



Solution Focused Brief Therapy Association

News of the Difference

August 2025

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Do you have an idea for our newsletter? Please get in touch! board@sfbta.org

Message from the President, Shaema Imam

Greetings dear members and SF practitioners and researchers. We hope you have been enjoying our new website! We are updating it regularly with new information about our committees, publications by our members, and SF related organizations around the world.

Our conference is less than 70 days away! You can see the counter in real time at sfbtaconference.org. Updates about the program and conference-adjacent activities are available at that link as well.

We had an excellent town hall and training session this month with the wonderful Dr. Linda Metcalf! 22 people from 9 different countries joined us for an update on association happenings as well as an experience-infused informative session on Solution Focused Methods in schools. Please see Nate's article about the event!

Our regular features are also available this month, an overview of SF events around the world and a spotlight on one of SFBTA's best known board members! If you have a picture to contribute for our Member Meetups, or have a congratulations message to write for an SF colleague for our Member Milestones section, please do send it in for our September issue.

Our committees have been busy! Please see updates about our Professional Development committee, our Welcoming and Belonging Committee, our Research Committee, and an intriguing new project presented by our

Archives Committee! We would like to make SFBTA an inclusive space with opportunities for all our members to contribute in ways that suit them best. Join us!

Speaking of joining us, our Annual members meeting is coming up in November. We will be electing at least 4 new board members. Would you like to be one of them? Find out how in the pages of this month's newsletter!

Warmly, Shaema



URGENT NEED

Seeking 2026 Conference Location

Our 2026 location has not yet been finalized! If you have a city in mind that is willing to host, please let us know at board@sftba.org.



Thinking beyond 2026, the SFBTA Board has been discussing where to hold future conferences, and we would love to hear from you. Your input will help us decide on locations that best meet the needs and interests of our members in the years to come.

We are considering conference locations throughout the Americas—including North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. In addition to gathering location preferences, we are also looking for members and institutions who may be interested in hosting a future conference. Hosting is an important way to bring SFBTA to new communities, strengthen local networks, and showcase your region.

Your feedback will guide us in planning events that are both accessible and meaningful for our community. Thank you for your input and for helping us shape the future of SFBTA conferences.

Please email us at board@sfbta.org with your thoughts!

With thanks, — The SFBTA Board

[Email Us](mailto:board@sfbta.org)



SFBTA 2025 CONFERENCE

Updates

[See our Speaker Lineup!](#)



SESSION SPEAKERS

SFBTA 2025 CONFERENCE



WHITEHEAD
Naomi



SIMON
Joel



CABY
Filip



CASEY
Sharon



LE HUQUET
Jennifer

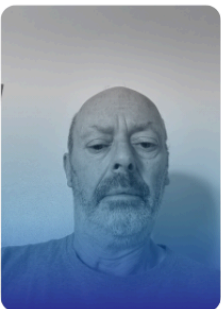


SESSION SPEAKERS

SFBTA 2025 CONFERENCE



COUMBE-LILLEY
John



FLATT
Steve



GREGORY
Laura



PICHOT
Teri



GRETTON
Tara

[See Full Speaker Lineup](#)




SFBTA 2025 AGENDA IS HERE!

You can download and print your copy directly from our website to start planning your conference experience today.

sfbtaconference.org

Take a sneak peek at our upcoming SFBTA merchandise! Proceeds from each sale serve as a donation to the SFBTA, contributing to our efforts in advancing solution-focused practice through education, research, and community events.

[Pre-order Now](#)

The SFBTA 2025 Conference Agenda is now live! 📄 ✨
Download and print your copy from our website and start planning your sessions today.

[Access Here](#)





We're excited to announce that three incredible sponsors have already joined us for #SFBTA2025! If you'd like to be part of this growing global event, explore our sponsorship tiers below and join the lineup.

