



# STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS:

*Connecting (and Reconnecting) with  
Kids, Colleagues, and Caregivers*



Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services  
[www.dcjs.virginia.gov](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov)

# AGENDA – November 27

7:30 – 8:30 AM **Coffee, Registration, and Participant Check-in**

8:30 – 9:00 AM **Welcome and Introductions**

Francine C. Ecker, *Director, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

Teresa P. Gooch, *Law Enforcement Division Director, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

Donna Michaelis, *Manager, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

9:00 – 9:45 AM **Connecting Before Correcting – Building Relationships with Kids: PART 1**

C.J. Butler, *Co-Owner, Educational Programs and Interventions for Children*

This presentation will focus on the critical interpersonal skills needed to build relationships with children and adolescents. The ability to build and maintain relationships will be invaluable in our efforts to correct problem behavior. The goal is improved outcomes for all involved.

## **PRESENTER BIO**

**Carroll M. (C.J.) Butler, Jr.** earned both his bachelor's and master's degree from Old Dominion University (ODU). Currently, Mr. Butler is a master lecturer at Old Dominion University in the Department of Communication Disorders and Special Education. Mr. Butler also provides educational consulting through Educational Programs and Interventions for Children. Prior to joining ODU, he worked for more than 15 years in both private and public schools as a teacher and administrator in both general and special education. He has extensive experience as a trainer and presenter at the local, state, and national levels. His areas of interest include Functional Behavioral Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan curriculum and instruction; behavior change; and collaboration and consultation.

9:45 – 9:55 AM **BREAK**

9:55 – 10:25 am **Impulsivity, Super Powers, and Positions of Authority**

Jenn Lynn, *Speaker, Empowering Autism Caregivers, LLC*

Jake Edwards, *Speaker, Empowering Autism Caregivers, LLC*

This presentation will take you on an unbelievable journey that started with 911 and landed Jenn Lynn and Jake Edwards in the White House. This is not the average teenage trip to maturity, but Jake is not your average teenager. Considered a high risk adoption at birth, there was no way to predict what was in store for this real life super hero. An Autism diagnosis at 2.5 years old led the family on a high-energy, high-intensity, emotional, and unpredictable path. Participants will hear how a child with multiple disabilities has become an incredible voice for the often voiceless. His speeches are never the same and you won't be prepared for what you're about to see!

## **PRESENTER BIOS**

**Jenn Lynn** is passionate about helping families dealing with Autism. She is mother of a 14-year old son with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Anxiety Disorder NOS, and Executive Function Disorder. Ms. Lynn strives to educate, enrich, and empower parents and community members by sharing what she's learned from years of first-hand behavior training at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, her work in special education (public/private schools), two years as an ABA technician, experience with PBIS training, and her job with special needs adults. Currently, she works as the Executive Director of Upcounty Community Resources, a nonprofit group in Maryland which serves fitness, social, and therapeutic needs of adults with special needs. The former TV news producer collaborates with special needs professionals and doctors, as well as advises Humana Behavioral Health on the development of a new Center for Autism Excellence. She speaks and writes uplifting and encouraging stories of living on the spectrum at *TheWorldAccordingtoJake.com*, is a contributor to the *Organization for Autism Research* newsletter/blog, published author, adoption advocate, active in special needs ministry, and performs professionally as a flute/piccolo player.

**Jake Edwards** is a volunteer member of Empowering Autism Caregivers, LLC. While he is the youngest member, he is more than qualified to speak on Autism, as he is succeeding with Autism. Jake has trained more than 1,300 LEOs as of March 2017. He has been honored at the White House where he participated in a panel discussion on Bridging Law Enforcement and the Community, and he was awarded the Governor's Citation from Governor Hogan. He has spoken to college classes, Autism events on the National Mall, lobbied the Capitol, the Maryland state house, presented motivational speeches to churches, trained police officers, and has appeared live television shows about his "super powers". He has no fear and was born to be behind the microphone. He can put his emotions and feelings into words to educate those outside the world of Autism. By offering his simple understanding, he teaches the public what it's like to live in his skin. He brings every audience through a gamut of emotions...laughter to suspense to tears at the end. He lives for the standing ovation! He has experience with motivational speaking, as well as law enforcement trainings.

