



MJJA 2024 SPRING  
CONFERENCE

May 15-17

OASIS HOTEL &  
CONVENTION CENTER  
SPRINGFIELD, MO

Sharing Our Wisdom,  
Shining Our Light



# **Conference Registration Fees:**

MJJA Member rate: \$250    Non-Member rate: \$320

Conference day rate: \$150    Guest fee for meals ONLY: \$125

Corporate Sponsors NO CHARGE!!!

\$425—Exhibit fee—Private Vendor main representative (required)

\$125—Exhibit fee—Additional representative (no workshop)

\$250—Exhibit fee—Additional representative including workshop (MJJA Member Rate)

\$320—Exhibitor fee—Additional representative including workshop (Non-Member Rate)

*Note: Only registered attendees, guests, faculty and exhibitors will be permitted to participate in conference meals, refreshment breaks and events!!*

- ◆ **The courses are MO Bar accredited for CLEs—Pending**
- ◆ **University of MO, Columbia—School of Social Work CEUs—Pending**
- ◆ **Post Hours—Pending**

## **MJJA's Spring Conference is being held at the Oasis Hotel & Conference Center, Springfield, MO**

**Room rate is \$104**

Click on the link below to make your reservation now!

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/BF43L8>

Reservations can also be made by calling the hotel at 417-866-5253. In order to get the special rate, let them know you are with the MJJA Spring Conference.

**The deadline to make hotel reservations is April 15, 2024**

**Overflow hotel information:** Fairfield Inn & Suites Springfield North

You can make your reservation by clicking on this link:

[Book your group rate for Missouri Juvenile Association](#)

The room rate and deadline are the same as the Oasis Hotel & Conference Center

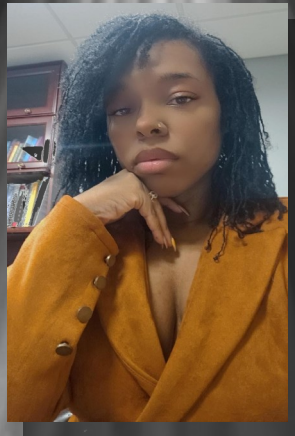
## **WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**

Juvenile and Family Court Personnel, Juvenile Detention Professionals, Judges, Attorneys, Children's Division, Division of Youth Services, Law Enforcement, Guardians ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Educators, Child Advocacy Centers, Child Care Providers, Youth Service Professionals, Social Workers, Private Practitioners, School Representatives, Parents, Community Leaders, State Lawmakers, Policymakers, School Resource Officers

***A very special THANK YOU to our  
MJJA Corporate Sponsors:***



# Wednesday Afternoon



Dr. Shameka Stewart

Dr. Shameka Stewart is an Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the Juvenile Forensic Speech-Language Pathologist(r). Dr. Stewart is also a special education advocate trained by the Wright's Law training center. Dr. Stewart's clinical and scholarly work specializes in Juvenile Forensics, Law Enforcement Interaction with youth with CD, child language disorders and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). Her primary research focuses on the Confluence and Impact of cognitive and communication disorders on the school-to-confinement pipeline, status offenses, involvement with the criminal justice system, law enforcement interaction, and criminal recidivism in youth placed at-risk for delinquency and crime (especially Black and Brown youth from under-resourced areas). Dr. Stewart is also a clinically certified and licensed speech-language pathologist and is licensed to practice in Maryland, Washington, D.C, and multiple other states. Through her work, Dr. Stewart has created cutting edge social justice and juvenile justice specialty courses for graduate CSD students, nationally known training programs for law enforcement and legal counsel, and national and international CE workshops and training for licensed SLP clinicians, students, and families of children with special needs.

***Plenary—The Importance of Cultural Awareness for Youth with Language and Learning Disorders***

This presentation will discuss language and learning disorders and the cultural and linguistic differences and considerations presented with Black and Latinx youth. Language and Learning manifests and impacts youth differently. especially when Black and Latinx youth are expected to respond and engage from a standard that is not conducive or supportive of their cultural and linguistic development. Participants will be engaged in discussions about terminology and labels that are more harmful than helpful for this population, and best practices for working with, identifying, advocating for, and supporting this population.

