

**Breakout Session Number:** 97  
**Breakout Session Day:** Friday  
**Breakout Session Number:** VII  
**Breakout Room:** LaSalle A  
**Department/Discipline:** Vendor session

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| <b>Session Title:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Breaking the Cycle: Addressing the Root Causes of Chronic Absenteeism Through a Trauma-Informed Lens                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Session Description:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Chronic absenteeism is often a response to underlying challenges such as trauma, anxiety, depression, and behavioral dysregulation. This session explores how avoidance behaviors stem from emotional distress and how punitive school climates can exacerbate disengagement. Educators will learn how to shift from a reactive approach to a trauma-informed framework that fosters student trust, engagement, and consistency. Behavior-specific interventions include structured morning check-ins to establish routines, function-based behavior management systems that promote socially appropriate behavior and adaptability, and de-escalation strategies to support students struggling with emotional regulation. By implementing these proactive strategies, schools can create predictable, supportive environments that address the root causes of absenteeism. Participants will leave with actionable tools to build strong student-teacher relationships, reduce school avoidance, and improve overall attendance and academic success. |
| <b>Facilitator Bio:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Presenter 1: Rebekah Dalvano, M.S., LMHC, National Director of IMPACT</p> <p>Rebekah is a licensed mental health counselor specializing in trauma, with advanced training in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and adoption competency through Rutgers University curriculum. With extensive experience in school-based mental health services, Rebekah has dedicated their career to supporting students facing adversity. Since joining Invo in 2020, Rebekah has played a pivotal role in expanding and enhancing services, now serving as the National Director of IMPACT. In this capacity, she leads and oversees a nationwide initiative that integrates mental and behavioral health services in schools, ensuring high-quality care for students while supporting and training multidisciplinary teams of providers. Passionate about fostering collaboration and driving meaningful outcomes, Rebekah is committed to equipping professionals with the tools and strategies needed to create lasting change in the lives of children and families.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



**Presenter 2: Felicia Benaglio, M.A., BCBA, Senior Program Manager**

Felicia is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and currently serves as the Senior Program Manager for the IMPACT program. In this role, she leads and supports teams of qualified mental health professionals and behavior analysts who deliver integrated services to students affected by trauma. She provides ongoing guidance to both behavioral and mental health teams, helping them implement trauma-informed classroom strategies tailored to individual student needs. In addition to her leadership responsibilities, Felicia has worked directly with students to develop individualized behavioral plans rooted in trauma-informed care. She also partners with teachers to ensure these strategies are successfully implemented in the classroom. With over a decade of experience providing school-based behavioral support, Felicia is deeply committed to delivering high-quality, integrated services that benefit both students and educators. Her work emphasizes collaboration, resource-sharing, and a student-centered approach to ensure all members of the school community are equipped to succeed.



**Vendor Information:**



Website: <https://www.invocompanies.com/>

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- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/invohealthcare>