# AGENDA – November 27 *(continued)*

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10:25 – 10:40 AM **BREAK**

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10:40 – 11:20 AM **Connecting Before Correcting – Building Relationships with Kids: PART 2**

C.J. Butler, *Co-Owner, Educational Programs and Interventions for Children*

Part 2 of this presentation will expand the discussion of building relationships with children and adolescents. The focus will be on the development of trust as the foundation for positive outcomes from difficult situations.

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11:20 – 11:30 AM **BREAK**

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11:30 AM – 12:15 PM **Importance of Partnerships Between Law Enforcement and Schools “From the Top”**

Sgt. Gary W. Fink, *SRO Supervisor, Lynchburg Police Department*

Ben Copeland, *Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration, Lynchburg City Schools*

Partnerships between law enforcement and schools are more important today than any time in the past. The national focus on the ‘school to prison pipeline’ and negative perceptions related to student behavior and school discipline, have a direct effect on school climate, student engagement and school safety. For Lynchburg it has been a five-year journey to reach a level of impact and effectiveness that is worth sharing. The presentation is a lessons-learned approach that will highlight both good and bad examples of partnership, communication, and leadership, while celebrating the positive effects on the City Schools and Police Department.

## **PRESENTER BIOS**

**Gary W. Fink** is entering his twentieth year in law enforcement with the City of Lynchburg’s Police Department. He currently serves as the Sergeant of the School Resource Officer Unit and is the department’s liaison to the school division’s administration office. He is a former school resource officer, certified gang expert, one of the department’s public information officers, and is certified in crisis negotiation.

**Ben Copeland** has been the Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration for Lynchburg City Schools since 2012. He is a retired U.S. Marine and previously served as the Chief Auxiliary Services Officer for Fort Bend ISD in Sugarland, Texas from 2009–2012. He currently oversees facilities maintenance, transportation, student services, personnel, and all capital improvement projects for Lynchburg City Schools.

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12:15 – 1:00 PM **LUNCH**

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1:00 – 4:30 PM **Strengthening Schools, One Contact at a Time**

Larry Moser, *Owner, Moser Training Solutions, LLC*

Workshop objectives are designed to improve the attendees’ ability to interact with others, communicate effectively, and adapt to the varying personalities and interactions encountered both on and off school campuses. Activities will include analysis of individual communication inclinations, as well as discussion of the four communication temperaments and their influence on interactions. Attendees who have completed the advance online *Everything DiSC® Workplace Profile*, will have the opportunity to view a detailed report associated with their natural human stressors and motivators that sometimes generate avoidable conflict and stress in the workplace. All attendees will have the opportunity to address the five-steps associated with positive service interactions and three essential elements of high quality customer service.

## **PRESENTER BIO**

**Larry Moser** brings more than 28 years of experience providing professional development training and facilitation nationwide. While serving the County of Fairfax, he became a sought-after leader, known for his ability to accomplish sustainable cross-discipline collaboration and interoperability. Several of his community-building initiatives have been referenced as best-practices used to strengthen neighborhoods and build communities. Aligned with this *Strengthening Connections Conference*, Mr. Moser credits diverse relationships and trust earned for his many successes. Now retired from public service, he shares his experience by training and coaching others on the topics of Interpersonal Communications, Critical-Thinking, Problem-Solving, Customer Service, Team-Building, Training Staff Development and Leadership. His collaboration and team-building skills have been sought by the more than 100 Federal, State, and Local service providers. Mr. Moser is an authorized partner for the *Everything DiSC®* and *The Five Behaviors of a Cohesive Team™*.

# AGENDA – November 28

7:30 – 8:30 AM Coffee, Registration, and Participant Check-in

8:30 – 9:45 AM **Strengthening Connections by Changing the Conversation**

Lee Rush, *Executive Director, justCommunity, LLC*

Based on the work of Peter Block (*Community: The Structure of Belonging*), this workshop introduces six essential conversations that create possibilities for personal transformation and organizational change. Each of these conversations grows out of thought-provoking questions. Key points will address: the power of invitation and why choice always trumps mandates, the power of possibility and why we need to stop worshipping at the altar of problems and start imagining new possibilities, the power of refusal, and to grasp the fact that if when we say “no” to something our “yes” is strengthened, and finally the power of gifts—and when we start to focus on gifts rather than deficiencies everything changes.