***Workshop—Reading Between the Lines, What the Academic and Medical Records can Inform You About Youth with Disabilities***

Summary: This presentation will engage the participants in an interactive, hands on session on changing the way they view and perceive the academic and medical records of youth with disabilities. We will discuss what story the record tells and how it can inform preparation for defense, support, and advocacy. This presentation will weave throughout the discussion of Black youth with untreated and underdiagnosed or undiagnosed learning and communication disorders.



James Garbarino, PhD

James Garbarino received his PhD in Human Development and Family Studies from Cornell University in 1973. He is Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Cornell University and at Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Garbarino has served as consultant or advisor to a wide range of organizations, including the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, the National Institute for Mental Health, the American Medical Association, the National Black Child Development Institute, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the FBI.

Some of the many books he has authored or edited are: *Listening to Killers: Lessons Learned from My 20 Years as a Psychological Expert Witness in Murder Cases* (2015), *Miller's Children: Why Giving Teenage Killers a Second Chance Matters for All of Us* (2018), *Children and the Dark Side of Human Experience* (2008), *See Jane Hit: Why Girls Are Growing More Violent and What We Can Do About It* (2006). And *Words Can Hurt Forever: How to Protect Adolescents from Bullying, Harassment, and Emotional Violence* (2002); and *Parents Under Siege: Why You Are the Solution, Not the Problem, in Your Child's Life* (2001).

In 2015, he received the Rosenberry Award from Colorado Children's Hospital in Denver, for his work in advancing clinical insight into children and youth. In 2016, he received the Paul Fink Interpersonal Violence Prevention Award from the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence. In 2018, he was cited by the American Psychological Association as one of 33 "Influential Psychologists" for his work on trauma.

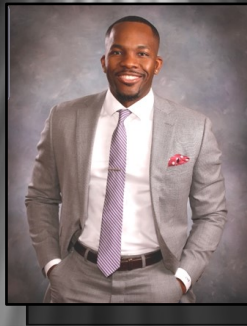
***Plenary—The Developmental Impact of Trauma and Adversity***

This presentation will explain the ways in which childhood experience of trauma can shape development, with special emphasis on its effects of decision-making ("executive function") and emotional intelligence ("affective regulation").

***Workshop—The Process of Rehabilitation and Transformation Among Youth Who Commit Homicide***

This workshop will focus on the factors that shape the processes by which youth involved in homicide can recover from the impact of trauma and adversity. It considers the role of formal and information interventions, and how to differentiate among several possible developmental pathways. The presentation is based upon Garbarino, J. (2018) *Miller's Children: Why Giving Teenage Killers a Second Chance Matters for All of Us* (University of California Press).

Thursday Morning



Chris Bijoux  
Deputy Director for Equity and Racial Justice

As a Senior Fellow at Georgetown University and member of the CJJR senior leadership team, Chris advances a racial justice and Community Development framework in all of CJJR's programs and initiatives, including the Crossover Youth Practice Model, Breakthrough Series Collaborative, and antiracism professional development in Clackamas County, OR and Dauphin, County, PA.

A nationally recognized thought leader and race scholar, Chris's experiences include working as the Director of the Dually Involved Youth Initiative in Santa Clara County, CA and as a program coordinator consultant with the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, where among other things, he facilitated equity and fairness workshops and co-chaired the DYS Family Advisory Council. He's also served as an adjunct professor at Newbury College, has a Master of Public Health and Master of Business Administration, and will be receiving his PhD in Social Policy at Brandeis University in May 2023.

**Plenary—Breaking Barriers: Inspiring Action for Racial Equity in Youth Legal Environments**  
Embark on a transformative journey with our plenary session, "Breaking Barriers." Delving into the heart of the matter, we will navigate the complexities of motivating leaders to prioritize dismantling racial inequities pervasive in youth legal systems. Beginning with an exploration of the historical roots and structural foundations that underpin these disparities, we'll illuminate the tangible impact on lives within the legal system. This session will equip participants with motivational leadership and communication strategies designed to inspire proactive engagement among staff. We will discuss the vital task of fostering a shared vision for racial equity and cultivating a collective commitment to dismantling systemic biases. As we tackle common challenges, the plenary will feature uplifting narratives of successful initiatives that have sparked positive change in youth legal systems. "Breaking Barriers" is not just a plenary—it's a call to action, an opportunity to forge a future where justice and equity are the cornerstones of legal systems.

