



# 2025 Statewide Community of Practice Conference



December 8–9, 2025  
Virginia Beach, Virginia



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Criminal Justice Services*

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller  
Director

Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.  
Chief Deputy Director

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December 8, 2025

Dear Conference Attendee:

On behalf of Governor Glenn Youngkin, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Marcus Anderson, and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Office of Safer Communities 2025 Statewide Community of Practice Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This conference brings together a diverse and dedicated group of professionals who are united by a shared commitment to reduce violent crime and gun violence throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Over the next two days, you will have the opportunity to learn about the latest research, explore promising practices, and hear from successful programs. Through keynote presentations, breakout sessions, and networking opportunities, we hope to foster collaboration and inspire innovative ideas to address gun violence in our communities.

I appreciate you taking the time to join us in this shared mission to build safer communities across the Commonwealth. Together, we can provide a holistic approach to address the root causes of violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackson H. Miller".

Jackson Miller  
Director



Monday, December 8

# agenda

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8:30AM – 9:00AM **Welcome and Opening Remarks — Virginia Ballroom**  
Tracey Jenkins, *Director, Division of Programs and Services, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*  
Laurel Marks, *Manager, Office of Safer Communities and Youth Services, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

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9:00AM – 10:30AM **KEYNOTE PART I — Virginia Ballroom**

**A New Way to Understand Gun Violence: Part I**

Jens Ludwig, *Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago*

What if everything we understood about gun violence was wrong? In 2007, economist Dr. Jens Ludwig moved to the South Side of Chicago to research two big questions: why does gun violence happen, and is there anything we can do about it? Almost two decades later, the answers aren't what he expected. *Unforgiving Places: the Unexpected Origins of American Gun Violence* is Dr. Ludwig's revelatory portrait of gun violence in America's most famously maligned city. Disproving the popular narrative that shootings are the calculated acts of malicious or desperate people, he shows how most shootings actually grow out of a more fleeting source: interpersonal conflict, especially arguments. By examining why some arguments turn tragic while others don't, Dr. Ludwig shows gun violence to be more circumstantial and more solvable than our traditional approaches lead us to believe.

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10:30AM – 10:45AM **Break**

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10:45AM – 12:00PM **KEYNOTE PART II — Virginia Ballroom**

**A New Way to Understand Gun Violence: Part II**

Jens Ludwig, *Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago*

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12:00PM – 1:15PM **Lunch (provided) PLENARY SESSION — Virginia Ballroom**

**Hospital-based Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs (HVIPP)**

Ashley Xavier, *Director of Violence Intervention Initiatives, VHHA Foundation*

The Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) Foundation supports Hospital Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs (HVIPPs) at 12 hospitals across the Commonwealth of Virginia. The HVIPP model is a statewide approach to establishing evidence-based programs that support survivors of gun violence and their families during and after hospitalization. This session will provide an overview of the programs at participating hospitals and highlight the data-driven approach HVIPPs use to reach survivors at a critical time during their recovery.

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1:30PM – 2:45PM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Capacity Building for Communities: From Silos to Systems — Thomas Jefferson Ampitheater**

Allison Jordan, *Nonprofit Consultant*

This session will explore how nonprofits, government agencies, and local governments can align resources and build capacity through collaboration to address violent crime in their communities. Dr. Allison Jordan will explain the Collective Impact framework for cross-sector collaboration and provide participants with practical tools and strategies to move from siloed efforts to collective impact.

**From Data to Solutions — Benjamin Franklin Room**

Bobby Doyle, *Project Director, Gun Violence Solutions Project, University of Virginia*

This session dives into the research conducted by the University of Virginia's (UVA) Gun Violence Solutions Project on evidence-based gun violence prevention strategies. Project Director Mr. Bobby Doyle will discuss what strategies work and what UVA is doing to put these strategies into action. Attendees will learn about effective, evidence-based interventions and get a real-world look at how a university can tackle gun violence through programs and community partnerships.



### **The Mindset and Process of Violent Crime Prosecution** — *James Madison Room*

Justin Griffith, *Commonwealth's Attorney, Pulaski County*

Commonwealth's Attorney, Mr. Justin Griffith, will present on the impact prosecutors have on providing actionable, sustainable strategies to combat gun violence within their communities. He will explore how to access and effectively use available resources, including the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Operation Ceasefire Grant (OCG) to leverage results.

