

VERNON COLLEGE PRESENTS THE 43RD ANNUAL NORTH TEXAS REGIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

MAY 12, 13 & 14, 2026

VERNON COLLEGE, 4105 MAPLEWOOD AVENUE, WICHITA FALLS, TX

The multi-disciplinary conference is designed to meet the continuing education needs of the professional in the area of mental health, family and protective services, juvenile probation services, adult probation services, criminal justice, addiction counseling and social work.

THE FOLLOWING ACCREDITATIONS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FOR THIS CONFERENCE:

- International Association for Continuing Education and Training (CEU), 20 hours
- Texas Certification Board of Addiction Professionals (LCDC/TAAP), 20 hours
 - Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), 20 hours
 - Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors (LPC), 20 hours
- Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), 20 hours
 - Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners (SW), 20 hours
- TCOLE certificate may be available when turned in to your own law enforcement department
20 Continuing Education Hours provided by Vernon College

NTRTC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PATSY J. BAGGETT - DEPT. OF FAMILY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES (POSTHUMOUS)

KIMBERLY ALLISON - CHILD ADVOCATES/CASA RED RIVER

TAMARA BOOHER - WICHITA COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD

MAGGIE BRENNAN; ZINGAGE

SILVIA FISCAL - WICHITA COUNTY CSCD

TARYN HOLLAND - RED RIVER HOSPITAL

LINDA KALSKI - VERNON COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR

TISHA MCCREARY - WICHITA COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION

PAMELA MOSS - MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY (EMERITUS)

KATHYE O'CONNOR - DEPT. OF FAMILY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES (RETIRED)

VICKEY POLLEY - DEPT. OF FAMILY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES - CPI

ANDREA SANCHEZ - VERNON COLLEGE CE DIRECTOR

SELINA WILLIAMS - WICHITA COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION (RETIRED)

REGISTRATION

FORM

Please print, complete form and email to asanchez@vernoncollege.edu or fax to 940-689-3871. Forms and payment can be delivered to Vernon College 4105 Maplewood, WF, TX 76308 or payment can be made over the phone 940-696-8752 ex. 3213.
 Registration opens March 23, 2026. **No online registration this year.**

NAME: _____
 DATE OF BIRTH: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (needed for CEUs): _____

Please check appropriate box below:

- 3 DAY REGISTRATION, \$185
(Includes luncheon on Tuesday, 5/12/2026)
- 1 FULL DAY ONLY, \$90 (Place a check mark on the day you are attending.)
 _____Tuesday _____Wednesday
- 1/2 DAY ONLY, \$50 (Write "AM" or "PM" on the day you are attending.)
 _____Tuesday _____Wednesday _____Thursday AM

Check type of credit requested:

- CJAD TJJD SW LPC LMFT CEU LCDC

Payment Information (Checks can be made payable to Vernon College)

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____
 EXPIRATION DATE: _____
 SECURITY CODE ON BACK: _____

Please sign below:

CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

NORTH TEXAS REGIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

DAY 2 : WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2026

7:30AM-8:00AM

Atrium Hallway/Vernon College

Coffee & light breakfast provided by the Northwest Texas Heart Gallery/2INgage

MORNING SESSIONS 8:00AM-12:00PM

OPTION 1 ROOM 302 LEO PEREZ

ETHICS: Monsters Among Us

OPTION 2 ROOM 309 BECKY CURTIS

JESSICA JOHNSON

Protecting Children in the Context of Substance Abuse

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

AFTERNOON SESSIONS 1:00PM-5:00PM

OPTION 1 ROOM 302 LEO PEREZ

Development & Educational Training: 50 Quotes of Power

OPTION 2 ROOM 309 KYLE HAVILAND

"The good, the bad and the ugly of AI"

CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

**NORTH TEXAS REGIONAL
TRAINING CONFERENCE**

DAY 3 : THURSDAY MAY 14, 2026

7:30AM-8:00AM

Atrium Hallway/Vernon College

Coffee & light breakfast provided by the Northwest Texas Heart Gallery/2INgage

MORNING SESSION 8:00AM-12:00PM

OPTION 1

ROOM 302

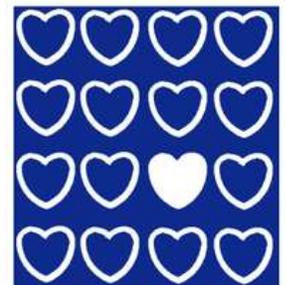
J.MARK WARREN

The Passion of the Work in Six Words: Fuel the Fire for What We Desire

DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS

PICK UP CEU CERTIFICATES

thank you for joining us!



FOR THOSE WHO

CARE

Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed in this conference are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the North Texas Regional Training Conference Committee or Vernon College

KIRSTA MELTON

Kirsta Leeburg Melton is the Founder and CEO of Institute to Combat Trafficking, an organization dedicated to seeking justice for victims of trafficking and holding traffickers accountable. From 2015-2019, Melton served as the Chief of the Human Trafficking Section of the Office of the Texas Attorney General, and from 2000-2014, prosecuted traffickers, abusers, rapists, and perpetrators of family violence. Melton is responsible for several of the State's first life sentences for trafficking and served as the lead prosecutor for the State of Texas in the takedown of Backpage.com. She has trained more than 30,000 people in person on human trafficking and been featured in multiple training films utilized nationwide. Over the past decade Melton played a critical role in the restructuring of Texas trafficking law and procedure and has been privileged to craft and lead incredible teams committed to seeking and demanding justice for victims and promoting cultural change. Her book, *Human Trafficking Investigation: A Practitioner's Guide to Making the Case*, is available on Amazon and Routledge.com.

FACT V. FICTION: THE REALITIES OF TRAFFICKING IN TEXAS- HUMAN TRAFFICKING- KIRSTA MELTON

Human trafficking is a buzz word that conjures images of brothels in Thailand or the rancor of the immigration debate. This workshop ends the confusion, arms the participant with an understanding of what human trafficking is and is not and helps us recognize this is an American problem with American buyers, sellers, and victims. It refocuses our attention on vulnerable populations unlikely to self-identify as victims or seek help. Participants walk through actual cases prosecuted in the state of Texas, learn the tools traffickers use to obtain and maintain victims, pinpoint the latest trends in trafficking and gain practical tools for victim identification and service within the corrections, probation, and other criminal justice contexts. This seminar equips participants to accept the challenge to change the culture in which we live from one that honors perpetrators to one that provides safety, security, and genuine reintegration for the survivors of trafficking.

WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION: USING BUYERS TO MAKE TRAFFICKING CASES- KIRSTA MELTON

(This includes State v. Steve Sumlin)

Human Trafficking is a crime of capitalism, sellers offering what buyers want to purchase, supply and demand at its most horrific. This seminar offers insight into the habits, motivations and purchasing patterns of sex buyers, how their conduct aids investigators and prosecutors in building evidence-based cases instead of relying on victim accounts. Through the review of State v. Sumlin, a continuous trafficking case, participants will learn how the criminal law views buyers, the intersection of buyers, probation, prisons and parole, the foundation of buyer behavior, and the investigative avenues it generates.

FLIPPING THE SCRIPT: CONFRONTING THE TRUTH ABOUT INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE-KIRSTA MELTON

The only reason that someone becomes a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or trafficking is because they encountered someone who was willing to beat them, rape them, terrorize or exploit them. While "stranger danger" is a familiar catchphrase, far more of these perpetrators are acquaintances, friends or family, making the betrayal more shocking and painful. Victims often blame themselves, excusing and denying perpetrator behavior while increasing their vulnerability and isolation. This seminar will help participants flip the script by defining intimate partner violence and exposing many of the myths and misunderstandings that allow it to flourish. We will discuss its impact not only on the primary victim but on the families and children that live in its shadow. Participants will leave with greater insight and ability to identify and support victims when they encounter them in their personal and professional circles.