**Workshop—From Awareness to Action: Strategies for Transformative Change in Youth Legal Systems**

In this interactive workshop, participants will explore practical strategies to address racial inequities in youth legal systems. Through case studies, role-playing, and collaborative discussions, attendees will gain tangible tools and insights to implement immediate and sustainable changes in their respective environments. Join us for a session that moves beyond theory and empowers participants to be catalysts for racial equity in youth justice.



Victor Vieth  
Chief Program Officer, Education and Research

Friday Morning

Victor Vieth has trained thousands of child-protection professionals from all 50 states, two U.S. Territories, and 17 countries on numerous topics pertaining to child abuse investigations, prosecutions and prevention. Victor gained national recognition for his work in addressing child abuse in small communities as a prosecutor in rural Minnesota, and has been named to the President's Honor Roll of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Victim Rights Legend Award from the United States Department of Justice, the 2012 Pro Humanitate Award from the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute on Violence & Abuse (IVAT).

Victor is the Chief Program Officer of Zero Abuse Project, a 501©(3) public charity based in St Paul, MN, committed to education, training, and survivor support in order to eradicate child sex abuse and remedy its resulting harms. Victor has been instrumental in implementing 22 state and international forensic interview training programs and dozens of undergraduate and graduate programs on child maltreatment.

Mr. Vieth graduated magna cum laude from WSU and earned his Juris Doctor from Hamline University School of Law (HUSL). In 2017, Victor earned an MA in theology from Wartburg Seminary. Mr. Vieth has published countless articles related to the investigation, prosecution and prevention of child abuse and neglect including *Unto the Third Generation*, a bold initiative that outlines the necessary steps we must all take to eliminate child abuse in America in three generations.

***Plenary—When Faith Hurts: Effective MDT Responses to the Spiritual Impact of Child Abuse***

Many maltreated children are spiritually impacted by abuse and require a coordination of medical, mental health, and spiritual care. This slightly shortened presentation examines this research and explores creative reforms for bringing faith and child protection communities together to protect children and address their needs. The plenary also explores how MDTs can recognize and respond to spiritual injuries before, during and after the forensic interview.

***Workshop—From Sticks to Flowers: Working with Parents Justifying Corporal Punishment with Scripture***

As the legal definition of reasonable force continues to contract, there is increasing tension between criminal justice/child protection professionals and parents who physically discipline their children based on religious beliefs. Using a case study, this workshop offers concrete guidelines for MDTs working with caretakers whose physical discipline of their children exceeds the law but is rooted in their interpretations of scripture.

# AGENDA

Draft

## Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

**11 a.m. Registration Opens**

**12:30—1:00 p.m. Opening Remarks**

**Presentation of 2024 MJJA Board of Directors**  
**Abby Sapp, MJJA Board President**

**1:00—2:30 p.m. Plenary:** *The Importance of Cultural Awareness for Youth with Language and Learning Disorders*

**2:30—2:45 p.m. Refreshment Break**

**2:45—4:30 p.m. Workshops:**

*A Comprehensive Approach to Address Gang Violence*

*The DEI Reversal: How Should Leadership Stand*

*A Pathway to Equity: The Employment First Journey*

*Letting Data Drive Your Work*

*A Victim of Crime is Calling! Now What...How Can I Help?*

## Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

**7:30—8:15 a.m. Breakfast**

**8:15—8:30 a.m. Morning Remarks**

Abby Sapp, MJJA Board President

**8:30—10 a.m. PLENARY:** *The Developmental Impact of Trauma and Adversity*

**10:00—10:15 a.m. Refreshment Break**

**10:15-12:00 p.m. Workshops:**

*The Process of Rehabilitation and Transformation Among Youth Who Commit Homicide*

*Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management: Engaging Community Partnerships to Identify, Assess, Intervene & Manage Risk for Violence*

*Reading Between the Lines, What the Academic and Medical Records can Inform You About Youth with Disabilities*

*Navigating the Digital Landscape: Building Rapport with At-Risk Youth in High-Risk Online Behaviors and Addressing Family Dynamics in Juvenile Justice*

**12:00-1:30 p.m. Lunch**

**Presentation of Awards and Scholarships**

Abby Sapp, MJJA Board President

Tymesha Buckner-Dobynes, MJJA Board Member and Public Ed and Development Team Co-Chair

**1:30-2:30 p.m. PLENARY:** *Breaking Barriers: Inspiring Action for Racial Equity in Youth Legal Environments*



## Thursday, May 16 cont.

**2:30—2:45 p.m. Refreshment Break**

**2:45-4:30 p.m. Workshops:**

*From Awareness to Action: Strategies for Transformative Change in Youth Legal Systems*

