

MJJA

**RISE TO THE
CHALLENGE**
Fall

Conference

MARGARITAVILLE  LAKE RESORT

OCTOBER 16-18, 2024

OSAGE BEACH, MO



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 Fall Conference is being held at Margaritaville Lake Resort, Osage Beach, MO

494 Tan Tara Estate, Osage Beach, MO

1-800-826-8272

Room rate is \$134

Click on the link below to make your reservation now!

<https://irm.margaritavilleresortlakeoftheozarks.com/irmng/index.html?g=MJJA>

Reservations can also be made by calling the hotel at 1-800-826-8272.

The deadline to make hotel reservations is September 17, 2024



**Missouri Juvenile
Justice Association**

Featuring ethan ucker



ethan ucker (he/him) is an abolitionist infrastructure builder who leverages his mobilities and skills to scaffold healing spaces, and leadership, economic, and political education opportunities for young people who are in conflict with the law. He is the co-founder of Circles & Ciphers, a nationally recognized, hip-hop infused restorative justice organization in Chicago. He is a member of the founding collective of Stick Talk, which builds capacity to respond to urban gun violence without criminalizing firearm possession or defaulting to abstinence-based approaches to guns. He currently serves as Stick Talk's Co-Executive Director.

Wednesday Plenary: Firearm Harm Reduction: rethinking community safety

Learn about the ongoing work Stick Talk (Chicago IL) is doing to organize and weave together a network of neighborhood-level Firearm Harm Reduction hubs. How can we improve community safety while also reducing the number of young Black and Latine people who are being arrested and incarcerated for gun possession? And what does it mean to reassess urban gun violence through the prism of harm reduction?

Thursday morning Workshop: Firearm Harm Reduction: a deeper dive

Join organizers from Stick Talk (Chicago IL) to discuss the growth and applications of Firearm Harm Reduction as an alternative to carceral and abstinence-based responses to urban gun violence. How can we build community safety strategies that openly acknowledge (without shame or judgment) the easy availability of firearms and include those who carry them? This interactive workshop will center the margin by elevating the perspectives and experiences of young people of color who are both authors and survivors of gun-related harms. Finally, as arrests and incarceration for firearm possession offenses are surging across the U.S., participants will analyze this accelerating criminalization as a "War on Guns" and consider what lessons we can learn by comparing it to the historic War on Drugs.

Presenters: Audrey Dunford, Malik Cole, Marlon English and ethan ucker are Chicago-based organizers, restorative justice practitioners, and popular educators. They are each intimately affected by community and state violence, and the organizing tactics they bring to Stick Talk are rooted in their lived experiences. They work inside and out: inside prisons to resource and mobilize incarcerated young people, and in neighborhoods that experience high rates of gun violence and gun arrests.



Stick Talk (Chicago IL) advances Firearm Harm Reduction, a community safety strategy



Featuring

Jennipher

Hawkins

Jennipher is currently an Attorney for the Juvenile Officer in Jackson County, Missouri, as a Managing Attorney. Prior to joining the Juvenile Office in August 2018, Jennipher was in private practice handling criminal cases as a Special Public Defender, representing parents in abuse and neglect proceedings, representing parents in domestic cases, and acting as a Guardian ad Litem in domestic and juvenile cases. She is a member of the Association for Women Lawyers and KCMBA. In her free time, Jennipher enjoys listening to her son recite facts about the solar system, listening to her oldest daughter sing "It's a Small World," and watching her baby girl figure out how to crawl.

Thursday Morning Plenary: Being a Trauma Queen: Channeling Trauma into Change

Attendees will take a trip through Jennipher's childhood, including her experiences with parental substance use, domestic violence in the home, homelessness and hunger. Attendees will also learn about Jennipher's time in foster care, including sexual assaults she experienced, stigmas that followed her, and how she reconnected with her biological family. By the end of the session, attendees will have a better understanding of what many children who go through the juvenile court system experience. Attendees will also leave with ideas on how each person involved in the system can make themselves more trauma informed, how to encourage youth in care, and how to provide additional supports.

Thursday Morning Workshop: Perfecting Practical Permanency

Participants will learn in depth about the various permanency options outside of reunification, with a special focus on termination of parental rights and guardianship. By the end of the presentation, participants will have a better understanding of the grounds for termination, the differences between termination and guardianship, and tips/tricks/tidbits when handling a termination hearing and evaluating which permanency option is most appropriate for a child.

