center for CHILDREN & YOUTH JUSTICE | Changing the arc of a young person's future

LINC™
LEADERSHIP, INTERVENTION & CHANGE
Group Violence Prevention & Intervention in King County

5TH ANNUAL

LINC Conference

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2026
8:30 am PST – 5:00 pm PST
DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport, SeaTac, WA

Focusing on youth impacted by community violence and/or the juvenile legal system, the LINC Conference brings together experts representing education, justice, and community from across the region who will provide new information, training, and development to professionals and community members who support young people in their pursuit of successful life transformation.

WELCOME

ABOUT CCYJ

At CCYJ, we are reimagining how the child welfare and youth justice systems can better support our children and young people regardless of their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or background. We are a diverse and multidisciplinary team, with team members personally touched by the child welfare and youth justice systems and staff with professional systems experience, working upstream to ensure that kids get the equitable support needed to thrive. Every year we help improve the lives of 50,000 young people.

For more information, please visit www.ccyj.org.

ABOUT LINC

LINC (Leadership, Intervention, and Change) is comprised of representatives from regional agencies, including social service providers, law enforcement, probation, employment, outreach, and other applicable organizations. LINC team members work to implement the Social Intervention and Opportunities Provision strategies of the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model designed to prevent and reduce group/gang activity and community violence. LINC provides coordinated services and team-based case management to the intervention population and identifies additional prevention and intervention activities needed in the community. Participation in LINC Multidisciplinary Intervention Teams increases the effectiveness of service provision, reduces duplication of efforts, increases access to needed services, and strengthens cross systems collaboration. The team-based approach of LINC helps ensure that all agencies working with LINC clients have a common goal and shared strategies for each client, as well as diversity in expertise and experience.

For more information, please visit www.ccyj.org/our-work/reducing-gang-violence

AGENDA

Friday, November 6, 2026

8:30 am – 9:00 am — **Breakfast / Registration**

9:00 am – 9:40 am — **Welcome, Big Room Talk**

Introductions

Matt Diggs, *Board Vice Chair, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)*

Eddie Purpose, *Founder & Executive Director, Progress Pushers*

Welcome

Mohamed Egal, *Mayor, City of SeaTac*

Katie Wilson, *Mayor, City of Seattle*

9:40 am – 10:10 am — **Keynote Introduction**

Matt Diggs, *Board Vice Chair, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)*

Keynote

Nick Brown, *Attorney General of Washington State*

10:10 am – 10:30 am — **Transition**

10:30 am – 11:10 am — **Plenary**

Lars Almquist*, University of Washington Researcher*

Jose Alfaro*, Executive Director, Community Justice*

11:10 am – 11:20 am — **Transition**

11:20 am – 12:20 pm **Breakout Session 1**

Cascade 5	Cascade 7	Cascade 9
The Power of IF: Lived Experience, Connection, and a Different Approach to Juvenile Justice Dr. Felisa Bryant, *Executive Director, The IF Project* Janae Johnson, M. Ed., *Program Facilitation Manager, The IF Project* Trina Kennedy, *Alcohol and Drug Case Manager Lead, The IF Project*	**Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth** Morgan Silverman, LICSW, *Director of Innovation, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)* Emily Nicewonger, *Associate Director of Innovation, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)*	**From Evidence to Action: A State-Academic Partnership for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention in Washington State** Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, *Director, Center for Firearm Injury Prevention - University of Washington* Kathleen Harvey, *Executive Director, Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention - Washington State Department of Commerce*
Cascade 10	**Cascade 11**	**Cascade 12**
Validation: A Tool for Relationship-Building Sam Decker, *Program Coordinator, Walk About Yakima* Francisco Chiprez, *Mentor, Walk About Yakima*	**Life Space Crisis Intervention: Talking with Kids in Crisis** Micah Gibbens, M.Ed., *High School Instructor II, Overlake Specialty School* Sara Dominguez, M.Ed., *High School Instructor II, Overlake Specialty School*	**Transforming Practice: Making Youth & Family Meetings Truly Work for Families** Sarah McCamant, MSW, *Youth and Family Meetings (YFM) Program Manager, DCYF - Child Welfare Division* Sunshine Nelson, *Youth and Family Meetings (YFM) Training Specialist, DCYF - Child Welfare Division* Gwen Pinson, *Youth and Family Meetings (YFM) Program Consultant, DCYF - Child Welfare Division* Sheila Strong, *Youth and Family Meetings (YFM) Program Consultant, DCYF - Child Welfare Division*
Cascade 13		
Beyond Programs: What It Takes to Build a Community Violence Intervention Ecosystem DeVitta Briscoe, *Community Expert*		
Youth Track Cascade 4		
The Anatomy of the Street: Decoding Structural Trauma & Lateral Conflict Dr. Conrad Webster, *CEO, Black Boy Heal, LLC*		

12:20 pm – 12:45 pm **Transition**

12:45 pm – 12:50 pm **Announcement & Panel Introduction**

Matt Diggs, *Board Vice Chair, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)*

12:50 pm – 1:50 pm **Panel & Working Lunch**

Steffanie Fain, *Councilmember, King County District 5*

Dr. Ben Danielson, *Center Director, AHSHAY (Allies in Healthier Systems for Health and Abundance in Youth)*

Steven D. Strachan, *Executive Director, Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC)*

