and drug counselor who has worked 32 years in the field of substance use disorders, beginning in 1987 at Koala Center in Lonedell, MO. Clif has a degree in human services, credentialed as a substance use disorder counselor and compulsive gambling counselor. He has been employed for the last 25 years at Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health in Farmington, MO as chief stakeholders’ relations officer and director of clinical compliance.

**Dan Adams, Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health, Farmington, MO**

Dan Adams, Director of Education for SEMO, is a former high school teacher in southern Missouri where he observed firsthand the negative effects of drug and alcohol use on students.  Dan is a native of Texas County and a 30-year resident of Dent County. In 1988 after 14 years teaching he joined Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health (SEMO-BH) full-time working in clinical, education and administrative roles. He is a member of the first Missouri cohort to be trained as medication assisted recovery specialists (MARS). In 2010, SEMO-BH began providing medications to assist with treatment, implementing a network of telehealth service providers to areas of Missouri without any previous access to medications such as buprenorphine.  In 2014, Dan participated in SAMHSA’s MAT-PDOA grant then attended the first year evaluation conference in Washington, DC, presenting information on the success of the grant in Missouri. Since the introduction of medications that combat the opioid crisis, agencies from all regions of Missouri have visited SEMO-BH to view its medication first program, at the request of the Missouri Division of Behavioral Health.

**Patricia A. Cavazos, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO**

Dr. Cavazos is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) in St. Louis, MO. She is a clinically trained, licensed psychologist and an accomplished clinical and translational scientist with expertise in the implementation of effective treatments for substance use disorders (SUD) in clinical and community settings. She was one of the first investigators to receive funding as part of a trans-NIH initiative, known as Collaborative Research on Addiction (CRAN). Dr. Cavazos applies sophisticated analytic techniques to large-scale databases, such as the Twitter firehose to examine factors that accelerate substance initiation and subsequently the development of problem use and dependence. Her work has recently extended into the use of mobile technology to augment treatment for opioid use disorders (OUD). In addition to her research, she is also the Director of WUSM’s Mentored Training Program in Clinical Investigation, where she promotes the career development of junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows.

**Terisha Friedmann, Missouri Baptist Hospital-Sullivan, MO**

Terisha works at Missouri Baptist Hospital-Sullivan as a Missouri Recovery Support Specialist (MRSS) in the field of substance use disorder, in the medical stabilization program. She provides addiction withdrawal services to adults who are currently experiencing acute withdrawal symptoms from opiates or alcohol. Terisha is also a Medication Awareness Recovery Specialist (MARS) specializing in MAT (medication assisted treatment) combining behavioral therapy and medication to treat Substance Use Disorder. Missouri Baptist Hospital-Sullivan through its medical stabilization program accepts adults currently experiencing acute or withdrawal symptoms and includes a medically supervised hospital stay for inpatient stabilization.

**Keynote: Overcoming the Stigma of Opioid Addiction**

**Rebecca Losing, Healing Action, St. Louis, MO**

Rebecca is a recovering heroin addict and has been sober since March 10, 2014. Rebecca practices an abstinent recovery.

She has been incarcerated multiple times in the past and is convicted of four felonies. She has worked at several positions in the past and is currently a certified alcohol and drug counselor. Rebecca is currently employed at Healing Action in St. Louis MO, an organization that provides services to the survivors of human sex trafficking.

**Session 3: Opportunities within Employment**

**Linda Fitzgerald, Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development, Jefferson City, MO**

Linda Fitzgerald has spent her career helping individuals overcome barriers to employment and developing skills for self-sufficiency. She has worked with faith-based agencies in the inner-city of St. Louis, Cincinnati and Evansville, Indiana. In addition, she served for two years as Marketing Direction/Interventionist for a drug and alcohol treatment facility. Returning to Missouri, she has spent the past 20 years in workforce development/employment and training. While working for East Missouri Action Agency, she worked with individuals receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) through the CAP or Career Assistance Program, as well as carrying a WIA caseload. She has spent the past 13 years working for the State of Missouri working in the Office of Workforce Development. In her current role as workforce coordinator she serves 29 counties providing recruitment and employment transition services. She feels blessed to be the grant coordinator of the Southeast Region’s MO Works Together Opioid Grant because as she says—“It combines my passion of working with individuals seeking recovery from substance abuse and my love of helping individuals find their career pathway.” She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Applied Behavior Science

