

60th NYSSSWA State Conference – Schedule of Events

Wednesday, 11/5/2025 Pre-Conference (1.5 CEs) [Optional]

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm "Pre Conference: Mindfulness and Meditation for School Social Workers" by Jill Wojcik Pula, LCSW, 500 Certified Yoga Instructor

Thursday 11/6/2025 (5 CEs)

8:00 am – 8:45 am **Registration, Continental Breakfast** (*Nutra-Grain blueberry & raspberry bars, Nature's Bakery oatmeal strawberry crumble bar, fruit bowl, coffee/tea*)

8:45 am – 9:00 am **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

9:00 am – 10:30 am **Opening Keynote: "Diamond-Strong: 60 Years of School Social Work Service Through a Diversity Lens" by Rolanda L. Ward, Ph.D., MSW, M.Div. (1.5 CEs)**

10:30 am – 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 am – 12:30 pm **Breakout Sessions A: (1.5 CEs)**

A1: "The ADHD & Executive Function Lens for School-Based Interventions" by Valerie Mackiewicz; MS, AACC, CACP, Certified ADHD Coach Practitioner

A2: "Pre-Teen Suicide: State of the Research" by Paige Picou, Ph.D.

A3: "Coping Skills Support Group- learn how to start one in your school!" Tina LaMendola, LCSW, DBT-CBT Specialist

A4: "Chronic Absenteeism: Breaking the cycle" by Nicole Wiler, LMSW & Colleen Ramos, LMSW

12:30 pm – 2:00 **Luncheon, Ruth Schwartz Award, Annual Meeting**

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Breakout Sessions B (2 CEs)**

B1: "The Grief & Trauma Backpack" by Kara Juszcak, LCSW-R, CCFP

B2: "Implementing 'Just Practice' Assessments in School Social Work Practice" by Laura Rice Stein, Ph.D., LCSW, MS.Ed.

B3: "From Personal Loss to Creating Connections: A School-Based Approach to Co-Occurring Disorders" by Stephanie Marquesano, Esq.

B4: "Suicide Safety Planning with Youth: A Clinical Workshop" by Paige Picou, Ph.D.

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Meet and Greet Informal Gathering**

Friday 11/7/2025 (5.5 CEs)

7:45 am – 8:30 am **Coffee/Tea, Continental Breakfast** (*Fruit, danish and pastries, muffins, bagels and cream cheese, and coffee/tea*)

8:30 am – 10:00 am **General Session: "Supporting Students on Medication: A Psychopharmacology Primer" by Dori Marshall, M.D., (1.5 CEs)**

10:00 am – 10:30 am **BREAK**

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Breakout Sessions C (1.5 CEs)

C1: "From Dysregulated to Resilient: Strengthening Frustration Tolerance Through Relationships" by Kelly Zinn, D.S.W., LCSW

C2: "Cannabis and the Developing Brain: The Blunt Truth" by Erin Parr, MACP, CASAC

C3: "Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of Eating Disorders" by Alexandra Wilkosz, DSW., LCSW

C4: "Applying DBT in a School Setting Within the MTSS Framework" -Monique Johnson, LCSW

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm Luncheon

12:45 pm – 2:15 pm Breakout Sessions D (1.5 CEs)

D1: "Navigating Grief & Loss in Schools: Strategies for Support" by Kelly Zinn, DSW, LCSW

D2: "What Don't You Know About E-Cigarettes & Vaping?" by Colleen Babcock & Erin Parr, MACP, CASAC

D3: "Building Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Programming in NYS Schools" by Kristen Stanton, M.S.

D4: "Facilitating a DBT-Informed Parent Group in a School Setting" by Monique Johnson, LCSW

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm Break

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Closing Keynote: "Utilizing Mental Health Team Relationships to Maximize Student Outcomes" by James Garner, LMSW & Kate DiGregorio, LCSW (1 CE)