Presenters: Jennipher Hawkins and Bree Sturner, Attorney for the Juvenile Officer, Jackson County- Family Court Division

Featuring

Keith

Neuber



Keith founded I K.A.N. PRESENTATIONS in 1995 with a mission of providing affordable, quality training that has practical applications for business and personal life. Keith began providing training for human services, business and industry and the general public in 1978. Each training program is designed to meet the goals that the training sponsor is seeking to achieve. Keith approaches each training with the energy and enthusiasm that keeps participants engaged, learning and motivated to make changes in their approach to the challenges of daily life.

Thursday Afternoon Plenary: Even Work Can Be Fun: The Art of Perspective Management

Work – necessary evil or an opportunity. This workshop is for everyone who struggles with the thought of going to their workplace. The emphasis of this presentation is on what individuals can do to enhance the quality of their work experience. Keith will offer techniques to improve communication, increase productivity, handle interpersonal conflict, turn problems into opportunity and generally have a good time even under the most difficult of circumstances. Individuals who really enjoy their job situation may even learn a few new ways to increase their work bliss. Those who attend will never look at Monday the same way again.

Thursday Afternoon Workshop: Success or Stress

Stress kills! No it doesn't. Stress is a message our body sends that tells us we need to make some changes in the way that we are dealing with life. This workshop will encourage participants to take control of stress and use it to benefit rather than detract from their life. Participants will examine the symptoms and causes of stress. Keith will provide practical suggestions for eliminating some stress and channeling other stress into productive energy. Participants will leave relaxed, with a plan to improve the quality and productivity of their daily experience.

Featuring



Megan A.

Mooney

Megan A. Mooney, Ph.D. (she/her/hers) is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Houston, Texas who specializes in serving traumatized children and families, especially LGBTQ+ youth who are disproportionately impacted by a variety of traumatic experiences. She is a member of the clinical faculty with Baylor College of Medicine, adjunct faculty with the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston, and an affiliate member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Dr. Mooney is a co-founder of a non-profit that focuses on education and advocacy in support of gender expansive children and their families. Dr. Mooney was granted the 2022 American Psychological Association Services' Federal Advocacy Award and the 2023 APA State Leadership Award. She was specifically recognized for her advocacy leadership on behalf of LGBTQ+ children, adolescents, and families, most recently in response to political attacks on Texas' transgender communities.

Friday Morning Plenary: Supporting Trans Youth Through a Trauma Informed Lens

Decades of research have demonstrated that transgender and gender diverse youth are disproportionately impacted by a wide variety of potentially traumatic events. A brief review of the interplay between traumatic experiences such as discrimination and harassment with gender identity will be presented along with the mental health benefits of providing gender-affirming psychological and medical care for youth.

Friday Morning Workshop: Creating Safe and Welcoming Therapeutic Spaces for Gender Diverse Youth

This workshop will provide an overview of some of the unique treatment needs for transgender and gender diverse youth. This presentation will go beyond "Gender 101" and will assume that the audience has at least a beginning understanding of terminology and constructs around gender identity. The talk will highlight practical suggestions for mental health providers to create more affirming therapeutic settings to support gender diverse youth.

AGENDA

DRAFT

Wednesday, October 16

11 a.m. Registration Opens

12:30 p.m. Opening Remarks—Paradise B
Abby Sapp, MJJA Board President

1—2:30 p.m. **Plenary—Firearm Harm Reduction: rethinking community safety**

2:30—2:45 p.m. Refreshment Break

2:45—4:30 p.m. WORKSHOPS

The Intersection Between AI, CSAM, and the Child Welfare System—Leeward 74/75
Effective Strategies for Working with Children in Detention Who Are Becoming
Increasingly Aggressive and its Relationship to Trauma—Windgate 63

Sawubona: I See You—Windgate 62

Building Authentic Relationships with Youth: 10-Point Ingredients to Ties that Bind—
Nautical Wheeler