This methodology is called “A Small Group” and has been used across the world in business sectors, educational settings, community grass roots organizing meetings, collaborative problem solving sessions, faith community gatherings, and recently in cities exploring the development of “economies of compassion” or neighbor to neighbor connection efforts. Participants will be asked a simple question at the beginning of the presentation— “Do you want to change the world?” Of course the answer is usually “yes”. The follow up question is, “How do we go about that task?” The answer is “One room at a time and this is the room for today”. Come and enjoy less PowerPoint and more Powerful Conversations. Participants will learn a process they can use immediately in their efforts for true social change.

## **PRESENTER BIO**

**Lee Rush** is the Executive Director of justCommunity, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. justCommunity provides training and consultation services to communities, schools and organizations in the area of youth development, community mobilization strategies, student assistance programs and restorative practices. Mr. Rush is also a licensee and a certified trainer for the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP), the world’s first graduate school dedicated solely to Restorative Practices. Through his work with IIRP and justCommunity, Mr. Rush has trained more than 30,000 people throughout the United States and abroad. In 2004, he was appointed by Governor Ed Rendell (D-PA), to serve as a member of the statewide Advisory Commission on Children and Families, an inter-disciplinary group to provide guidance to the Governor’s senior cabinet members on public policy issues involving families and child and youth issues. In 2013, Mr. Rush was honored as the 2013 National Prevention Advocate by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). CADCA is the country’s largest advocacy group working on behalf of over 5,000 members to prevent substance abuse.

9:45 – 10:00 AM **BREAK**

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Teamwork Between Digital Immigrants and Digital Natives to Keep Social Media Predators Out of Our Schools**

Daphne Levenson, *Co-Owner and Trainer, Next Generation Training, LLC*

Humanity isn’t lost in the digital age; however, it is sometimes compromised and corrupted. Predators, in and out of the schools, use social media to lure, bully, and exploit kids and teens. Sexting, sextortion, sexploitation, human trafficking, and dangerous dares on YouTube are just a few of the few ways the school environment can become the most terrifying and dangerous place in town. These topics are not typically discussed at most dinner tables because most parents, teachers, and criminal justice practitioners (“digital immigrants”) misunderstand the world of “digital natives.” This workshop explores how: predators operate unseen in our schools and to adult eyes; the human brain works to convince us, that we, and our children, will not be victims; we need to educate adults and youth, differently from each other, and unlike any time in history; and we can mobilize youth, schools, parents, and criminal justice officials to create an effective defense against predators.

## **PRESENTER BIO**

**Daphne Levenson** has more than 20 years experience as a civilian trainer educating Law Enforcement, Public Safety Professionals, and School Administrators. She is a recognized subject matter expert on the topics of Social Media/Internet Safety, Social Media for Public Safety Agencies, Community Policing, Disaster Preparedness and Response, Communication, and Cultural Intelligence. Ms. Levenson was the Director of the Gulf States Regional Center for Public Safety Innovation (GSRCPPI) for 17 years, writing and conducting training for the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and others. She also served as the Executive Director of the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police for seven years. Ms. Levenson has a Bachelor’s Degree in Adult Education from North Texas State University.

12:00 PM **WRAP UP**

# DCJS OVERVIEW

## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), one of 11 agencies in the Secretariat of Public Safety and Homeland Security, occupies a unique place in state government because of its scope and responsibilities.

The agency directs programs and services to specific parts of the criminal justice system, for example crime victim assistance, or law enforcement; but DCJS is also charged with viewing the system as a whole in order to understand how changes in one component will affect the other so that plans and programs can be effectively coordinated.

DCJS is responsible for distributing federal and state funding to localities, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations for law enforcement, crime and delinquency prevention, juvenile justice and related services, victims services, corrections, and other areas; establishing and enforcing minimum training standards for criminal justice and private security personnel; and licensing and regulating the private security industry and other professions specified in the *Code of Virginia*. In connection with these activities, DCJS also provides training, technical assistance, and program development services to all segments of the criminal justice system; develops short- and long-range criminal justice plans; and conducts research and evaluations.

