

# CSEC Conference

*Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*

Day 1 - When Coercion Feels Like Choice



## Dr. Chris Wilson, Psy.D.

Dr. Chris Wilson is a retired psychologist from Portland, Oregon. He is currently the Director of Being Trauma Informed (BTI), an organization dedicated to making the science of trauma accessible and practical. Prior to starting BTI, Dr. Wilson had a private practice conducting forensic evaluations and psychotherapy, while also providing training and consultation with a focus on domestic violence and sexual assault. For seven years he worked in the Oregon Department of Corrections and for ten years ran groups for abusive men.

Dr. Wilson is currently a guest faculty member at the US Army's Special Victim Capabilities Course, where he teaches military criminal investigators about the neurobiology of trauma. He has served as the Training Director for Certified Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview, as well as curriculum

consultant for The National Center for Campus Public Safety. Dr. Wilson co-authored, with the National Crime Victim Law Institute, the bulletin entitled "Judges' and Juries' Common Misperceptions About Domestic Violence Victims' Behaviors." He also co-authored, with End Violence Against Women International, the bulletin entitled "Understanding The Neurobiology of Trauma and Implications for Interviewing" (an abbreviated version of which was translated and provided for Danish law enforcement in 2017).

He's provided training, plenary, keynote, and breakout sessions for conferences and organizations across the United States, Canada, and Europe, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, US Department of Justice, the US Department of the Interior, the US Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force, and the US Office for Victims of Crime. His audiences include judges, law enforcement officers, university and college staff and faculty, advocates, attorneys, and clinicians.

Dr. Wilson received his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Pacific University in 2002. He was licensed as a psychologist in the state of Oregon in 2005 and for six years served on the Board of the Oregon Psychological Association. In his spare time he loves to spend time with his family (which includes two lab/doberman rescues), golf, and play the guitar.

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## Bekah Charleston



Bekah Charleston is a nationally respected leader and a dynamic public speaker whose story of survival, triumph, and determination has been featured in communities across the United States and at the national level by numerous media outlets including Deadline Crimes, Daystar, Dallas Morning News, NPR, USA Today and the New York Post. After enduring a decade of abuse and exploitation, she built a career dedicated to the empowerment of Survivors and focused on community collaboration at all levels. In 2013, she launched Bekah Speaks Out to provide customized training and consultancy services to law enforcement, service providers, and community leaders alike. Since then, she has earned degrees in criminal justice and criminology, filed a federal lawsuit against the state of Nevada over the legalized prostitution industry, and worked with senators to advocate for the

Trafficking Survivors Relief Act which provides victims the opportunity to vacate or expunge federal convictions resulting from their victimization. She previously served as the executive director of a non-profit that provided emergency housing, advocacy, and customized care to sexually exploited individuals and their families where she managed daily operations, programming, and community outreach initiatives. She currently is a member of the TX Survivor Leadership Council and is the Chair of the Advisory Committee to the Southern NV Human Trafficking Task Force. She has been an active member of the Fort Worth and Dallas Human Trafficking Task Forces for several years, has been publicly recognized for her critical work in the anti-trafficking field, and has delivered a passionate talk at TEDx entitled “Tragedy to Triumph” that focused on the importance of resilience.

Through her personal and professional platforms, she provides guidance and coaching for program development, strategic planning, and economic empowerment initiatives for survivors of trafficking. Dedicated to creating sustainable changes in policy, culture, and victim-centered responses, Bekah continues to educate audiences on the evolving dynamics of survival, from trauma to healing to community reintegration, and all of the challenges in between. In 2020, her advocacy efforts came full circle when Bekah herself was granted a full pardon by the President of the United States for crimes she was forced to commit during her victimization, reminding us all to hold steadfast to hope and to never stop fighting for justice. Speaking from the heart, she delivers a message of hope rooted in science, empathy, self-empowerment, and transferable skillsets that every audience can grasp. Bekah’s goal is not only to change perceptions, but to leave a legacy that demonstrates the dignity and strength of Survivorship.