*What's Happening in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare*

*Unveiling the Intersection of Sexual Exploitation, Learning Disabilities, and Juvenile Justice*

*Discover the Power of Coordinated Healthcare for Vulnerable Children!*

*The Basics of Appellate Practice*

**5:30—6:30 p.m. President's Reception & MJJA Raffle, Sponsored by FCC Behavioral Health**

## Friday, May 17

**7:15—8:00 a.m. Breakfast**

**8:00—8:15 a.m. Welcome/Remarks**

Abby Sapp, MJJA Board President

**8:15—9:45 a.m. PLENARY:** *When Faith Hurts: Effective MDT Responses to the Spiritual Impact of Child Abuse*

**9:45—10:00 a.m. Break**

**10:00—11:30 Workshops**

*From Sticks to Flowers: Working with Parents Justifying Corporal Punishment with Scripture*

*Holding Post-Certified Youth in Detention*

*Using Restorative Practices*

*A Comprehensive Approach to Address Gang Violence (repeat of workshop offered on Wednesday afternoon)*

*Additional information coming soon!*

# **Wednesday Workshops**

## **A Comprehensive Approach to Address Gang Violence**

Community partnerships play a significant role in preventing or reducing gang violence. During this session, presenters will first review how gangs are formed, why young persons join gangs, and the different types of gangs and gang members. Next, presenters will describe several comprehensive gang-control efforts. These comprehensive models are based on community partnerships and include prevention, intervention, suppression and reentry/aftercare strategies. Lastly, presenters will discuss their experiences on what went well and what barriers were encountered when implementing different models. Lastly, recommendations on best practices to prevent or reduce gang violence will be provided.

*Faculty: **Moisés Próspero, Ph.D.***

## **The DEI Reversal: How Should Leadership Stand**

Synopsis: America's current culture war has threatened the removal of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) from public institutions, especially federally-funded, non-profit organizations. In the midst of this social quagmire, some leaders have felt compelled to remove any references to DEI from its training agendas, mission and vision statements, and/or from their employee performance and expectation measures. Yet, clear evidence of racial, ethnic, homophobic, gender and religious biases continue to create disparities. This seminar demonstrates ways to identify DEI pushout strategies, and ideas that aid social justice employees to continue the needed work in a safe and palatable manner.

*Faculty: **Dr. Juanita Simmons, MJJA REI Consultant***

## **A Pathway to Equity: The Employment First Journey**

Adults and youth with disabilities, and their families, have overcome many barriers and myths for full inclusion in education, employment and community life. Participants of this session will learn about the journey for equal rights; the opportunities which have been affirmed and resources for inclusion.

*Faculty: **Duane Shumate, Owner/Managing Partner of Elevations Consultation, LLC***

## **A Victim of Crime is Calling! Now What...How Can I Help?**

If it hasn't happened already, there will like be a time when you have the opportunity to assist a victim of crime. Whether you are the first person a victim contacts or the fifteenth, you can make a positive impact on their road to healing! This workshop is designed to provide basic information and resources for anyone to assist victims of crime and an overview of the Missouri Department of Public Safety, Office for Victims of Crime.

Topics will include an overview of Missouri's Crime Victim Rights, the Missouri Sexual Assault Bill of Rights, the Missouri Victim Automated Notification System (MOVANS), Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) and the Pre-Trial Witness Protection Services Fund.

*Faculty: **Michelle Parks, Juvenile Justice/Victim Services Specialist for the Missouri Department of Public Safety, Office for Victims of Crime***

## ***Thursday Morning Workshops:***

### **Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management: Engaging Community Partnerships to Identify, Assess, Intervene & Manage Risk for Violence**

Synopsis: Targeted violence can occur in a variety of organizations and sectors of the community, such as schools, workplaces, houses of worship, and other community settings. Prevention of violence requires collaborative partnerships from various government institutions and community organizations and members. In this session, presenters will first describe the development of targeted violence followed by giving a detailed, structured process for community partnerships to identify, assess, intervene and manage potential threats of targeted violence. Scenarios of potential threats of targeted violence will be for participants to practice what has been learned in the session.