Francisco Chiprez, *Mentor, Walk About Yakima*

1:50 pm – 2:00 pm **Transition**

2:00 pm – 2:55 pm **Breakout Session 2**

Cascade 5	Cascade 7	Cascade 9
NAMI: Ending the Silence for Youth Serving Professionals Robin Hinz, M.A., *Youth & Young Adult Coordinator, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - South King County*	**Disrupting the Pipeline: Intersecting Foster Care, Juvenile Justice, and Trafficking Prevention** Roshni Sinha, *Pacific Northwest Regional Operations Coordinator, Safe House Project*	**Beyond the Release Date: Understanding Post-Incarceration Syndrome (PICS) and the Journey Home** Dr. Felisa Bryant, *Executive Director, The IF Project* Janae Johnson, M.Ed., *Program Facilitation Manager, The IF Project* Trina Kennedy, *Alcohol and Drug Case Manager Lead, The IF Project*
Cascade 10	**Cascade 11**	**Cascade 12**
CLOCK IT: Turning Youth Voice into Community Action Kechi Amaefule, *Founder/Executive Director, Mothers Impacting Lives Every Day (MILE)*	**Centering Youth Voices and Mentorship in Community Violence Intervention** Esprene Liddell-Quintyn, PhD, *Research Scientist, Center for Firearm Injury Prevention - UW,* Kristian Jones, PhD, *Associate Professor, UW School of Social Work,* Sam Decker, *Program Coordinator, Walk About Yakima* Zaheed Lynch, *Program Director - Family Integrated Transitions, Community Passageways*	**What is Credible Messenger?** Eddie Purpose, *Founder & Executive Director, Progress Pushers* Sareya Milton, *Marketing & Public Relations Manager, Progress Pushers* Jeremy Winzer, *Outreach Lead, Progress Pushers*
Cascade 13		
Emerging Trends to Youth Safety John Holbrook, *Director of Security, Renton School District*		

Youth Track Cascade 4
You Keep Telling Me to Cope. Who's Fixing the Problem? Dr. Conrad Webster, *CEO, Black Boy Heal, LLC*

2:55 pm – 3:05 pm **Mini Transition**

3:05 pm – 4:00 pm **Breakout Session 3**

Cascade 5	Cascade 7	Cascade 10
Redefining Reentry Through the Power of Lived Experience Durell Green, *CHOOSE Freedom Program Manager, CHOOSE180* Kevin Franklin, *CHOOSE Freedom Community Navigator, CHOOSE180*	**Beyond the Buzzwords: Youth Work Jeopardy** Gerald Bradford, *Executive Director, Seattle Peace and Safety*	**Adolescent Family Violence: Helping Youth and Parents Develop Respectful Family Relationships using the Step-Up curriculum** Francesa Peila-Phariss, MA, LMHC, *Senior Social Worker, King County Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS)* Lashon Watson, MA, LMHC, *Juvenile Services Social Worker, King County Superior Court*
Cascade 9	**Cascade 4**	**Cascade 11**
The CVI Blueprint Soren Tsui, *Co-Founder, Our Power Collective*	**Who is CCYJ and What is LINC?** William "Billy" Hairston, *Director of Impact, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)* Fredricka "Freddie" Pie, *Associate Director of Impact, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)*	**Hospital Based Violence Intervention & Prevention in Washington State** Laura Johnson, *Violence Intervention & Prevention Program Manager, Harborview Medical Center*

Cascade 12
The Neuroscience of Connection: Building Relationships That Help Youth Thrive Tovah Shotland, *Founder & CEO, Innovative Behavioral Consulting (IBC)*

Cascade 13

Gang-Related Offense or Forced Criminality?
A Conversation on Coercion, Control, and Accountability
Nicholas Oakley, *Director of Public Policy, TTA & Capacity Building, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)*

4:00 pm **Closing**

KEYNOTE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Nick Brown

Attorney General, Washington State

Nick Brown is Washington State's Attorney General and a lifelong public servant dedicated to advancing public safety, civil rights, and community well-being. His career has spanned military service, public prosecution, constitutional law and executive leadership, including serving as U.S. Attorney for Western Washington.

In that role, he led efforts to combat violent crime, sex trafficking, drug cartels, and the fentanyl crisis while championing civil rights and protections for vulnerable communities. Throughout his career, Brown has been a leading advocate for community safety initiatives, including defending landmark gun safety legislation and advancing policies that strengthen public trust and justice.

As Attorney General, he is focused on building safer communities, protecting civil rights, and ensuring government works effectively for all Washingtonians. His work reflects many of the values at the heart of LINC: prevention, accountability, collaboration, and creating safer futures for young people and communities across the state.

PLENARY

PLENARY SPEAKER



Lars Almquist

University of Washington Researcher

Lars is a PhD candidate at the University of Washington School of Public Health in the Department of Health Systems and Population Health researching the implementation of hospital-based violence intervention programs.

A qualitative and mixed methodologist with training in implementation science, Lars' research interests lie at the intersection of community violence and public health, with an emphasis on engaging firearm violence as a health determinant of individuals and populations. Additional interests include the utilization of public health interventions to strengthen community resilience, reduce retaliatory violence, enhance criminal justice reforms, support refugee recovery from trauma, and mitigate the onset of civil war.



Jose Alfaro

Executive Director, Community Action

José Alfaro, a first-generation Salvadoran-American, has made history as the first Latino to head a national gun violence prevention organization, Community Justice. His leadership has broken barriers and brought a unique perspective to the forefront. Community Justice now stands as the sole national gun violence prevention organization led by a person of color, with a specific focus on communities of color. José's work is deeply rooted in an anti-racist, community-centered approach integrating movement building, policy advocacy, and electoral campaigns. Beginning his career as a community educator in Baltimore, José has consistently focused on empowering marginalized communities. He has worked extensively with adolescents in Washington, D.C., addressing youth advocacy, dismantling toxic masculinity, and promoting empowerment. His efforts in Connecticut include organizing parents for education reform and equitable school funding. José's political work spans several successful campaigns at the state level, and his leadership in Latinx grassroots organizing has been recognized with his inclusion in Connecticut Magazine's 40 Under 40 Innovative Leaders list in 2017.At the national level, José managed organizing programs for Planned Parenthood Federation of America, where he led initiatives that advanced reproductive rights and mobilized Latinx voters. Before going to Community Justice, Jose served as the Director of Latinx Leadership and Engagement at Everytown for Gun Safety, further amplifying Latinx voices affected by gun violence across the United States.

PANELISTS

Together Everyone Achieves More: Building a Connected Community Safety Ecosystem

Creating safer communities takes all of us working together. This panel brings together Legislators, Systems leaders and Community Leaders from executive leadership to frontline practitioners, to explore shared goals, strengthen relationships, and identify opportunities for greater collaboration. Through open dialogue, panelists will highlight where our work aligns, how our efforts connect, and how stronger partnerships across policy, leadership, and on-the-ground practice can improve community safety and outcomes for youth and families.