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2:45PM – 3:00PM

**Break**

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3:00PM – 4:30PM

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### **Innovative Interventions: A Panel on Community-based Programming** — *Thomas Jefferson Ampitheater*

Bianca Myrick, *Founder and Executive Director, Pretty Purposed*

Ellery Lundy, *Founder and President, The Broken Men Foundation*

Join Ms. Bianca Myrick, the Executive Director of Pretty Purposed, and Mr. Ellery Lundy, the President of The Broken Men Foundation and Youth Academy, for a panel on innovative community-based programming. The discussion will explore the journey and growth of each nonprofit organization, including their unique models, the impact of strategic partnerships within the community, real challenges and successes, and sustainability practices.

#### **Navigating Emergency Substantial Risk Orders: Petitioning, Process, and Practical Application** —

*Benjamin Franklin Room*

Amanda Paris, *Sergeant, Fairfax County Police Department*

Virginia's Substantial Risk Order laws provide law enforcement agencies with a tool to remove firearms from an individual who poses a substantial risk of personal injury or injury to others in the near future. In this session, Sergeant Amanda Paris from the Fairfax County Police Department will provide an overview of the risk order petition process and highlight Fairfax County's unique approach to risk order implementation and service.

#### **Trending: Cross-Designated Prosecutors** — *James Madison Room*

Mark Fero, *Director of Crime Reduction Initiatives, Office of the Attorney General of Virginia*

The Office of the Attorney General has hired cross-designated Ceasefire Prosecutors and Ceasefire Coordinators to work in cooperation with law enforcement and the community to pursue violent offenders, firearm traffickers, and gang-related prosecutions. This workshop will inform participants about these resources and share how they can avail themselves of these resources if they do not have an independent Ceasefire prosecutor in their locality.

*Please note: Photos and/or videos from this event may appear on the DCJS website, social media sites, and in other agency materials.*



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Tuesday, December 9

# agenda

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8:00AM – 9:00AM **Safer Communities Program Focus Groups** — *Benjamin Franklin Room*

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9:00AM – 10:30AM **PLENARY SESSION** — *Virginia Ballroom*

**Social Media and Crime Prevention: Building Safer Communities Online**

Moe McClanahan, *High Tech Crime Specialist, National White Collar Crime Center*

Social media connects communities—but it also creates opportunities for exploitation, misinformation, and crime. In this session, retired Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Investigator and High Tech Crime Specialist, Moe McClanahan, will share practical, real-world strategies for preventing crime in the digital space. She will highlight current online threats, how offenders target youth and communities, and actionable steps officers and leaders can take to educate and protect the public. Attendees will leave with tools they can immediately use to strengthen community trust, engage parents and schools, and build proactive crime prevention programs in today's online environment.

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10:30AM – 10:45AM **Break**

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10:45AM – 12:00PM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Cross-Systems Collaboration Panel – City of Norfolk** — *Thomas Jefferson Amphitheater*

Mark Talbot, *Chief of Police, Norfolk Police Department*

Alex De Paula, *Community Safety and Investments Strategist, City of Norfolk*

Len Remias, *Director, Military and Community Affairs, City of Norfolk*

Clayton Marquez, *Founder and Executive Director, Guns Down Movement Inc.*

Anthony Clary, *Founder and Executive Director, Reck League Inc.*

Established during the 2023 legislative session, the Safer Communities Program (SCP) supports holistic, community-based strategies that address the root causes and conditions of community violence. SCP encourages a multidisciplinary approach to address community violence by involving leaders from law enforcement, education, social services, housing, public health, and local government. In this session, representatives from the City of Norfolk will discuss their collaborative efforts to reduce gun violence and violent crime and highlight the positive work of their SCP team.

**Overview of Local Strategies for Gun Violence Prevention** — *Benjamin Franklin Room*

Greg Hopkins, *Interim Director, Department of Justice Services, City of Richmond*

*Senior Policy Advisor for Gun Violence Prevention, City of Richmond*

Dee Dee Anderson, *Program Manager and Public Housing Liaison, Public Safety Program, Richmond Police Department*

Rick Edwards, *Chief of Police, Richmond Police Department*

Colette McEachin, *Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Richmond*

Caprichia Spellman, *Director, Office of Community Wealth Building, City of Richmond*

This session will explore strategies for developing a local, holistic framework for violence prevention that unites public agencies, law enforcement, and community-based organizations around shared goals of safety, equity, and trust. Using case studies, discussion, and practical tools, participants will examine how community policing principles can be integrated with community-driven approaches to address the root causes of violence. Participants will leave with tools for building trust, legitimacy, and long-term capacity within communities most impacted by violence.