THE DOG THAT DIDN'T BARK IN THE NIGHT: STATE V. JON THOMAS FORD- KIRSTA MELTON

On New Year's Day Dana Clair Edwards' parents found her lying dead on the floor of her guest bathroom. The autopsy revealed blunt force trauma and ligature strangulation. An investigation fraught with missteps led back to her ex-boyfriend, a seemingly mild-mannered middle-aged man from San Antonio's Alamo Heights community. With no criminal history, lost evidence and no eyewitnesses, the prosecution faced a daunting challenge. Celebrity attorney Dick DeGuerin led the defense. Participants will discuss the dynamics of intimate partner violence, the ultimate exercise of control through murder, ways to mitigate or turn investigatory weaknesses into strengths, and the importance of comprehensive case strategy in circumstantial murder cases.

KEVIN DUBOSE, DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Kevin DuBose serves as Deputy Chief Inspector General, overseeing criminal investigations, abuse, neglect, and exploitation cases for state and county operations, as well as security intelligence and gatehouse operations for the state.

He began his career in juvenile justice in 1995 with the Wichita County Juvenile Probation Department and joined the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission in 1999. In 2000, he became an Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Investigator and later a commissioned peace officer in 2009, the same year he was appointed Director of the Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Investigations Division. In 2012, he became Director of the Administrative Investigations Division for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. In addition to his civilian career, Mr. DuBose honorably served eight years in the United States Naval Reserve, including deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

He has contributed to the field as a national trainer, guest speaker, and former criminal justice faculty member for the University of Phoenix. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Midwestern State University and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Texas State University. He is also a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and the LEMIT Leadership Command College.

KELLY JONES

Kelly Jones is a Research and Data Specialist with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. She has been conducting research in the public interest since 2022, primarily in the development and implementation of impact evaluations of social service programs. She joined the TJJD team very recently in December 2025, and she is passionate about using research to find actionable insights that can help get justice-involved youth the supports they need to get onto a better path in life. She is also enthusiastic about sharing those insights with the broader juvenile justice community and working to align policy with evidence-based strategies for improving young lives, reducing recidivism, and uplifting communities through generational impact. Prior to research, she enjoyed over two decades of frontline work for various social service and education institutions serving the most vulnerable, including justice-involved youth. She earned a Master of Science in Applied Sociology from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas and is a member of Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society of Sociology. Her graduate research focused on the social production of ignorance, hence her interest in closing the knowledge gap between what has been proven to work and what is believed to work.

ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ-CANO

Alejandro Ramirez-Cano serves as a Data & Research Analyst with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's Central Support team in Austin, Texas. Like many in the field of juvenile justice, he's made helping people his life's mission; specifically, he's passionate about collaborating with practitioners to leverage data which generate insights that make positive, tangible impacts. Since starting his journey with the agency in January of 2022, he has engaged in several research projects involving collecting and converting data to turn into meaningful stories. He has presented nationally on incarcerated youth with capital offenses and evolving challenges in juvenile justice (such as Adverse Childhood Experiences, mental health diagnoses, and educational barriers). A member of Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society of Sociology, Alejandro received his bachelor of science in Applied Sociology, summa cum laude, from Texas State University in San Marcos. When not working, Alejandro enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing sports, and watching movies.

TYOLOGIES OF THE MODERN JUVENILE JUSTICE OFFENDER AND DIRECT CARE STAFF WHO ENGAGE IN STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT"- KEVIN DUBOSE, KELLY JONES & ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ-CANO

This presentation will provide insight into characteristics of modern juvenile justice offenders and how they differ from juvenile justice offenders of the past. We will discuss how the characteristics of the youth we care for make them particularly susceptible to emotional and sexual boundary violations. In addition, we will discuss the characteristics and traits of direct care staff who engage in staff sexual misconduct with these offenders and explore both the "professional predator" and "slippery slope" typologies of staff who engage in this conduct. Finally, we'll provide evidence-based recommendations for protecting both youth and staff.