At its core, this conversation is about breaking down silos, building trust, and recognizing that we achieve more when we work as one team toward a shared vision of community safety.

PANELISTS



Francisco Chiprez

Mentor, Walk About Yakima

Francisco Chiprez is a mentor at Walk About Yakima, where he uses his own life experience to connect with high-risk youth and help them make better life choices. Grounded in relationship-building, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), and radical love, Francisco finds his greatest reward in empowering young people to make meaningful and lasting changes in their lives.



Dr. Ben Danielson

Center Director, AHSHAY (Allies in Healthier Systems for Health and Abundance in Youth)

Dr. Ben Danielson is a Seattle pediatrician, community leader, and longtime advocate for children, youth, and families. He is widely recognized for his work to increase access to health care, address racial inequities, and promote the well-being and dignity of communities that have historically been underserved. Dr. Danielson currently directs Allies in Healthier Systems for Health & Abundance in Youth (AHSHAY) at the University of Washington School of Medicine. AHSHAY's mission is to "build up the fortifiers of hope and health for youth and unbuild the fortifications of youth incarceration". He previously served for more than two decades as Medical Director of Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, where his approach to care considered not only a child's medical needs but also the broader circumstances affecting their health and well-being. Throughout his career, Dr. Danielson has contributed to public policy, developed diversity initiatives, and served on numerous health, philanthropic, and community boards, including the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ). He also founded the Washington Medical-Legal Partnership, helping connect families with legal support to address issues affecting children's health. Dr. Danielson earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard University and his M.D. from the University of Washington School of Medicine.



Steffanie Fain

Councilmember, King County District 5

Steffanie Fain is a King County Councilmember representing District 5, which includes SeaTac, Des Moines, Normandy Park, and parts of Kent, Renton, and Tukwila. She was sworn into office on November 25, 2025, and is the first Korean American to serve on the King County Council and the first Asian American in nearly 40 years. Before joining the council, Councilmember Fain practiced civil litigation, business, healthcare, and employment law for 15 years. She has been recognized by her peers as a "Rising Star" from 2017 to 2020 and as a "Super Lawyer" since 2021, honors awarded through a selective, peer-driven process that recognizes professional achievement and leadership in the legal field. Steffanie earned her J.D. with honors from Seattle University and served as a judicial extern at the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent. Councilmember Fain is a longtime resident of South King County, a second-generation Korean American, a breast cancer survivor, a youth sports coach, and a parent. She lives in District 5 with her husband and two sons and remains deeply connected to local schools, small businesses, and community organizations.



Steven D. Strachan

Executive Director, Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC)

Executive Director Steve Strachan serves the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs following a 31-year career in law enforcement. Steve started as a part-time jailer with the Carver County (MN) Sheriff's Office, then began as a full-time police officer with the Lakeville (MN) Police Department, where he served as a Patrol Officer, DARE Officer, Detective, School Resource Officer, SWAT Operator and Commander, Sergeant, and as Chief of Police. He served as a member of the City Council of Farmington, MN for six years, and in 2002 was elected to the Minnesota State House of Representatives, where he served on the Judiciary Committee and was chief author of the bill that lowered the state's blood alcohol limit to .08. In 2006, Steve began as Chief of Police in Kent, WA, and became chief deputy at the King County Sheriff's Office in 2010. Steve was named Sheriff by the King County Council when Sheriff Sue Rahr became director of the Criminal Justice Training Commission. In 2013, Steve became chief of police in Bremerton, Washington, until his appointment as WASPC's executive director in 2018. Steve has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Minnesota, and a master's degree in Public Administration from Minnesota State University. Steve is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) through the Police Executive Research Forum. Steve is a leader in policy and community dialogue regarding the intersection of behavioral health with the law and justice system. He works to reduce involvement in the criminal justice system and provide alternatives to arrest. Since 2014, Steve has served as a member of the board of Kitsap Mental Health Services. Steve is a past board member and legislative chair for WASPC, and is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs Association. He was appointed to statewide policy boards by Minnesota Governors Ventura and Pawlenty, as well as Washington State Governors Gregoire, Inslee and Ferguson. Steve has served as a member of the board of the Washington State Clemency and Pardons Board and the Auto Theft Prevention Authority.

SPEAKER BIOS



Kechi Amaefule

Executive Director, Mothers Impacting Lives Every Day (MILE)

Kechi Amaefule is the Founder and Executive Director of MILE (Mothers Impacting Lives Every Day), a Washington-based nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth, women, and families through healing-centered programming, mentorship, mental health advocacy, and community leadership. Drawing from both professional expertise and lived experience, Kechi has developed innovative programs that address community violence, trauma, housing instability, and systemic inequities while elevating the voices of historically underserved communities. As the creator of the CLOCK IT initiative, she equips young people to transform personal experiences into advocacy through storytelling, civic engagement, restorative dialogue, and creative expression. Her work centers on helping youth move from surviving adversity to leading change within their schools, neighborhoods, and communities. Kechi is passionate about building partnerships that strengthen systems of support and ensure that young people are recognized not simply as recipients of services, but as essential leaders in creating safer, healthier, and more equitable communities.



Gerald Bradford

Executive Director, Seattle Peace and Safety

Gerald Bradford is the Founder and Executive Director of Seattle Peace and Safety, a nonprofit organization dedicated to dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline and creating opportunities for young people to discover their purpose, develop leadership skills, and achieve long-term success. With more than 20 years of experience spanning education, workforce development, re-entry, and youth leadership, Gerald has devoted his career to helping individuals overcome barriers and navigate pathways to opportunity. He currently serves at Renton Technical College, where he supports students in accessing higher education and the resources they need to thrive. Gerald also serves in leadership roles with the Central District Preservation Authority, advancing community preservation, equitable development, and neighborhood investment. Grounded in the belief that prevention begins with connection and leadership begins with self-awareness, he is passionate about helping young people recognize their strengths and reach their full potential. Gerald holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Washington and remains committed to building safer communities by investing in the success of future generations.



