

★★★★ **CULTIVATING CARE:**

*Healthy Professionals
Thriving Youth*

OCTOBER

14-16, 2026

**MJJA
2026**

Fall Conference

Margaritaville Lake Resort

• 494 Tan Tar A Drive
Osage Beach, MO 65065

★★★★



Missouri Juvenile Justice Association

**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**

Course Credit Information:

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

Thank you to our Conference Supporters:

**Dept. of Public Safety and the
Juvenile Justice Advisory Group**

FCC Behavioral Health

OSCA—Fostering Court Improvement Project

Missouri Task Force on Children's Justice



Cultivating Care: Healthy Professionals, Thriving Youth



Josh Varner, M.S. Ed
Thrive

Grow Deep, Live Fully, Stress
Less, Become You



Geoff Sidoli, LCSW
*Providing Psychological Safety and
Support to Staff to Mitigate the
Impacts of Secondary Trauma*

October 14-16, 2026



D'Markus Thomas-Brown
Violence Prevention Administrator
*Building Safer Communities
Through Collaboration and
Innovation*



Edward L. Palmer, Sr.
Pastor, Certified Diversity Trainer,
Juvenile Justice Advocate

And



Rachel Bingham
Consultant

Focus on Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Workshop Topics:

- Effectively Identifying the Root Causes of Youth Violence
- Providing Trauma Responsive Services for Youth with Problematic Sexual Behavior
- Holding Certified Youth Pending Trial
- Statewide 2025 RED Data and JDTA Revalidation Study
- Parental Culpability
- Courtroom Skills Jeopardy
- Family Engaged Case Planning Strategies

And more!



For more info and to register, please visit www.mjja.org



Josh Varner M.S. Ed. Is a trauma informed speaker and author with a PASSION for helping individuals and schools to support students who have been impacted by childhood trauma. Varner has presented over 400 high energy, informative, interactive presentations to audiences all over the country. Aong with speaking Varner has been a mental health professional, school counselor and coordinated an at-risk student program. Varner has experience in the classroom working with traumatized students and know what will work for educators.

Varner has worked with the top names in education. NASSP, MOASSP, MAESP, WASA etc. He's also started to move into the health care markets with my works with the Missouri Hospital Association.

Josh Varner, M.S. Ed

Plenary and Workshop: *Thrive*

You weren't created to merely survive. You were created to thrive. If you've ever felt overwhelmed, exhausted, anxious, or stuck on autopilot, you're not alone. Modern life is pushing us beyond our limits. We're more connected than ever, yet increasingly lonely. We have countless tools to make life easier, yet stress, burnout, and mental health challenges continue to rise. There is a better way. In thrive, counselor, speaker, and mental health expert Josh Varner combines the latest neuroscience with real-life stories and practical strategies to help you break free from survival mode and build a life of resilience, purpose, and lasting well-being. You'll learn why your brain and body respond the way they do under stress, how today's world is quietly working against your mental health, and the daily habits that can transform the way you think, connect, and live.

This isn't about chasing perfection or adding more to your already full schedule. It's about making small, intentional changes that create extraordinary results over time. thrive will give you a practical roadmap to reclaim your well-being and become the person you were meant to be.

Your circumstances don't have to define your future. Your best days aren't behind you-they're waiting to be lived.

Stop surviving. Start thriving.





Geoff Sidoli, LCSW, is the current National Training Fellow and past Coordinator for the National Children's Alliance Institute for Better Mental Health Outcomes. He assists CACs around the country developing, implementing, and sustaining mental health services including ones for children and youth exhibiting problematic sexual behavior (PSB). Geoff co-developed and trains an enhancement of TF-CBT for PSB with adolescents and with young children. He is a clinical member of the Association for the Prevention and Treatment Sexual Abuse (ATSA) as well as a Fellow. He sits on ATSA's child and adolescent committee as well as the ethic's committee. Geoff is also NCA's Training and Technical Advisor for PSB and facilitates NCA's youth with problematic sexual behaviors national work group. He continues to treat youth and families for trauma and PSB at the CAC he founded in Asheville, NC

Geoff Sidoli, LCSW

Plenary: *Providing Psychological Safety and Support to Staff to Mitigate the Impacts of Secondary Trauma*

.Workshop: *Providing Trauma Responsive Services for Youth with Problematic Sexual Behavior*

Additional information coming soon!