[See Sponsorship Tiers](#)



Townhall and Training

Recap and Reflections by Nate Guyton

Tracing Ripples Forward: Reflections on the SFBTA's Final Town Hall of 2025

In a tone more like a gathering around a familiar fire than a broadcasted event, the Solution-Focused Brief Therapy Association held its final town hall of the year—an intentional offering of shared presence. What emerged was a confluence of organizational updates, narrative momentum, and an evocative training by Dr. Linda Metcalf that reminded us that change, like language, is co-authored in real time.

A Community in Motion: Organizational Updates

The board's report resembled a year of growth with a redesigned website as its new front cover. Easier navigation now leads users into curated research, archived board meetings, and a living directory of global solution-focused conversations. Members were encouraged not just to consume the content but to participate in its becoming: submitting listings, reporting glitches, and seeding the new monthly newsletter with book reviews, practice briefs, and community announcements. And then, with a subtle shift in gear, the conversation turned toward the horizon—Toronto, November 6–9, 2025—the next annual conference already taking shape. With 61 registrants, 63 speakers, and 46 workshops (organized across five themes), the event promises to be both intimate and expansive. A keynote by Jennifer Gerwing will anchor the weekend, alongside presentations from Becky Taylor, Dina Bednar, Shima Husen, and many others. Sponsorships remain open. Nominations for next year's board, too, are encouraged—submitted directly through the website. Meanwhile, bids for the 2026 conference location are still being accepted, and participants were reminded to review the bylaws ahead of November's members meeting.

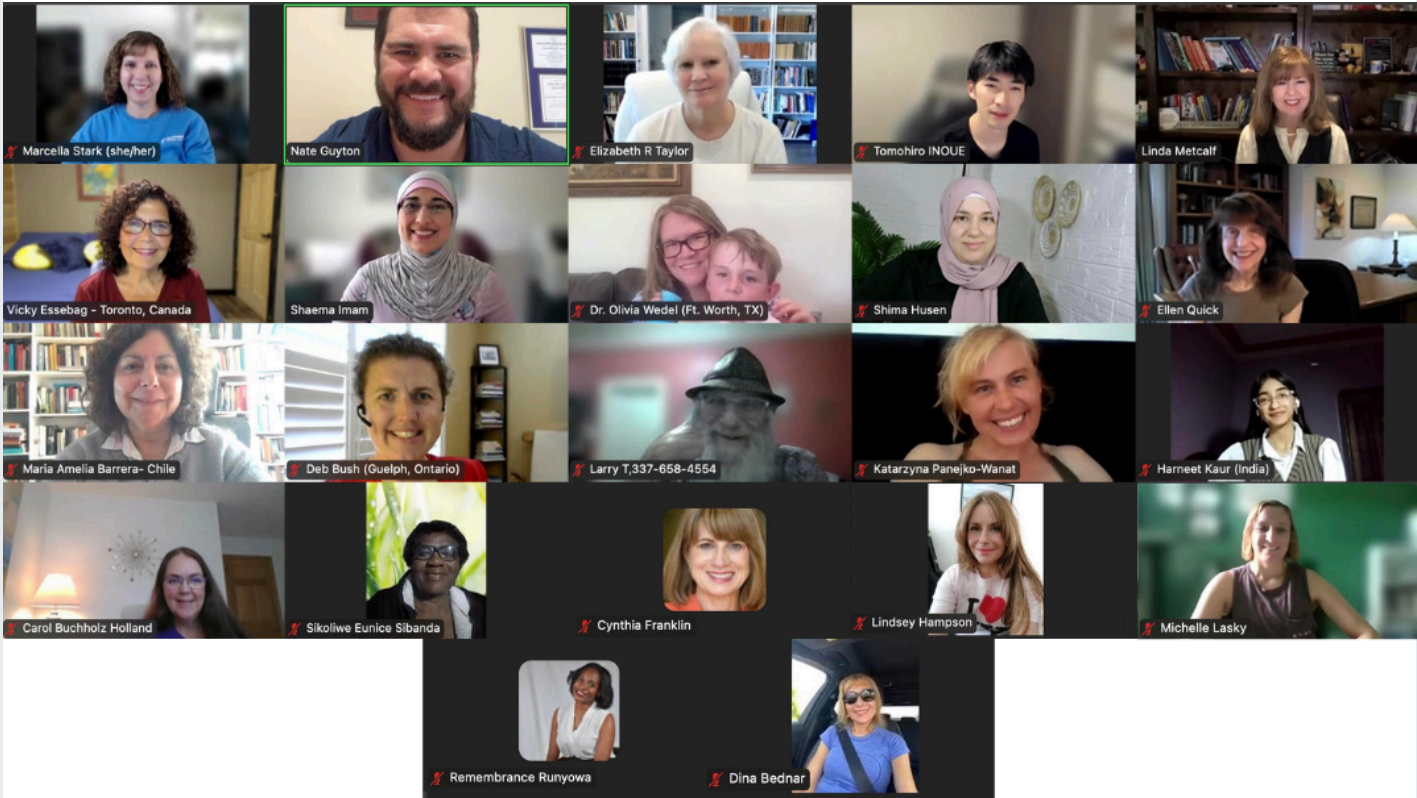
Anchoring Change in Language: Dr. Linda Metcalf's Training