DeVitta Briscoe

Community Expert

DeVitta Briscoe is a public safety policy strategist, community violence intervention advisor, and survivor advocate with more than a decade of experience in violence prevention, restorative justice, and community leadership. She served as Seattle's first Gun Violence Prevention Liaison in the Mayor's Office and now leads the Community Safety Strategy Group, advising government and community partners on coordinated approaches to reducing violence. As a mother who lost her son to gun violence and a sister who lost her brother to a police shooting, Briscoe brings lived experience alongside professional expertise. Her work centers survivors, strengthens community partnerships, and connects frontline knowledge with public policy. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago Crime Lab's Community Violence Intervention Leadership Academy and founder of the Black Women's Coalition to End Violence.



Dr. Felisa Bryant

Executive Director, The IF Project

Dr Felisa Bryant is the Executive Director of The IF Project, where she leads initiatives focused on reducing recidivism and empowering incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and girls. Dr Bryant collaborates with a passionate team to design and oversee programs that offer mentoring, education, and reentry support, creating transformative opportunities for justice-impacted individuals to thrive. Dr Bryant is also the Founder and Principal Consultant of DFB Coaching & Consulting, a trauma-informed practice rooted in healing, transformation, and equity. Her work is grounded in lived experience, advanced academic training, and a deep commitment to systems change. Felisa's personal journey, from incarceration to earning a Ph.D. in Psychology, continues to shape the way she leads, advocates, and serves. Her academic research focused on reentry transitions, and she brings expertise in conflict resolution, strategic thinking, case management, and leadership development both to The IF Project and her consulting work. Through DFB Coaching & Consulting, Dr Bryant provides strategic coaching, curriculum development, policy advising, and facilitation to organizations committed to building trauma-informed, equity-centered, and healing-driven systems. Whether she is training law enforcement or correctional staff, mentoring emerging justice-impacted leaders, or supporting nonprofits in deepening their impact, Dr Bryant leads with authenticity, purpose, and heart. Dr Bryant believes that healing is leadership and that real change begins from the inside out.



Sara Dominguez, M.Ed

High School Instructor II, Overlake Specialty School

Sara Dominguez, M.Ed (she/her), is a high school special education teacher. She has eight years of experience working with students with emotional and behavioral disabilities at Overlake Specialty School. Prior to her work at OSS, Sara worked with youth and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities in a therapeutic recreation setting through Seattle Parks and Recreation Specialized programs, and Bellevue Adaptive Programs. She spent her foundational years focusing on therapeutic interventions and developing holistic ways to support students' growth and progress. Outside of her professional career, she enjoys camping, hiking, skiing, eating delicious food, and cuddling with her two orange cats!



Sam Decker

Program Coordinator, Walk About Yakima

Sam Decker is the Program Coordinator for Walk About Yakima, a community violence intervention program serving Yakima, WA. With a varied background that includes small business management and public education, she leverages an eclectic skill set and a desire to empower marginalized youth to keep the program running smoothly behind-the-scenes.



Kevin Franklin

CHOOSE Freedom Community Navigator, CHOOSE180

Kevin Franklin is a CHOOSE Freedom community navigator with lived experience (in both the streets and the penitentiary). He supports youth and young adults who have been impacted or influenced by violence, incarceration, or street/gang culture. One of his main priorities is to make sure young people understand that they can look, talk, and walk however they want/CHOOSE. It's young people's actions that he's looking at and paying attention to. Through his mentorship and the CHOOSE Freedom workshops, he and his team show young people how to make healthy choices, navigate conflict and life, take accountability, and recognize that their past does not define their future.



Micah Gibbens, M.Ed

High School Instructor II, Overlake Specialty School

Micah Gibbens, M.Ed (he/him), is a high school special education teacher and adjunct professor at Bellevue College. He has over 16 years of experience with students with emotional disabilities. Originally from Eastern Washington (shout out to the 509!), he first taught in Brooklyn as a member of the NYC Teaching Fellows. He learned early on in his career that all great teaching begins with building relationships. At Overlake Specialty Schools, he has taught high school social studies and math for the past 10 years. He lives in Shoreline with his spouse, five-year old daughter, and two-year old son.



Durell Green

CHOOSE Freedom Program Manager, CHOOSE180

Durell Green is a community cultivation advocate born in Tacoma, Washington. His lived experience as a child who was funneled through the school-to-prison pipeline is the main motivating factor behind his work in restorative practices with Choose 180. He believes strongly in learning and recovering from mistakes, the resiliency of our youth, and the power of choice. He envisions a world where systems and "isms" do not rob young people of recognizing and operating in their gifts and purpose. His passion led to being appointed to serve for 6 years on the Washington Statewide Reentry Council to help inform the government on policy. He has also designed curriculum focused on assisting young people to mitigate the negative impacts of incarceration and successfully integrate into society.



William “Billy” Hairston

Director of Impact, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)

At CCYJ, William is the Director of the Impact programs, which includes the statewide Becca Task Force, a group of court and school district staff focused on ARY, CHINS, truancy interventions, and best practices for student and family-school engagement. CCYJ’s CVI programs include LINC, a group and gang violence reduction program in King County, RPKC, a gun violence reduction program. And JWAY CCYJ’s youth policy advocacy group. William is also accomplished at developing young people and teams of adults that support young people. This includes nearly ten years of experience with Seattle Public Schools in multiple roles at the school and district levels, working with some of the most high-needs schools in the Seattle School District. As part of the Seattle School District, he oversaw and partnered with 33 Seattle schools to facilitate attendance interventions and family engagement. William Hairston studied at Adams State University in Colorado, where he began what is more than two decades’ worth of experience working to support and partner with young people and their families in both Washington State and Colorado. When William is not working to build better support for youth and families, he is an assistant football coach at the University of Puget Sound.



Kathleen Harvey

Executive Director, Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention - Washington State Department of Commerce

As the Executive Director of the Washington State Department of Commerce’s Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention, Kathleen Harvey brings more than 34 years of experience in criminal justice reform, public health and wellbeing initiatives, and violence prevention. Their career has been dedicated to disrupting cycles of violence and advancing healing-centered strategies, consistently fostering collaborative partnerships with community members, advocates, and local leaders to create meaningful change.