D'Markus is currently the Administrator for the Office of Violence Prevention at the City of Columbia. He previously served as the Managing Director for in2Action and as the Director of the Recovery Support & Reentry Opportunity Center (ROC) in Columbia, MO. He currently serves with the Boone County Overdose Response Coalition, the Central Missouri Recovery Coalition (CMRC), and the Mid-Missouri CIT Council. He is a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) and a Harm Reduction Trainer with the Missouri Credentialing Board (MCB). He graduated from Columbia College with his Master's in Business Administration (MBA). He is an ordained minister who also serves as a Co-founding pastor of Confluence Church. He is married and has 2 young children who keep him on his toes.

D'Markus Thomas Brown

Plenary: *Building Safer Communities Through Collaboration and Innovation*

This presentation explores recent events and conversations surrounding youth violence. 'It takes the whole village' has been a major thread in community involvement and support of children, but we now understand the importance of the 'village being healthy, wholesome, and unified' for the welfare of its youth. What, if any, impact has the national climate had on youth temperament? What might be systems to help to counteract and/or prevent violence enacted by and suffered by youth?

Attendees will identify root causes and stressors to patterns of youth violence.

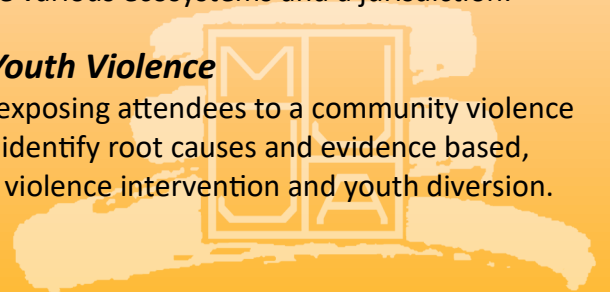
Presenter will introduce proven interventions and collaborative initiatives to support "the village" and interrupt cyclical patterns of violence. Presenter will give concrete examples of each element within the various ecosystems and a jurisdiction adequately applying them to their juvenile court system.

Attendees will be familiarized with the various ecosystems of violence intervention, prevention, and community transformation.

Presenter will give concrete examples of each element within the various ecosystems and a jurisdiction.

Workshop: *Effectively Identifying the Root Causes of Youth Violence*

This workshop will explore the root causes of youth violence by exposing attendees to a community violence exposé with music and news articles. Attendees will be asked to identify root causes and evidence based, trauma informed intervention strategies to enhance community violence intervention and youth diversion.





Edward L. Palmer, Sr.

Pastor Edward L. Palmer Sr. is the visionary, senior pastor, and co-pastor with his wife Elizabeth (Angie) Palmer for The Sign of The Dove Church International located in Radcliff, Kentucky. He is a Certified Diversity Trainer and works to eliminate disproportionate minority contact within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Pastor Palmer is also a Disabled U.S. Army Veteran.

In 2017, Pastor Palmer was the recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award winner presented by Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin as well as the Courage for Kids Award present by Kentucky Youth Advocates. In May of 2019, he was awarded the Thurgood Marshall Social Justice Impact Award presented by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and in May of 2025 he was presented with the Champion of Diversity in Justice Award presented by the Kentucky Justice Association.

Pastor is Former Chair of the State Inner-Agency Council's Diversity Standing Committee and past Chair of the National Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ), and a member of The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He is a certified Racial and Ethnic Disparities Capstone Project Fellow through the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, and a certified Maxwell Leadership coach, speaker, and trainer. In the Spring 2021 Juvenile Justice Update, Pastor Palmer co-authored the article "Don't Hate the Player, Hate the Game: The Importance of Systemic Change to Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities."