Experience Restorative Circles—Windgate 64

6—9 p.m. Strikes for Success—Fins Up Bowling Alley

Thursday, October 17

7:30—8:15 a.m. Breakfast—Paradise B

8:15—8:30 a.m. Morning Welcome—Paradise B
Abby Sapp, MJJA Board President

Strikes for Success Tournament Results-Tymesha Buckner-Dobynes and
Ed Hoover, Public Ed and Development Team

8:30—10 a.m. **Plenary—Being a Trauma Queen: Channeling Trauma into Change—**
Paradise B

10—10:15 a.m. Refreshment Break—Paradise B

10:15—12 p.m. WORKSHOPS

Seeing Faces, Not Cases: Office of Child Advocate Reviews—Windgate 62

Perfecting Practical Permanency—Windgate 63

Firearm Harm Reduction: a deeper dive—Nautical Wheeler

Centering Black Girlhood: Perspectives from Foster Care—Leeward 74/75

Making Restorative Processes & Healing Circles Work for You—Windgate 64

12—1:30 p.m. Lunch—Paradise B
Andrew Jackson Higgins Award Presentation



Missouri Juvenile
Justice Association

AGENDA

DRAFT

Thursday afternoon continued

1:30—3 p.m. WORKSHOPS

Success or Stress—Windgate 62

Juvenile Law Update—Leeward 74/75

Community Behavioral Health Programs: With a focus on Youth—Windgate 63

From Broken to Ubuntu: The power of prevention lies in the heart and transformative hands of community—Nautical Wheeler

Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®) —Windgate 64

3—3:30 p.m. Refreshment Break—Paradise B

3:30—4:45 p.m. **Plenary—Even Work Can Be Fun: The Art of Perspective Management—Paradise B**

5:30—6:30 p.m. President's Reception—Compass Rose Ballroom

Sponsored by FCC Behavioral Health

Friday, October 18

7:30—8:15 a.m. Breakfast—Paradise B

8:15—9:45 a.m. **Plenary—Supporting Trans Youth Through a Trauma Informed Lens—Paradise B**

9:45—10 a.m. Break - on your own

10—11:30 a.m. WORKSHOPS

Special Education Advocacy—Windgate 62

A Victim of Crime is Calling! Now What...How Can I Help? —Windgate 63

Bridging the Gap – Understanding and Collaborating with Law Enforcement—Leeward 74/75

Building Confidence in Conversations: Understanding Race and Differences in Youth Work—Windgate 64

Creating Safe and Welcoming Therapeutic Spaces for Gender Diverse Youth—Nautical Wheeler

11:30 a.m. Conference Adjourns

Save the Date:

MJJA Spring Conference May 21-23, 2025

Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO



**Missouri Juvenile
Justice Association**

Wednesday Workshops:

DRAFT

The Intersection Between AI, CSAM, and the Child Welfare System

Artificial Intelligence is becoming more prolific every day and Child Sex Abuse Material (otherwise known as child pornography) is no exception.

This workshop will include an open discussion of the various schools of thought when it comes to AI-created CSAM and how we as child welfare and juvenile justice professionals might choose to address it. We will also discuss AI as a tool with the potential to assist child welfare agencies in providing more efficient services but also the potential to invite unintentional discrimination.

Presenter: Robyn K. Kirk, Staff Attorney III, St. Louis City Family Court - Juvenile Division

Effective Strategies for Working with Children in Detention Who Are Becoming Increasingly Aggressive and its Relationship to Trauma

This presentation will emphasize the critical need to cultivate an environment that prioritizes empathy and support, focusing on the impact of trauma on detained children to mitigate aggressive behavior and promote healthier emotional development. Increasing aggression within juvenile detention centers nationwide has not been effectively addressed by past interventions. It is essential to thoroughly understand the underlying causes and development of aggressive behaviors in children with traumatic histories to implement strategies that enhance treatment outcomes and manage aggression. Trauma, including abuse, neglect, and exposure to violence, can severely disrupt a child's coping mechanisms, making them vulnerable to maladaptive coping methods such as aggressive behaviors. This presentation will explore the relationship between trauma and aggressive behavior and identify effective trauma-informed strategies aimed at improving the overall well-being of detained children and reducing violence in detention facilities.