Robin Hinz, MA

Youth & Young Adult Coordinator, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - South King County

Robin Hinz has served as the Youth & Young Adult Program Coordinator for NAMI South King County, Washington for the past 4 years. Beyond her professional role, Robin brings a unique and deeply personal perspective to her work, having navigated her own life with undiagnosed mental health challenges. Guided by her personal mantra, "It’s Never Too Late to Get Help," Robin is dedicated to fostering resilience in others. She oversees the implementation of all NAMI teen and young adult programming for the NAMI South King County affiliate, ensuring that vital resources reach those who need them most. Her impact in the community is extensive. She has delivered over 200 NAMI Ending the Silence presentations to more than 2,000 attendees. Additionally, she is a certified NAMI In Our Own Voice presenter, sharing her journey to reduce stigma and encourage open conversations. Recently, Robin has presented workshops at the Washington State Behavioral Health Conference and conducts NAMI presentations throughout the South King County region. Robin holds a Master’s degree in Sociology from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Arts from Central Washington University. Most recently, thanks to a grant from Macy’s, she spearheaded the creation of a dedicated youth resource section on the NAMI South King County website, which you can explore at (https://namiskc.org/youth-and-young-adult-programming/).



John Holbrook

Director of Security, Renton School District

John was born and raised in Mason County, WA, and currently serves as the Director of Security for the Renton School District in King County, WA. He has over 18 years of experience in security, analysis, and emergency operations. The recipient of a Bronze Star and the Washington State Governor's Lifesaving Award, John brings a deep commitment to protecting school communities.



Janae Johnson, M. Ed.

Program Facilitation Manager, The IF Project

Janae Johnson is The IF Project's Program Facilitation Manager. In 2019, she began facilitating IF's Writers Series workshops at Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW), before implementing the remainder of the organization's programs. Janae is an award-winning poet, host, teaching artist, and community organizer, with over 10 years of teaching experience and a Master of Education (M. Ed.) degree in Educational Leadership.



Laura Johnson

Violence Intervention & Prevention Program Manager, Harborview Medical Center

Laura Johnson has worked at Harborview Medical Center as a clinical social worker and social work supervisor for over 15 years. She has spent the last 3 years as the Program Manager of the Violence Intervention & Prevention Program. A seasoned educator and consultant, she has presented extensively to healthcare professionals, hospital teams, and state, local, and national partners on a broad range of issues, including hospital social work, sexual assault, gun violence, and end-of-life care.



Kristian Jones, PhD

Associate Professor, University of Washington School of Social Work

Kristian Jones, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the University of Washington in the School of Social Work. His research examines how youth mentoring relationships can be utilized to prevent adverse outcomes and promote positive strengths for marginalized young people with a focus on Black youth. As a Black male scholar, his research is grounded in his passion for equity and inclusion, specifically as it relates to marginalized youth and their families. His most recent research examines how youth mentoring relationships can prevent firearm violence among Black young people and has led him to join the Firearm Injury Policy & Research Program at the University of Washington. Before becoming a faculty member at the University of Washington, he worked as a Foster Care Counselor at Youth Villages in Cookeville, Tennessee, and as a Community Support Therapist in Stone Mountain, Georgia. He received his PhD in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin, his Master's of Education in Counseling from Boston University, a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Albany State University in Albany, Georgia, and was raised in Marietta, Georgia.



Trina Kennedy

Alcohol and Drug Case Manager Lead, The IF Project

Trina is a passionate advocate, case manager, and systems-impacted leader who brings over 10 years of experience working with individuals affected by domestic violence and incarceration. In her role with The IF Project, she supports women navigating reentry, helping them reclaim their power, rebuild their lives, and reconnect with their purpose. Trina approaches her work through a healing-centered lens, grounded in empathy, lived experience, and unwavering belief in the strength of every woman she serves. She is especially committed to uplifting women whose voices have been silenced, creating space for transformation through trust, accountability, and compassion. Her personal and professional philosophy is rooted in the belief that true change begins within and that self-care, mentally, physically, and spiritually, is essential to long-term freedom and leadership. Trina's dedication, presence, and passion continue to inspire those walking their path toward healing and liberation.



Esprene Liddell-Quintyn, PhD

Research Scientist, Center for Firearm Injury Prevention - University of Washington

Esprene Liddell-Quintyn, PhD, is a Research Scientist at the University of Washington, Center for Firearm Injury Prevention (C-FIP), where she leads qualitative research and evaluation projects focused on community-based interventions, intimate partner violence, and firearm-related policies. Her work emphasizes community-centered partnerships to reduce firearm-related harm, particularly within minority communities. She received her doctorate in community psychology from the University of Miami and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Rutgers University, New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center.



Zaheed Lynch

Program Director - Family Integrated Transitions (CP-FIT), Community Passageways

Zaheed Lynch is the Program Director of the Community Passageways Family Integrated Transitions (CP-FIT) team. He is dedicated to supporting youth and young adults involved in the criminal justice system and advancing community-based approaches that promote positive outcomes for young people.



Sarah McCamant, MSW

Youth and Family Meetings (YFM) Program Manager, DCYF - Child Welfare Division

Sarah McCamant, MSW, is the Youth and Family Meetings (YFM) Program Manager within the Child Welfare Division of Washington's Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Sarah has dedicated her career to child welfare, with professional experience spanning across prevention, legal advocacy, and case management in Iowa, California, and Washington. In Sarah's current role, she is responsible for the D.S. Settlement agreement system improvement revisions to policy and practice for Youth and Family Meetings. She aims to strengthen partnerships with youth and families as experts in their own lives, through equitable, strengths-based practice. Grounded in both lived and frontline experience, Sarah's work emphasizes trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and healing-centered approaches that bridge policy, data, and relational practice to advance family-centered child welfare systems.



Sareya Milton

Marketing and Public Relations Manager, Progess Pushers

Sareya Milton is a Seattle native and dynamic leader dedicated to youth empowerment and community transformation. As the Marketing & Public Relations Manager at Progress Pushers, she amplifies the voices of young people, strengthens community partnerships, and drives initiatives that create real impact. Sareya believes this work is transformational from the inside out, shaping stronger individuals and a stronger community.