Pastor has served the citizens of his city for five terms as a Radcliff City councilman and is currently serving as a Certified Police Chaplain. He has shared his passion for racial equality from Washington State to Washington D.C., to Princeton University, and many other locations across the nation. His implicit bias training was involved in a process of evaluation with John Hopkins University and proven to be effective. Pastor Palmer operates with undeniable vision and unyielding passion for the purposeful course on which God has set him, running his race with patience, diligence, vigilance, and effectiveness.

And



Rachel Bingham

For over 28 years, Rachel Bingham has been powerful state and a national voice around child welfare, juvenile justice, and judicial system efforts to improve outcomes for children and families. Mrs. Bingham was directly involved with 2012 Task Force on the Unified Juvenile Code around SB 200 policy development and, in 2014, was responsible for the effective implementation of the statutory requirements impacting the Kentucky Court Designated Worker Program as well as the statewide judges, clerks, and partnering agencies.

In August of 2024, Mrs. Bingham retired from the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts as the director of the Office of Statewide Programs which includes Family and Juvenile Services, Pretrial Services, and Specialty Courts. Currently, Mrs. Bingham is a consultant with The National Center for State Courts as well as The Messenger, LLC (focusing on racial equity, policy review, and practice transformation). She works directly with state leaders and stakeholders to identify, develop, and/or implement effective child welfare, juvenile justice, and/or judicial initiatives.

Some of Mrs. Bingham's notable achievements include:

- Publication: Palmer Sr., Edward L. & Bingham, Rachel (2021). "Don't Hate the Player, Hate the Game: The Importance of Systemic Change to Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities." Juvenile Justice Update, Spring 2021, 7-14
- Publication: Kentucky Court of Justices' A Guide for Identifying, Addressing and Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities. www.kycourts.gov, 2020
- 2023 Bluegrass Black PRIDE, Inc.'s Ally Award
- 2024 Coalition for Juvenile Justice's A.L. Carlisle Award
- 2024 Omicron Nu Lambda Education Foundation's Thurgood Marshall Social Justice Impact Award
- 2024 Kentucky Court of Justice's Racial Equity Visionary Award Justice Impact Award
- 2024 Kentucky Court of Justice's Racial Equity Visionary Award

Plenary and Workshop:
Focus on Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Additional information coming soon!



AGENDA

Wednesday, October 14

11:30a.m. Registration Opens

1 p.m. Opening Remarks

1:30—2:45 p.m. **Plenary**

2:45—3 p.m. Refreshment Break

3—4:30 p.m. WORKSHOPS

6 p.m. **Strikes for Success**

Thursday, October 15

7:30—8:45 a.m. Breakfast

8:45—9 a.m. Morning Welcome

9—10:15 a.m. **Plenary**

10:15—10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30—12 p.m. WORKSHOPS

12—1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30—2:45 p.m. **Plenary**

2:45—3 p.m. Refreshment Break

3—4:30 p.m. WORKSHOPS

6 p.m. **Presidents Reception - Sponsored by FCC**

Friday, October 16

7:30—8:45 a.m. Breakfast

8:45—10 a.m. **Plenary**

10—10:15 a.m. Break - on your own

10:15—11:45 a.m. WORKSHOPS

11:45a.m. **Conference Adjourns**

A black and white photograph of bowling pins and a bowling ball. The pins are arranged in a standard triangular formation, and a bowling ball is in the foreground, partially obscuring the pins. The image has a high-contrast, slightly blurred aesthetic.

**MJJA STRIKES FOR SUCCESS
BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

GAME DAY

OCTOBER 14, 2026 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, JEFF@MJJA.ORG**



IF INTERESTED-
PRIZE AWARDED
TO TEAM WITH
THE BEST T-SHIRT!



BOWLING NIGHT

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE VIA
VENMO OR BY CHECK

 CONTACT NAME:



 CONTACT EMAIL:

 CONTACT PHONE:

TEAM NAME:

 TEAM MEMBERS:

EMAIL REGISTRATION TO JEFF@MJJA.ORG OR
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