The agency has a broad constituent base that includes local and state criminal justice agencies and practitioners, non-profit agencies, and

various private practitioners and businesses. DCJS also works with other local and state agencies, the federal government, and advocacy groups and associations.

The agency's budget consists of both state and federal funds, over 90% of which are distributed to localities, criminal justice agencies, and organizations through grants and other types of financial assistance.

The 29-member Criminal Justice Services Board is the agency's policy board, with representatives from all aspects of the criminal justice system, the private security industry, the public-at-large, and the General Assembly. Thirteen members serve by virtue of the offices they hold; 16 are appointed by the Governor. The Board is the approving authority for the regulations that DCJS promulgates in accordance with the *Code of Virginia* and the Administrative Process Act. It also approves most of the grants the agency awards to localities, state agencies, and private non-profit organizations.

The DCJS website provides information on training and educational opportunities, grant funding, regulatory oversight processes, and the agency's programs. Recipients of grants from DCJS can use the site to access our online Grants Management Information System for specific grant award information at any time. The site also allows businesses and individuals to request information, register for trainings, and apply for various registrations, certifications, and licenses.





# DCJS Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

## CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, AND RESOURCES

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services' Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS), located within the Division of Law Enforcement and Security Services, reflects Virginia's commitment to providing safe and productive learning environments for all students and staff in our schools today. The VCSCS is a resource and training center for information and research about national and statewide school safety efforts and initiatives. School Safety, Campus Safety, Gang Prevention, and other public safety efforts are key priorities for VCSCS. Staff and resources are available to educate and assist localities around Virginia in these areas, among others.

### CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS

DCJS-VCSCS is proud to host a variety of conferences, forums, and trainings. All events are listed on the website ([www.dcjs.virginia.gov](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov)) along with additional information and registration instructions.

#### Disability Awareness Training for Law Enforcement Officers

DCJS has contracted with Niagara University to develop our Virginia specific Disability Awareness Training for Law Enforcement Officers. The ability to respond to individuals with disabilities has posed varying challenges to officers across the country and high-profile cases have exposed the need for more involved awareness and education. The characteristics, and how to recognize, identify and properly respond to individuals with disabilities, are imperative across settings. As the population increases and more individuals are active in the community, the need to ensure accurate and appropriate response is critical. The first sessions were held in October and additional trainings are being scheduled. Beginning in January 2018, DCJS will host train-the-trainer courses so that agencies can use the curriculum to train their own officers going forward. Standalone courses and curricula on dementia, intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health crises, and acquired brain injury will also be available for those who would like more in-depth training on each of those topics.

#### School Resource Officer, School Security Officer & School Administrator Training

School resource officers, school security officers and school administrators join multiple subject matter experts to learn and discuss topics such as Roles & Responsibilities, Threat Assessment, Trauma, Mental Health, Gangs, etc. This four-day course focuses on school safety, school law, and the relationship between SROs, SSOs and School Administrators. Upcoming sessions include February 26–March 1, 2018 in Weyers Cave, and April 23–26, 2018 in Ashburn.

#### The Briefings: Resiliency and Recovery After a School Crisis

DCJS, in partnership with the Maryland Center for School Safety, Koshka, and the Northern Virginia Community College Police Department, is proud to offer *The Briefings* on April 11, 2018 in Alexandria.

#### 2018 School Safety Training Forum

Register for the 2018 School Safety Training Forum, August 6–8, 2018 in Hampton. Experience three days of keynote and workshop speakers and the opportunity to network with nearly 1000 participants in the fields of law enforcement, school security, as well as PreK-12 administration and counseling, and others with an

interest in school safety. Also, plan to submit "A Highlight From the Field"—a segment to highlight some of the amazing ways Virginia SROs, SSOs, and school leaders are keeping staff and students safe, and creating better learning environments for kids in the process. Submit your stories to [shellie.evers@dcjs.virginia.gov](mailto:shellie.evers@dcjs.virginia.gov) by June 15, 2018 and you just may receive a waived registration fee!

### RESOURCES

In addition to conferences and trainings, VCSCS publishes materials for colleagues in the School and Campus fields. In addition to the publications, VCSCS also shares numerous useful resources for schools and campuses.