Presenter: Allison Sproles, PsyD, Clinical Psychology Post Doctoral Resident-Kansas City University, 2024

Sawubona: I See You

In this transformative workshop, we will explore the profound concept of "Sawubona," a Zulu greeting that translates to "I see you." Sawubona goes beyond a simple salutation; it is an acknowledgment of the other person's presence and humanity, fostering deep connection and mutual respect.

Presenter: Victor Sims, MBA, JM, President of Restorative Justice, Guiding Hope Inc.

Building Authentic Relationships with Youth: 10-Point Ingredients to Ties that Bind

Practice-based and researched-based studies show that supportive, authentic relationships with adults are crucial to improving young people's well-being. This workshop provides 10 major ingredients that adults (public servants/youth advocates/advisors/mentors/guardians, etc.) might employ in developing influential relationships with youth. Open dialogues with participants will be solicited in order to expand the list of proven ingredients.

Presenter: Dr. Juanita Simmons, REI Consultant, MJJA

Experience Restorative Circles

Join Certified Restorative Practices Trainers to experience different types of restorative circles. Participants will actively participate in these circles to get a better understanding of how and why they are used with youth and families. This session will give a general overview of restorative practices and how they can be added to your toolbox and ultimately help to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system.

Presenters: Jennifer Phillips, MJJA Restorative Justice Coordinator, Teresa Ramsey, Assistant Supervisor, RED Coordinator for St. Louis City Family Court



**Missouri Juvenile
Justice Association**

Thursday Morning Workshops:

Seeing Faces, Not Cases: Office of Child Advocate Reviews

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) reviews complaints regarding concerns identified in the management of child welfare cases. This workshop will offer a window into the world of child welfare, exploring what is best practice in the field, and implementation of policy to advocate for the best interest of the child. OCA staff will provide an interactive case review and discuss the importance of utilizing the Multi-Disciplinary Team process. Participants will have a better understanding of how these reviews and recommendations have been used to create systemic change throughout the circuits.

Presenters: Becky Ruth, Director of OCA, Investigators: Laurie Massey, Senior Social Services Specialist, Kelly Kuda, Senior Social Services Specialist, Brittany Clingman, Senior Social Services Specialist and Elizabeth Tietsort, Senior Social Services Specialist

Centering Black Girlhood: Perspectives from Foster Care

This workshop aims to create a deeper understanding of the systemic impacts that create unique challenges faced by Black girls in the foster care system at disproportionate rates. Presenters will equip participants with the knowledge and tools needed to meet the specific needs of this population while addressing best practices to drive positive change within the foster care system as a whole.

Presenters: Martine Jones, Training and Capacity-Building Associate and Regina Dix, Training and Capacity-Building Manager, Youth Collaboratory

Making Restorative Processes & Healing Circles Work for You

Restorative Justice stems from the communal notion that educating individuals about the interconnectedness of our communities, and how the negative actions of individuals can impact those communities. To remedy that negative impact and begin the process of individual and community healing, a process of accountability and forward thinking must be manifested. Helping people, especially youth to understand how they are connected and belong, addressing some of their needs, and building their critical thinking skills can be more powerful and effective in creating a healthy and safe community than relying on fear of punishment. Law enforcement officers, juvenile officers, and public-school officials have consistently stated that society cannot arrest and punish our way out of crime and anti-social behaviors. This workshop enables attendees to explore best restorative practices and innovative solutions, through the use of case studies and interactive discussions to posit solutions to challenges discussed.

Presenter: Nathan Stephens, Certified Healing Circle and Restorative Processes Facilitator

Thursday Afternoon workshops:

Juvenile Law Update

This session will give attendees an overview of the year's most significant cases impacting juvenile law practice and offer discussion of recent developments in regulatory, statutory and case law and their impact upon practice by Juvenile Officers, Children's Division workers and attorneys.

Presenter: Shawn McCarver, Attorney

Community Behavioral Health Programs: With a focus on Youth

Youth Behavioral Health Liaisons (YBHL) support youth and their guardians experiencing behavioral health challenges by connecting them with necessary services in their community. In this workshop, an overview of this community behavioral health program will be provided, data from the previous year as well as information on who the YBHL is for the area you serve. Additionally, information on the Crisis Continuum including the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Missouri, mobile response and Behavioral Health Crisis Centers will be discussed.