LEO PEREZ

Leo Perez is a Unit Supervisor with the Hidalgo County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD). He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Texas-Pan American in 2004 and is a 1999 graduate of the University of Texas at Brownsville Police Academy. He joined Hidalgo County CSCD in 2005 as a Community Supervision Officer and served four years as a line officer before being assigned to the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Violent Offender Task Force from 2010 to 2023. During his tenure, he assisted in fugitive investigations and high-profile cases involving individuals under community supervision. Mr. Perez has held several leadership roles, including Assistant Supervisor, M.I.S. Manager, and Unit Supervisor. He currently serves as the department's Law Enforcement Liaison, Safety Officer, Field Safety Instructor, and Gang Intelligence Officer, among other key assignments. He is the creator of the P.O.S.T., D.E.P.O.T., and S.T.O.P. training programs, which have been presented at professional conferences across Texas. He is also an active member of the Texas Probation Association and a columnist for Corrections1.is awards include the Simon Property Rose Award (2003), the Judge Terry L. Jacks Award (2016), and the Sam Houston State University Award (2023), recognizing his contributions to the field of community corrections.

ETHICS: MONSTERS AMONG US:

The training class provides a general understanding of ethics in the profession of community corrections and social services. This instructor-led presentation will walk attendees through the world of ethics and its role. It will provide overall knowledge on how ethics and character are the keys to enhancing your profession. It will provide encouragement and guidance to both new and veteran officers. The training class is geared towards promoting professionalism while displaying the evil that some officials do. The training class weaves the stories of multiple probation officers throughout the United States, who have fallen prey to the criminal world. Sex, Drugs, Rape, Theft, and Bribery are just the beginning. Mr. Perez will summarize with 50 quotes of power: empowerment in the world of corrections and social services. (Adult Probation / Juvenile Probation / General Session)

DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATIONAL TRAINING: 50 QUOTES OF POWER-LEO PEREZ

Domestic terrorism is on the rise, and prevention is the key to everyone's safety. Departmental awareness provides an orientation on situational awareness. It is designed for you, the criminal justice employee, who can assist with the prevention of domestic terrorism. As domestic terrorism grows in numbers, there are some tools of the trade that can be applied to help deter your department from becoming a statistic. It will expose employees to areas of concern that are critical in ensuring a safe working environment. It will provide a proactive approach that will focus on empowering employees with guidance and knowledge. D.E.P.O.T is designed to bring training to the field of criminal justice, by a member of the same profession, because "We are each other's greatest teachers."

BECKY CURTIS – CPI SUBSTANCE USE SPECIALIST

Becky has been with the State Office Investigations Behavioral Health Team as a Substance Use Specialist since March 2024 and covers Regions 06-11, where she works closely with CPI Regional field staff and community partners to develop and present trainings and consult in investigations where substance use intersects with child safety. Becky has been with the Department for more than 13 years and acted as an Investigator and an Investigations Supervisor in both Rural and Bexar Counties, and as a Risk Manager and Child Safety Specialist with specific emphasis on serious and near fatal injuries. Becky completed a BS Degree in Molecular Biology from Texas Lutheran University.

JESSICA JOHNSON – CPI SUBSTANCE USE SPECIALIST

Jessica has been with the State Office Investigations Behavioral Health Team as a Substance Use Specialist since May 2024 and covers Regions 01-05. Jessica has been with DFPS for 20 years. Jessica has worked for both Adult Protective Services and Child Protective Services. During her tenure with CPS she has served as an Investigator and Investigation Supervisor for both region 06 and the State Office Master Investigation Program. Jessica has an undergraduate degree in Government and African American Studies from The University of Texas at Austin and a MA Sociology from The University of Houston.

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF SUBSTANCE USE- BECKY CURTIS & JESSICA JOHNSON

This training contains two distinct parts, both designed to inform the audience and help lead to more trauma-informed and well-rounded child abuse investigations. Part I: Trends, Legal Intoxicants, & the Texas Compassionate Use Program aims to educate the audience about emerging risks across Texas and highlight specific concerns related to easily accessible substances, as well as provide updates about medical marijuana within the scope of child welfare. Part II: Co-Occurring Disorders & Child Maltreatment will provide context for how substance use and mental health disorders can work in combination to create potentially dangerous situations for the children we serve.