Emily Nicewonger

Associate Director of Innovation, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)

Emily's background includes direct engagement with youth and families across systems; managing specialized, community-based case management programs; and leading homelessness prevention initiatives. Emily is passionate about working alongside communities to develop programs and systems that center and uplift the humanity, experiences, and voices of children and families.



Francesca Peila-Phariss, MA, LMHC

Senior Social Worker, King County Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS)

Francesca Peila-Phariss, MA, LMHC, is the Senior Social Worker for King County's Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) and Step-Up programs. She has extensive experience supporting youth and families impacted by family conflict, family violence, and high-risk behaviors. Francesca earned her master's degree in Counseling Psychology and has worked in the field of family violence since 2011. She approaches her work with curiosity, compassion, and integrity. Since joining the Step-Up and FIRS programs in 2015, Francesca has provided therapeutic interventions that help youth and caregivers build safer, more respectful family relationships through skill development, accountability, and restorative practices. In 2018, she completed training in Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) and became a certified TBRI Practitioner, further strengthening her trauma-informed approach to working with youth and families. In August 2025, she was promoted to Senior Social Worker for the Step-Up program, where she continues to advance trauma-informed and restorative practices that foster resilience, strengthen family relationships, and support lasting change.



Eddie Purpose

Founder & Executive Director, Progress Pushers

In late 2017 Edward “Eddie” Purpose helped to establish and expand the nationally recognized Credible Messenger (CM) Initiative into Washington state. Credible Messenger is a National youth mentorship, group facilitated, transformational process that is designed to assist, mentor and meet the needs of justice-involved youth and young adults whom are often described as “most challenging.” As a lead trainer of the model locally, Eddie has trained dozens of service providers and community members. Eddie is currently a Credible Messenger Lead Trainer and Coach. He also facilitates groups within multiple areas throughout community, within schools as well as juvenile facilities. As a trainer, coach, and facilitator Eddie has been recognized for his services by being awarded “2019 Story of the Year” by the Federal Way Mirror newspaper and becoming the first recipient ever to receive the “Eddie Ellis Spirit Award” – the man who coined the phrase Credible Messenger. Previously, after serving a nearly 13 year prison sentence for a crime he committed during his teenage years, Eddie worked at the Urban League of Metropolitan of Seattle (UMLS) as the first Youth Outreach Coordinator, recruiting the first ever youth Career Bridge class in 2016. He eventually became a Participant Navigator for cohorts thereafter. Eddie has worked as a faculty member Instructor at South Seattle College teaching life skills and job-readiness before being recruited to facilitate similar curriculum to men and women at the Maleng Regional Justice Center (RJC) – the program, called LEAP2win, was the first of its kind in the nation. In 2017 Eddie founded Progress Pushers® and, professionally, is most proud of the fact that he’s able to be the mentor, advocate and positive role model that he didn’t have during his upbringing. Eddie’s joy is infectious and comes with him wherever he goes. He is a community leader, advocate, and activist. He prides himself with working with a population of youth and young adults that society at large have given up on.



Nicholas Oakley

Director of Public Policy, TTA & Capacity Building, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)

Nicholas Oakley, JD, is Senior Director, Public Policy, TTA, & Capacity Building at the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ), where he oversees CCYJ's anti-trafficking work and leads Washington's Youth Human Trafficking Statewide Coordinating Committee. Nicholas' work is based on close partnerships with juvenile justice, child welfare, and homeless youth service systems across Washington. He convenes policymakers, leaders, and frontline workers from these sectors and uses collaborative strategies to develop proposed reforms to policy and practice, coordinates pilot implementation of the reforms, and advocates for widespread adoption of the reforms once they have been tested and evaluated. He currently leads CCYJ's statewide survey of Washington's response to the sex and labor trafficking of minors, including youth charged with offenses that may be connected to their exploitation. Nicholas also provides training on creating safer and more affirming systems of care for LGBTQIA+ youth to stakeholders across Washington and the US. Prior to joining CCYJ, Nicholas worked at a Seattle law firm representing children, youth, and families in juvenile offender, dependency, education, domestic, and criminal matters. He also served as a lecturer in the University of Washington School of Law Child and Youth Advocacy Clinic. Nicholas holds a JD from the University of Washington School of Law and a BA from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Between completing his undergraduate degree and entering law school, he spent four years as an educator, two of them as a Peace Corps volunteer.



Fredricka “Freddie” Pie

Associate Director of Impact, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)

Fredricka “Freddie” Pie has been working and building processes and developing best practices in several areas of the nonprofit world since 2009. Freddie’s work experience spans across areas such as youth housing, gang-involved youth and families, and juvenile legal system-impacted youth and families, in various roles. With degrees in Social and Human Services, Freddie combines her education and personal life experiences to provide an authentic voice when advocating and building processes for CCYJ to serve in the community.



Ali Rowhani-Rahbar

Director, Center for Firearm Injury Prevention - University of Washington

Ali Rowhani-Rahbar is the Bartley Dobb Professor for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Director of the Center for Firearm Injury Prevention at the University of Washington. He leads research focused on preventing firearm-related harm, improving responses when it occurs, and supporting healing afterward. His team partners closely with community-based organizations and collaborators across government, research, policy, and practice at the local and national levels to ensure the work reflects real-world priorities and contributes to meaningful change for communities most affected. These efforts have helped inform state legislation, strengthen public health practice, and shape national research priorities.



Morgan Silverman, LICSW

Director of Innovation, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)

Morgan Silverman, LICSW, serves as a director at the Center for Children & Youth Justice in Seattle, Washington. Morgan has worked in the nonprofit sector for over 20 years with a specific focus on working with families, youth, and young adults. Working with individuals in different situations, but often experiencing similar barriers, led to Morgan's desire to work on a macro level, addressing systemic issues in order to equitably serve children and families in crisis.