**Lethality Assessment Program (LAP): Enhancing Coordinated Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence** — *James Madison Room*

Ashley Manuel, *LAP Coordinator and Victim Specialist, Virginia Office of the Attorney General*

Chad Felts, *LAP Training Coordinator, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

Based on the "Maryland Model" and the research of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, Virginia's Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) is an innovative, evidence-based strategy designed to prevent intimate partner violence (IPV) homicides and serious injuries. It provides an efficient method for law enforcement officers to (1) identify victims of IPV who are at the highest risk of being seriously injured or killed by their partner and (2) immediately connect them to their local domestic violence service program. This session will provide an overview of LAP and its implementation throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.



12:00PM – 1:15PM **Lunch (provided) PLENARY SESSION — Virginia Ballroom**

### **Evaluation and Metrics Reporting**

Jess Smith, *Project Director, Center for Public Policy, Virginia Commonwealth University*

This session will explore how to move beyond data collection for compliance and, instead, use data as a powerful tool for planning, program improvement, and grant reporting. Participants will learn how to align data collection with program goals, use data to tell compelling stories of impact, and make data-informed decisions that lead to stronger outcomes and sustainable funding.

1:30PM – 2:45PM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Program Highlight: Ketchmore Kids — Benjamin Franklin Room**

Chanell Ketchmore, *Founder and Executive Director, Ketchmore Kids, Inc.*

Troy Ketchmore, *Director of Programs, Ketchmore Kids, Inc.*

Khalid Karim, *Lead Workshop Facilitator, Ketchmore Kids, Inc.*

During this session, Ketchmore Kids, Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Newport News that works to empower youth and reduce violence, will provide a comprehensive program overview that highlights their unique service model: providing services inside juvenile detention centers. They will discuss how their programs have impacted the community and key takeaways of their work.

### **Stratified Policing: An Overview from the Co-Creators and Two Chiefs' Perspectives on Implementation —**

*Thomas Jefferson Amphitheater*

Roberto Santos, *Co-Director, Center for Police Practice, Police and Research, Radford University*

Rachel Santos, *Co-Director, Center for Police Practice, Policy and Research, Radford University*

Scott Booth, *Chief of Police, Roanoke Police Department*

Dr. Roberto Santos and Dr. Rachel Santos will provide an in-depth look at Stratified Policing, a crime reduction business model, and its rationale. They will explore the operationalization and implementation of this model, and how it can transform police departments from reactive to proactive. Chief Scott Booth will provide leadership insights on how he's successfully implemented and sustained the model, achieving crime reduction in his community.

### **Benefits of Using the Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) — James Madison Room**

Ken Rose, *Community Criminal Justice Board Consultant, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

This session will explore how local stakeholders—such as law enforcement, courts, service providers, and community leaders—can work together through Community Criminal Justice Boards (CCJBs). The discussion will cover who participates in CCJBs, their roles and responsibilities, and how these boards support coordinated, data-informed decision making. Panelists will share real-world examples of successful collaboration and implementation. Attendees will gain practical insights into building stronger local-state partnerships that improve public safety and community outcomes.

2:45PM – 4:00PM **POST-CONFERENCE SESSION**

### **Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) Leadership – Strategies for Successful Implementation —**

*James Madison Room*

Ken Rose, *Community Criminal Justice Board Consultant, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

Colonel William H. Anspach, III, *Chief of Police, Colonial Heights Police Department*

Duane Barron, *Lexington Public Defender, Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board*

Ross Carew, *Executive Director, OAR-Jefferson Area Community Corrections*

Trenton Rushton-Paul, *Criminal Justice Planner, Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Community Criminal Justice Board*

This session will equip executive-level leaders with practical tools to strengthen local justice systems through effective CCJB leadership. The session will provide a forum to highlight and share a range of project ideas that boards can pursue to address community safety, improve system coordination, and respond to local priorities. Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences, exchange ideas, and explore practical strategies for successful implementation.

2:45PM – 4:00PM **Office of Safer Communities Office Hours — Virginia Ballroom**

The Office of Safer Communities' (OSC) team will provide technical assistance to any OSC grantees and potential grantees.