Presenter: Mikala Jungmeyer-Geiger, Youth Services Manager, Missouri Behavioral Health Council

From Broken to Ubuntu: The power of prevention lies in the heart and transformative hands of community.

Stories have the power to uplift, to inform and to heal. In this workshop participants will take a courageously deep dive into the life story of Merideth Rose. As a black child, byproduct of a kinship adoption and a survivor of abuse, homelessness and complex trauma, Merideth will share the very moving account of her early involvement with all things broken – a broken childhood, broken school supports and broken relationships that ultimately led to the breaking apart of her family as a teenage mother whose twins were removed from her care at just 19 years old. But through the power best described by the ancient African word "Ubuntu," Merideth's unbelievable story of hope and healing will underscore the true, transformative power that thrives in community; a critical and compassionate conduit for preventing children and families from coming into the child welfare system.

Today, as the President and CEO of Cornerstones of Care, Merideth says her most treasured accomplishment is being a young girl once broken by trauma, now restored by grace and the power of caring communities.

Presenter: Meredith Rose, President and CEO, Cornerstones of Care

Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®)

Aggression Replacement Training® is a cognitive-behavioral intervention that targets aggressive and violent adolescent behavior. The program consists of three components: Social Skills Training; Anger Control Training; and Moral Reasoning. The components are specifically matched across each week and integrated for content and process. Each week builds upon the week before. Clients attend a one-hour session in each of these components (meeting the same time and same day each week). In this workshop hear how ART® is facilitated in the Family Court of St. Louis County Juvenile Detention Center and the impact it has on youth behavior in the facility.

Presenter: Bishop Luther D. Baker, CEO/President, Luther D, Baker Ministries

Friday Workshops:

Special Education Advocacy

Coordinating services with advocacy between schools, justice centers and court teams will be discussed along with review of the ADA, which protects people with disabilities from discrimination in state and local government services, programs, and activities as well as caselaw updates will be covered. IEP and 504 Plans including goals, data collection and accommodations will be also be reviewed.

Presenter: Julia Chaney-Faughn, Partner in Cruse Chaney-Faughn P.C.

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.

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

Bridging the Gap – Understanding and Collaborating with Law Enforcement

Are you a juvenile officer, social worker, or professional who works alongside law enforcement but sometimes feels like you're speaking different languages? Join us for an engaging workshop designed to help you understand the unique culture of law enforcement and foster better working relationships with officers. Through a blend of informative discussions and light-hearted anecdotes, we'll demystify the world of law enforcement, exploring everything from communication styles to the unspoken rules of the badge. You'll learn practical tips for collaboration, gain insights into the challenges officers face, and maybe even pick up a few jokes that'll make you the hero of the next interdepartmental meeting. Get ready for an enlightening and entertaining experience that promises to improve your interactions with the men and women in blue. Whether you're looking to bridge professional divides or simply understand why they love donuts so much, this workshop is for you.

Presenter: Greg Dagnan, Lecturer of Criminal Justice at Pittsburg State University, Adjunct Instructor at Missouri Southern State University and Detective in Carl Junction

Building Confidence in Conversations: Understanding Race and Differences in Youth Work

This seminar is designed for professionals working with youth who want to enhance their ability to engage in meaningful conversations about race (and other differences). In today's diverse society, understanding and addressing these topics with confidence is crucial to effectively supporting and empowering the youth we serve.

Participants will explore the importance of these conversations in building trust and fostering inclusive environments. The seminar will offer practical strategies for developing the skills and confidence needed to discuss race, identity, and diversity openly and respectfully. Attendees will leave equipped with ideas to navigate these challenging yet essential discussions, ultimately helping to create more supportive and equitable spaces for all youth.

Presenter: Julie Austin, Director of Youth & Family Programming, 31st Judicial Circuit-Juvenile Division

A row of bowling pins with a black bowling ball in the foreground. The pins are white with three red stripes. The ball is black and glossy, positioned in front of the pins.

**MJJA STRIKES FOR SUCCESS
BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

GAME DAY

**OCTOBER 16, 2024 6PM | \$40/PERSON, \$200/TEAM OF 5
MARGARITAVILLE FIN CITY (PIZZA PROVIDED)**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT MJJA'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT, MARCIA@MJJA.ORG**

***A very special thank you to our
MJJA Corporate Sponsors:***