Tovah Shotland

Founder & CEO, Innovative Behavioral Consulting (IBC)

BTovah Shotland is a nationally recognized trauma and behavior consultant with over 15 years of experience supporting youth and the adults who serve them across educational, clinical, and community settings. Her work is grounded in neuroscience and evidence-based practice, rooted in one belief: that lasting change happens when we support both the individual and the system, helping young people access effective interventions while equipping adults to understand their own behavior and its impact on those they serve. As Founder and CEO of Innovative Behavioral Consulting (IBC), Tovah partners with schools, healthcare systems, and community organizations to design neuroscience-informed, trauma-responsive intervention strategies that work for each individual in their unique context, whether in the classroom, their community, at home, or in clinical care. She works alongside educators, caregivers, and clinicians to build awareness of how their responses shape youth and young adult outcomes and to develop practices rooted in empathy, reflection, and sustainable change, all anchored in what research tells us about how the brain learns, heals, and grows. Through coaching and consultation grounded in the neuroscience of stress and resilience, Tovah supports individuals and teams in building capacity to prevent burnout and create sustainable practices that honor both their needs and those they serve. In parallel, Tovah serves as a part-time Adjunct Professor at the University of Washington, preparing future leaders to integrate trauma-informed practices and equity-centered approaches into their work.



Roshni Sinha

Pacific Northwest Regional Operations Coordinator, Safe House Project

As the Pacific Northwest Regional Operations Coordinator at Safe House Project, Roshni leverages her background in criminal investigation, human rights research, and frontline crisis response to unite communities against human trafficking. She equips service providers and community members to identify exploitation, ensures investigative information reaches the right agencies to deliver justice, and bridges gaps between law enforcement and local nonprofits to expand safe housing for survivors. Her role also includes conducting direct outreach to incarcerated trafficking survivors, advocating for those criminalized for acts they were forced or coerced into committing under their exploiters' control. Previously, Roshni supported federal cases involving child sexual exploitation, co-authored a 90-page report on survivor services as a Seattle Human Rights Commission Fellow, and provided emergency shelter, 24/7 hotline care, and street outreach to survivors of the sex trade and trafficking at REST. Grounding her work in hands-on crisis experience, she strengthens regional networks to ensure survivors across the Pacific Northwest have access to immediate safety and long-term support.



Soren Tsui

Co-Founder, Our Power Collective

Soren Tsui is a Community Violence Intervention (CVI) expert with two decades of experience designing and implementing street outreach, case management, mentoring, workforce development, and cognitive behavioral programs. Soren was a key architect of READI Chicago, where he led staff development and performance management, co-designed the workforce model, and led a program redesign in collaboration with six community partners. He then helped build the infrastructure for national CVI technical assistance, including co-developing the CVI-ROSE, one of the first capacity assessment tools built specifically for CVI programs. Since 2023, Soren has worked with community-based organizations and government offices across the United States, offering a range of support to develop, implement, and strengthen their CVI strategies. Soren's work is driven by a deep commitment to human rights and a belief that all people deserve safety, freedom, and opportunity. Soren holds a bachelor's degree in Communication Science from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and a master's degree in Social Services Administration from the Crown School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice at the University of Chicago.



Lashon Watson, MA, LMHC

Juvenile Services Social Worker, King County Superior Court

Lashon Watson, MA, LMHC, holds a Master's Degree in Counseling and is now one year into his role with the Restorative Programs and StepUp Team. As a dedicated Juvenile Services Social Worker with King County Superior Court, he is committed to supporting youth and families through challenging circumstances with compassion, integrity, and evidence-based practice. Lashon brings strong clinical insight, trauma-informed care principles, and a collaborative approach to helping young people access the resources and guidance they need to thrive. With a focus on building trust, promoting accountability, and strengthening community connections, he works closely with multidisciplinary teams to ensure that every youth receives individualized support. Known for professionalism, empathy, and a steady commitment to equitable outcomes, Lashon strives to make a meaningful impact in the lives of the young people he serves and within the broader juvenile justice system.



Dr. Conrad Webster

CEO, Black Boy Heal, LLC

Dr. Webster is a tenure-track assistant professor of Political Science at Highline College. He earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Washington and a Master of Public Administration from Seattle University. His research sits at the intersection of race, politics, and public policy, exposing how punitive systems target Black and Brown communities and pushing for policy change rooted in equity and justice. In 2023, he received the NAMI Bebe Moore Campbell Minority Mental Health Award for his contributions to minority mental health awareness in Washington State. Dr. Webster is the author of "I Don't Think They Like Us: School Suspensions as Anti-Black Male Practice" (Journal of African American Males in Education) and "Black Bodies, Dueling Pandemics, and the Hidden Rules for White Profit in the NBA" (Philosophy, Sport, and the Pandemic, 2022). He has spoken at national conferences on race and equity and works with school districts to reconstruct policies that better support Black males. His teaching and scholarship share one mission: disrupting systems of harm and expanding community power through political knowledge.



Jeremy Winzer

Outreach Lead, Progress Pushers

Jeremy Winzer is a youth specialist at Progress Pushers, an organization dedicated to guiding, educating and empowering youth who are most affected by societal systems. For his selfless work with local youth, Winzer has been named the Federal Way Mirror's Hometown Hero of the Month for June 2024.

SESSIONS

BREAKOUT 1 A

TOPIC

The Power of IF: Lived Experience, Connection, and a Different Approach to Juvenile Justice

Presented by Dr. Felisa Bryant, *Executive Director, The IF Project,* **Janae Johnson, M. Ed.,** *Program Facilitation Manager, The IF Project,* **Trina Kennedy,** *Alcohol and Drug Case Manager Lead, The IF Project*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

11:20 am – 12:20 pm, Cascade 5

ABOUT

It started with one question: If there was something someone could have said or done to change the path that led you here, what would it have been?

That question became the foundation of The IF Project. Today, The IF Project is a lived-experience-centered organization working with people impacted by incarceration and the systems and communities surrounding them. Our work is rooted in truth telling, empathy, awareness, accountability, relationship, and the belief that people should not be permanently defined by the worst decision or most difficult chapter of their lives.

In this interactive presentation, participants will learn who The IF Project is, how our model developed, and how we are applying that model within juvenile justice settings. A central focus will be The IF Project's work with young people at Echo Glen Children's Center, where IF facilitators engage youth through Healing Dialogue and Anti-Violence Workshops. Rather than entering juvenile facilities simply to lecture young people about making better choices, The IF Project uses credible relationships, lived experience, honest conversation, reflection, and facilitated dialogue to create space for youth to examine violence, identity, emotions, decision-making, accountability, and their futures.