*Faculty: **Moisés Próspero, Ph.D.***

### **Navigating the Digital Landscape: Building Rapport with At-Risk Youth in High-Risk Online Behaviors and Addressing Family Dynamics in Juvenile Justice**

This presentation is designed for professionals in juvenile justice, law enforcement, social services, mental health, and education. It explores effective strategies for building rapport with at-risk youth engaged in high-risk online behaviors. Through case studies, participants gain insights into successful intervention strategies, emphasizing adaptability based on unique case dynamics. The program also covers techniques for establishing trust and effective communication with at-risk youth, focusing on the crucial role of empathy in cultivating positive connections. Additionally, it addresses identifying red flags in family dynamics, particularly those involving children at high risk in the juvenile justice system and provides strategies for tailored support systems. By the end of the training, participants will be equipped with practical tools to engage effectively with at-risk youth online and navigate potential challenges within family dynamics, making it a valuable resource for professionals in the field.

*Faculty: **Cindy Malott, Director of U.S. Safe for Crisis Aid International and Sgt. Adam Kavanaugh (Retired) St. Louis County Police Department, Special Investigations Unit***

# ***Thursday Afternoon Workshops***

## **Unveiling the Intersection of Sexual Exploitation, Learning Disabilities, and Juvenile Justice:**

This presentation employs a compelling case example to delve into the intricate connections between child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and learning disabilities, including Autism. It explores unique dynamics, grooming tactics, and recruitment methods targeted at vulnerable populations, with a specific focus on individuals with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (EBDs), learning, developmental, and intellectual disabilities.

Of particular importance for Juvenile Justice staff, this session offers evidence-based strategies to support at-risk youth while acknowledging their unique strengths. This comprehensive training is recommended for advocates, law enforcement, social services, school counselors, medical professionals, and individuals working with at-risk populations. The collaborative response strategies presented are specifically tailored to encourage a holistic team approach, equipping Juvenile Justice staff to better serve victims in a nuanced and effective manner.

**Faculty:** *Cindy Malott, Director of U.S. Safe for Crisis Aid International and Sgt. Adam Kavanaugh (Retired) St. Louis County Police Department, Special Investigations Unit*

## ***What's Happening in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare***

A panel of juvenile justice and child welfare experts will examine current legal, legislative, and trending issues in juvenile justice and child welfare.

**Faculty:** *Bill Prince- JD CCM-Family Court Administrator and Chief Juvenile Officer, 31st Judicial Circuit, Kathy Lloyd-State Courts Administrator, Office of State Courts Administrator, Darrell Missey- Children's Division Director, Scott Odum-Division of Youth Services Director and Moderator: Abigail W. Sapp, Special Counsel, Missouri Department of Social Services-Children's Division*

## **Discover the Power of Coordinated Healthcare for Vulnerable Children!**

Show Me Healthy Kids (Home State Health) provides coordinated medical and behavioral health care services for youth who are in DSS custody (foster care and DYS), former foster children, and for individuals receiving adoption and guardianship subsidy.

*Show Me Healthy Kids (SMHK) offers:*

- An integrated medical home where each child has access to Primary Care Physicians (PCPs), behavioral health clinicians, specialists, dentists, and vision services
- Care Coordination Services to help workers and caregivers understand benefits, get help with appointments, find transportation assistance, and identify local community resources.
- Training Programs that provide clinical expertise for families, caregivers, caseworkers, and other child advocates.

This presentation will cover the benefits along with information on how SMHK collaborates with Children's Division, resource providers and community partners to ensure members get the resources and services needed to ensure the best outcomes for our youth in foster care.

**Faculty:** *Mary Mogg, Trainer-Show Me Healthy Kids*

## ***The Basics of Appellate Practice***

This workshop will review the basic rules and procedures of appellate practice regarding both CAN and Delinquency cases with an emphasis on various required deadlines, motions, briefs, writs, and other related appellate practice information.

**Faculty:** *Abbey B. McDonough, Attorney for the Juvenile Officer 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit*

# **Friday Workshops**

## ***Holding Post-Certified Youth in Detention***

This workshop will cover the process and procedures involving holding post-certified youth in detention. Provisions of 211.072 RSMo, along with the federal requirements found in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 will be reviewed.

Faculty: ***Bill Prince- JD CCM-Family Court Administrator and Chief Juvenile Officer, 31st Judicial Circuit, Chris Yeager- Compliance Monitor, Missouri Department of Public Safety, Tara Eppy, Superintendent of Robert L. Perry Juvenile Justice Center.***