

### **Mike Mertz**

Michael H. Mertz is an experienced law enforcement professional with over 20 years investigating crimes of family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child abuse. Mike is dynamic presenter with more than 20 years of experience training law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals on appropriate, victim centered responses to the crimes of family violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Mike is the owner of C&M Consulting and Professional Training Services LLC in Dublin, Georgia and previously served as the Violence Against Women Program Director for the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and Family Violence Division Commander for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office. He is a certified expert witness on dynamics and investigation of crimes of family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child abuse. He is a Georgia POST Certified Law Enforcement Officer, Georgia POST Certified Instructor (2001), Certified FLETC "S.T.A.R." instructor (2001), Office of Victims of Crime Certified "Ultimate Trainer" (2005) and is a Southern Baptist Association Ordained Minister (1990). Mike is the recipient of the 2023 Gender Justice Award, presented by the Georgia Commission on Family Violence.

### **Carolynn Brooks**

Carolynn Brooks is the Family Violence Fatality Review Project Coordinator at the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. Her role involves conducting research, writing reports, and providing technical assistance and training on family violence. Prior to her current position, she has gained experience in various fields, including direct victim services, clinical psychology research, and working in a cooperative medical and psychological practice.

In terms of education, Carolynn graduated with honors from Houghton College, where she earned a degree in Biology. She later pursued a master's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Rochester. Carolynn received the Mary Ellen Burris Human Development Award for her dedication to applying human development theory and research into practice during her time at the University.

In addition to her formal accolades, Carolynn has received informal awards that showcase her exceptional abilities. She was honored with the Wonder Woman Award, highlighting her ability to handle complex tasks effortlessly. She also received the Chair of Research Award, which recognizes her commitment to delving deep into the available resources and data to support innovation in addressing family violence in Georgia.

### **Kylee Elliott**

Kylee Elliott is the Support for Survivors of Murder-Suicide Project Coordinator for the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. In that capacity she both individually supports survivors that have lost loved ones to murder-suicide by walking alongside them as they navigate the myriad of legal, emotional, and social challenges present after such a tragedy. She develops, promotes, and guides community driven programs that enhance and build local services for survivors of murder-suicide across the state of

Georgia, and she created and leads the Georgia Murder-Suicide Response Network which consists of a statewide network of licensed mental health clinicians trained in providing grief support to survivors of violent loss using the *Restorative Retelling* model of clinical support.

Prior to her current role Kylee worked for nearly a decade at a community based domestic violence and sexual assault center directing and managing their legal advocacy program.

Kylee has served on the Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) Rules Committee for the State of Georgia and is qualified as an expert witness in family violence. She is the current chair of the Georgia TPO Forum, is a steering committee member of the National Homicide Roundtable and is a member of the Georgia Suicide Stakeholder Task Force. Kylee is the former chair of both the Cobb County Domestic Violence Task Force and the Fatality Review Committee.

Further, Kylee regularly provides training and technical support both nationally and locally on issues related to family violence, murder-suicide response, safety planning and stalking victimization. Kylee is a Certified Professional Trainer on Stalking Victimization by SPARC.