**Lynn Wehmeier, Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development, Jefferson City, MO**

Lynn Wehmeier is a workforce coordinator, employed by the Office of Workforce Development. She is currently coordinating the MO Works Together Grant for the Central Workforce Development Board. As a workforce coordinator, her primary focus is bridging the gap between employers and job seekers. She chaired the Workforce Development Committee for Missouri Economic Development Council June 2018 through June 2019. She currently holds the position of business relations chair for the Missouri Association of Workforce Development spanning the time frame of May 2017 through current. She currently sits on the Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments Economic Development Advisory Committee representing the Office of Workforce Development. One professional accomplishment Lynn is particularly proud of is a very successful recruitment campaign for a new Department of Economic Development project that came to Columbia: American Outdoor Brands. The team successfully recruited over 100 new employees using a variety of marketing approaches

**Phil Cohen, Cohen Architectural Woodworking, St. James, MO**

Phil is the CEO and Founder of Cohen Architectural Woodworking in St. James, MO. Phil comes from hard beginnings. He was a drug addict and suffered from depression. His father committed suicide. Failing at many things, Phil found himself on a small farm. He began making birdhouses and toy trucks out of wood as a means of rehabilitation. People started buying them so he got a business license and eventually started his own company. He then transferred his skills into commercial work, and Cohen Architectural Woodworking was born and began supplying national companies, such as Walmart, with millwork and custom wood cabinetry. Today, with clients in all 50 states, the company has a newly expanded facility that includes 54,000 square feet and some 80 employees in the St. James Industrial Park. You can see the work of Cohen Architectural Woodworking here in the lobby of Delbert Day Cancer Center.

Phil’s hiring practices are also innovative and outside the box. He believes in giving people a second chance, no matter their background, if they are willing to do the work. Cohen hires a lot of ex-felons and others who would not receive job offers from most corporations. Many of these ex-felons have turned into excellent employees. Some are now in management and executives with the firm. Phil believes he got a second chance at life and is willing to help others turn their lives around. He maintains an open-door policy and is always accessible to help any team member. He also works hard to provide a safe workplace and recently won two safety awards for 100,000 work hours without an accident from a national trade association. The company has also won multiple awards for woodworking design. In 2017, the Small Business Administration named Phil Cohen the Business Person of the Year for the State of Missouri

**Dr. Sean Siebert, PhD, Invent Yourself, LLC, Cuba, MO**

Dr. Sean Siebert’s breadth of knowledge and experience, combined with his story-telling ability, make him a much-sought-after speaker, panelist and consultant. His messages resonate with audiences, leaving them both motivated and committed to embrace a future of endless possibilities. Dr. Siebert’s reputation for creative thinking and delivering innovative results is renowned. Dr. Siebert’s work in entrepreneurship and economic development led to a project, Rehabilitation through Innovation, in the Crawford County jail with funding through the Meramec Regional Planning Commission and the Delta Regional Authority. The program assisted incarcerated individuals, many with drug charges, own their problems, recognize their value, document their job skills and access resources to help them re-enter the workforce. The project won a national innovation award

**Session 4: How to Enact Policy Change in the Workplace**

**Karen L. Pierce, Working Partners®, Canal Winchester, OH**

Karen Pierce is the managing director of *Working Partners®,* a training and consulting firm specializing in helping workplaces minimize the risks associated with substance misuse.

Working in the alcohol/drug profession since 1982, Karen initially specialized in treatment and prevention services, and spent the past 27 years consulting with businesses and communities around drug-free workplace issues. She received an undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State University and Masters' degrees in Social Work & Public Policy & Management from The Ohio State University. She directed the state’s Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative and served on the Board of Directors for Prevention Action Alliance, Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Association of Ohio's (ADAPAO) Prevention Think Tank, and several statewide alcohol/drug task forces including Ohio’s Prevention Round Table. She has received several distinctions for her work in the prevention field including the “Excellence in Prevention” and “Prevention Advocate” awards presented by Ohio’s Prevention Association.





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