#### School-Law Enforcement Partnership Guide & Model MOU

Released in May of 2017, the *Virginia School-Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) Guide* and *Model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* were crafted by a School-Law Enforcement advisory group at the request of the Governor's Children Cabinet. The *Guide* and *Model MOU* are intended to serve as a user-friendly resource for members of local law enforcement and school communities who are directly involved with implementing school-law enforcement partnerships (SLEPs).

#### Coming Soon... A New Resource!

##### "Understanding Legal Basis for Student Searches in Schools: A Guide for Law Enforcement Officers and School Administrators"

Soon to be released in 2018, the guide will assist SROs and school officials in addressing some of the complex decisions that they must make when it comes to searches within the school. This guide is designed to provide a legal foundation and examples, and will illustrate the "right" decisions for the key issues. The key issues included are:

- Searching Students for Weapons
- Searching Students for Drugs
- Searches due to Exigent Circumstances/Public Safety
- Searches of Cell Phones (especially related to Sexting)
- Searches of Computers (especially related to Cyberbullying)
- Interviewing Students (regarding their rights and consent)
- Information Sharing (between schools and police)
- Video Security Footage (schools sharing footage with SROs/law enforcement)
- Liaison Responsibilities (SROs working with other police)
- Evidence Chain of Custody

**Sign up for DCJS Updates ([www.dcjs.virginia.gov/subscribe](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/subscribe)), and select "School and Campus Safety Training" as your subscription option in order to receive alerts when registration is available.**

# DCJS PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING & VIRGINIA CENTER FOR SCHOOL AND CAMPUS SAFETY STAFF

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*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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**Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services  
Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety  
TRAINING SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 27, 2017**

*Trainings are limited to target audiences and offered at no charge unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is required to ensure space.*

November 27–28, 2017	<b>Strengthening Connections School Climate Conference</b> (Cost \$35)	Doubletree by Hilton, Richmond, VA
November 30, 2017	<b>The Impact of Emotional and Psychological Trauma in Policing: Understanding, Awareness, Resiliency, and Support</b>	Newport News Police Department, Newport News, VA
December 4–5, 2017	<b>Two-Day Basic Anti-Terrorism Training</b>	Roanoke Police Training Academy, Roanoke, VA
December 6, 2017	<b>Basic Gang Awareness for School Personnel and Community Stakeholders</b>	Virginia Western Community College, Roanoke, VA
January 9–10, 2018	<b>Cell Phone Use in Drug Trafficking Investigations</b> ~SAVE THE DATE~ registration to open at a later date	Location to Be Determined
February 5–6, 2018	<b>Social Networking Investigative and Analytical Tools for Law Enforcement</b> ~SAVE THE DATE~ registration to open at a later date	Location to be Determined
February 26– March 1, 2018	<b>School Resource Officer, School Security and School Administrator Training: Building a Team to Support Students and Ensure School Safety</b>	Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy, Weyers Cave, VA
March 5–8, 2018	<b>Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Forum</b> (Cost \$125) ~SAVE THE DATE~ registration to open at a later date	Portsmouth, VA
March 12–13, 2018	<b>The Four Corners of Title IX Regulatory Compliance</b> ~SAVE THE DATE~ registration to open at a later date	Location to be Determined
March 14, 2018	<b>The Four Corners of Title IX Compliance Advanced Leadership Institute</b> ~SAVE THE DATE~ registration to open at a later date	Location to be Determined
April 11, 2018	<b>The Briefings: Resiliency and Recovery After a School Crisis</b> (Cost \$35) ~SAVE THE DATE~ registration to open at a later date	Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria, VA
April 23–26, 2018	<b>School Resource Officer, School Security Officer and School Administrator Training: Building a Team to Support Students and Ensure School Safety</b>	Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy, Ashburn, VA
August 6–8, 2018	<b>2018 School Safety Training Forum</b> (Cost \$125) ~SAVE THE DATE~ registration to open at a later date	Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, VA

For e-mail notifications on DCJS trainings, grants, and/or announcements,  
subscribe to **DCJS Updates** at [www.dcs.virginia.gov/subscribe](http://www.dcs.virginia.gov/subscribe)