KYLE HAVILAND

Kyle Haviland has over 15 years of experience in the managed technology services industry and serves in a leadership role at Business Technology Solutions Group (BTSG), helping organizations use technology more effectively, securely, and strategically. As Director of Operations, Kyle oversees service delivery, leads technical teams, and implements scalable technology solutions that modernize infrastructure and improve operational efficiency. He specializes in artificial intelligence, automation, and data-driven workflows, with a focus on how these technologies are transforming the way people work and how organizations operate. His approach emphasizes practical, real-world application over theory.

“THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY OF AI”- KYLE HAVILAND

In this workshop, attendees will learn how AI is changing work, school, and organizations, and how to adapt to these changes. Kyle will demonstrate how individuals and teams can do more with less using AI and automation, while increasing productivity and reducing manual effort.

Participants will also gain hands-on insight into practical AI tools and workflows they can begin using immediately to save time, streamline daily tasks, and improve outcomes. The session will explore the future of work and learning, helping attendees understand what’s coming next and how to prepare.

With a background in education, Kyle brings a clear, structured approach to teaching complex topics, ensuring attendees leave with actionable knowledge they can apply right away.

Topics:

1. AI is changing everything.
 - What it means for work, school, and organizations.
2. Doing more with less.
 - How AI & Automation increase productivity across any organization.
3. AI for everyday work.
 - Practical ways anyone can save time starting today.
4. The future of work & learning.
 - How to prepare students and organizations for what comes next.

Disclaimer: Please contact your place of employment for policies on use of AI in your workplace. This presentation is simply a presentation on AI and is not a recommendation or new policy.

J. MARK WARREN

Mark Warren is a (mostly) retired Training Consultant and former employee with the Texas Association of Counties in his hometown of Austin, Texas. His presentations convey a message of inspiration, motivation and new direction and revolve around leadership, interpersonal communication and relationship skills, workplace diversity and professionalism, bridging the generations and customer service excellence. Mark worked with the TAC Leadership Program and served as the coordinator of its Leadership training from 2002 and County Best Practices from 2009 to 2015. After graduating from St. Edward's University in 1977, Mark spent 23 years with the Texas Department of Public Safety, promoting to Training Officer at the Training Academy in Austin in 1981, and retiring in 2000 as the Academy's Assistant Commander. From December 2015 through August 2017, Mark presented a series of presentations on verbal de-escalation with the Texas Police Association for the Department of Public Safety and law enforcement and criminal justice professionals across Texas.

For more information on Mark's presentations, please contact Mark directly at mwarren24@msn.com.

THE PASSION OF THE WORK IN SIX WORDS: FUEL THE FIRE FOR WHAT WE DESIRE- J. MARK WARREN

The artist Vincent Van Gogh once said "your profession is not what brings home your paycheck. Your profession is what you were put on this earth to do with such passion and intensity that it becomes your calling". This presentation discusses the definitions of passion and intensity and offers perspective on how to apply their meaning to our daily existence.

Passion is conviction, desire and devotion.

Intensity is strength, force and feeling.

Without these six words, our lives and work are just occupying space. Henry David Thoreau once wrote about the result of losing one's dreams and aspirations: that if are lost, "you may still exist, but you have ceased to live."

Presentation Objectives

By the end of this presentation, participants should be better able to:

1. Apply the answer to the question: What makes people want to come back to a particular job, more than anything else , on Monday morning?
2. Name and define at least four of the eight "ingredients" for passion and intensity as presented.

Complaints: Complaints about provider or workshop content may be directed to Andrea Sanchez, Director of Continuing Education at Vernon College or to the TCBAP Standards Committee, 1005 Congress Avenue, Suite 460, Austin, Texas 78701, Fax (512) 476 -7297

Satisfactory Completion: Participants must attend the entire session and complete the evaluation form for satisfactory completion of the session.



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