If the meeting had a gravitational center, it was Linda Metcalf's training on solution-focused school counseling: a thoughtful, field-tested synthesis of narrative reframing and systemic thinking. Speaking with the grounded authority of a longtime educator and counselor, Linda offered not only techniques but a philosophy rooted in hope and in the belief that language is both the map and the territory. She approached classroom struggles—bullying, disruptions, even gang involvement—not as fixed problems but as stories awaiting a shift in plot. At the heart of her approach stood the miracle question, a deceptively simple prompt that unlocks preferred futures and reveals agency where it was previously obscured. Teachers and parents (often treated as side characters in educational crises) were reimagined as vital co-authors, their language and presence shaping the emotional climate of the classroom. One anecdote stood out: a mother, previously labeled a “helicopter parent,” whose hovering dissolved once her child's strengths came into focus. The problem didn't disappear, it was redescribed. Through this lens, behavior is not pathology, but communication; and change begins with how we listen. Participants were invited to rethink the language they use to describe students and systems. Reframing labels, identifying exceptions, and amplifying small moments of success—these practices, Linda noted, are not add-ons to the work; they are the work. Even logistical acts, like walking a student back to class after a session, become rituals of reconnection. Scaling tools, such as rating classroom climate or student mood, become conversational doorways into potential. She shared practical

strategies: using music to ease transitions, offering noise-canceling headphones as tools for regulation, and creating space for students to “reset” rather than retreat. One particularly moving story featured a teacher whose student helped her improve classroom participation through the very tools Linda taught—scaling, reflection, and attentive listening. In this story, the student became the spark of transformation, and the teacher became the learner. The loop closed, not with a solution, but with a relationship.

Sustaining the Work: Looking Beyond the Town Hall

As Linda’s session came to a close, participants were reminded of her ongoing contributions—SF Connection webinars, weekly educator tips, and her upcoming presentation with Marcella at the 7th Solution Books Conference. The invitation was clear: stay connected, try something new, share what works. The board concluded with a series of open doors—calls for contributions to the newsletter, reminders about committee involvement (particularly Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion), and gentle encouragement to shape the community not just as members, but as stewards of its future. What resonated most, perhaps, was not a single announcement or technique but the atmosphere: one of relational momentum. If solution-focused work reminds us that people are not their problems, this meeting reminded us that organizations, too, are not their structures—they are their conversations.



[See Additional Resources from Linda Here](#)



SF AROUND THE WORLD
Events and SF Gatherings

EBTA Brief Therapy Association Conference

Where: Roskilde, Denmark (Suggested airport: Copenhagen)

When: 19-21 September 2025

Theme: "In Between"

Conference Website: <https://www.ebta2025.dk/>

Registration for participants and workshops are open!

Mastering Solution Focused School Counseling

Where: Dallas, Texas

When: 26 September 2025

Conference Website: <http://solutionfocusedschool.com/>

The 7th Annual Solution Focused School Conference

Where: Live streamed virtual event

When: 10-11 October 2025

Theme: "Unstoppable School Counselors"

Conference Website: <https://solutionfocusedschool.com/conference-25>

SF24/26 Online Conference

When: 5-6 February 2026

Call for proposals now open: <https://www.solutionfocus24.com/>

SF24/25 Watch Party with Teri Pichot

When: Every first Thursday of the month

5 PM CET / 11 AM EDT

Website link: <https://www.solutionfocus24.com/>

Watch parties are free but registration is required

SOLWorld Summer Retreat 2026

Where: Möschberg Oberthal Switzerland

When: 10-15 August 2026

Eventbrite page: [Link here](#)



MEET THE CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Johnny Kim



Johnny Kim

Board Member

Johnny S. Kim, Ph.D., LCSW, is a professor at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work. Dr. Kim received his Master's degree in social work from Boston College, Ph.D. in social work from the University of Texas at Austin, and was a Council on Social Work Education Minority Clinical Fellow. His teaching areas include clinical social work theory and practice, solution-focused brief therapy, and school social work. Dr. Kim's research focuses on evaluating solution-focused brief therapy, school-based interventions, meta-analysis and evidence-based practice. He has published over 50 articles in peer reviewed journals, book chapters and books. Dr. Kim is a member of the Research Committee for the Solution-Focused Brief Therapy Association and serves on the editorial board for several journals. Prior to his doctoral studies, Dr. Kim worked as a school social worker and case manager for community-based mental health agencies in Seattle.



BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Board Nominations and Committee Meetings

Board has at least 4 spots opening up for the 2026 to 2028 term!



If you have an SFBTA member in mind to nominate or would like to nominate yourself, welcome! Elections will be held at the Annual Members Meeting at the Conference. (Presence at the conference is not mandatory for nomination or election). Nomination information and form can be found at:

[Nominate](#)

The Professional Development Committee had its inaugural interest meeting!



The PDC met for its interest meeting on Sunday, August 24th, 2025. 14 eager members expressed interest in helping run this committee, including many new faces. Several ideas came up in the brainstorming process, including mentor-mentee dyads, skill development workshops, more training sessions linked with the town hall sessions, affinity and specialization group meetings, case study sessions, and the possibility of formal supervision relationships that some professionals need for licensure! Stay tuned for updates!

[More about the PDC](#)

The newly named Welcome and Belonging Committee had its inaugural meeting this month!



The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee, which has been active since 2022, had an interest meeting on Sunday, August 24th, 2025 to get some fresh ideas and direction. It was decided to put a greater emphasis on outreach, invitation to underrepresented groups, financial support to reduce barriers to participation, and lower-cost opportunities for newer SF professionals to come forward and share their knowledge and talents. Members from 6 different countries expressed interest in helping with this committee. We have room for more if you'd like to join us and contribute your ideas to lay out the welcome mat and create a supportive inclusive community for SF folks.

[More about the WBC](#)



Research Committee has selected its Research Award Winners!

You all will have to wait for November's conference for the official announcement of the winners. Please see our website for more information about the Research Committee and its work.

[More about the Research Committee](#)

Archives Committee Interest Meeting Official Notice!

Anyone interested in putting together a documentary on the origins and development of Solution Focused Brief Therapy? We are hoping to interview the practitioners who worked with Steve de Shazer and Insoo Kim Berg as they



formulated this modality and treatment method. How did SFBT develop over time and what does that mean for its future? All welcome to join, from those who knew Steve and Insoo personally, to documentary film-makers and online content developers, to newer SF fans interested in discovering details who can help us bring these stories to light. Interest meeting to be held September 7th! Please email board@sfbta.org to let us know you are interested! (even if that particular meeting date does not work for you).

[Express Intent](#)



Join Us! SFBTA Committees

We have several committees that need new members:

- Welcoming and Belonging Committee
- Association Development Committee
- Conference 2026 Committee
- Finance Committee
- Research Committee
- Website Development Committee
- Newsletter Committee
- Professional Development Committee

And maybe some new ones you can suggest! Such as an SFBTA Book Club? What else? If interested, you can view more information about the committees below and contact board@sfbta.org to express your intent to join!

[Learn More](#)

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