The presentation will explore what changes when adults stop beginning with: “What did you do?” and create enough trust to ask: “What happened?” “Who are you?” and “Who do you want to become?” The session will also discuss the realities of bringing community-based, lived-experience-led programming into institutional environments, including partnership, consistency, boundaries, accountability, cultural responsiveness, and collaboration with facility staff.

BREAKOUT 1 B

TOPIC

Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth

Presented by Morgan Silverman, LICSW, *Director of Innovation, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ),* **Emily Nicewonger,** *Associate Director of Innovation, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

11:20 am – 12:20 pm, Cascade 6

ABOUT

This session provides an introduction to commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of youth, with an emphasis on practical, trauma-informed responses. Participants will examine common terminology; the relationship between systemic inequities, unmet needs, and vulnerability; varied forms of exploitation; recruitment patterns; and signs that may indicate a young person is experiencing exploitation. The session also explores language for engagement, ways to ask direct and nonjudgmental questions, and strategies for building safety.

BREAKOUT 1 C

TOPIC

From Evidence to Action: A State-Academic Partnership for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention in Washington State

Presented by Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, *Director, Center for Firearm Injury Prevention - University of Washington,* **Kathleen Harvey,** *Executive Director, Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention - Washington State Department of Commerce*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

11:20 am – 12:20 pm, Cascade 8

ABOUT

This Effective firearm violence prevention and intervention require durable infrastructure connecting government, community practice, data, and research. Washington State offers one model through a sustained partnership between the Washington State Department of Commerce Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention (OFSVP) and the University of Washington Center for Firearm Injury Prevention (C-FIP). Created by the Washington State Legislature in 2020, OFSVP supports statewide firearm violence prevention and intervention through grantmaking, technical assistance, convening, data improvement, and identification and dissemination of promising practices. C-FIP, established in 2019 with legislative support, contributes interdisciplinary research and evaluation expertise grounded in partnership with communities, practitioners, and policymakers.

In this session, we will describe OFSVP's role, priorities, and approach to building statewide violence prevention and intervention capacity. We will discuss how the OFSVP-C-FIP partnership has translated state priorities and community needs into practical data, evaluation, and evidence-translation products. Examples include a statewide inventory of firearm-related data sources and interactive firearm data dashboard; work to map data linkages and strengthen cross-system data infrastructure; community-centered, participatory, mixed-methods evaluations of youth-focused community violence intervention (CVI) programs; a co-developed CVI theory of change and measurement toolkit that allows programs to build tailored quantitative and qualitative evaluation tools; reviews of evidence on CVI strategies; evaluation of statewide secure firearm storage initiatives; and related reports and peer-reviewed scholarship. Across these efforts, the partnership has emphasized iterative co-development, engagement with data stewards, genuine power-sharing with community-based organizations, and evaluation as a tool for learning and capacity building as well as accountability. The presenters will discuss lessons from this work, including aligning scientific rigor with government and community timelines, navigating fragmented data systems, balancing common measurement with local adaptation, and creating products that are useful to practitioners and decision-makers. Washington's experience illustrates how a sustained state-academic partnership can strengthen the connection between evidence and implementation and create a continuous feedback loop among community practice, research, policy, and public investment.

BREAKOUT 1 D

TOPIC

Validation: A Tool for Relationship-Building

Presented by Sam Decker, *Program Coordinator, Walk About Yakima,* **Francisco Chiprez,** *Mentor, Walk About Yakima*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

11:20 am – 12:20 pm, Cascade 9

ABOUT

Validation is a simple, effective way to establish trust, promote communication, and help people feel seen and understood. Unfortunately, the institutions that serve vulnerable people frequently do the opposite, invalidating their emotions, traumas, and decisions, and driving them to seek validation from unhealthy sources. On the other side of the coin, professionals working with at-risk individuals may struggle to remain supportive during challenging periods, eroding trust and reducing efficacy. Presented through the lens of gang intervention, this session aims to provide a straightforward, structured approach to validation anchored in the principles of dialectical behavior therapy. Participants will receive ample opportunity for hands-on practice, giving them tools for better relationship-building in their own work with vulnerable populations.

BREAKOUT 1 E

TOPIC

Life Space Crisis Intervention: Talking with Kids in Crisis

Presented by Micah Gibbens, M.Ed., *High School Instructor II, Overlake Specialty School,* **Sara Dominguez, M.Ed.,** *High School Instructor II, Overlake Specialty School*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

11:20 am – 12:20 pm, Cascade 10

ABOUT

This presentation provides an introduction to using Life Space Crisis Intervention (LSCI). LSCI is a brain-based, trauma-informed, relationship-building verbal interview strategy which turns crisis situations into learning opportunities for young people who exhibit patterns of challenging behaviors. We will explore the dynamics of the conflict cycle and introduce skills for responding to the most frequently observed patterns of problem behaviors.

BREAKOUT 1 F

TOPIC

Transforming Practice: Making Youth & Family Meetings Truly Work for Families

Presented by Sarah McCamant, MSW, LSWAIC, *Youth and Family Meetings (YFM) Program Manager, DCYF - Child Welfare Division,* **Sunshine Nelson,** *Youth and Family Meetings (YFM) Training Specialist, DCYF - Child Welfare Division,* **Gwen Pinson,** *Youth and Family Meetings (YFM) Program Consultant, DCYF - Child Welfare Division,* **Sheila Strong,** *Youth and Family Meetings (YFM) Program Consultant, DCYF - Child Welfare Division*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

11:20 am – 12:20 pm, Cascade 11

ABOUT

This session provides an overview of Youth & Family Meetings (YFMs) and DCYF's statewide shift toward a more youth-centered, family-driven, and solution-focused meeting model. We'll walk and role play through key practice changes - including strengthened facilitation, clearer roles, and improved alignment with caregivers, legal partners, and the courts - and highlight how these updates support trauma-informed, inclusive, and culturally responsive engagement.

BREAKOUT 1 G

TOPIC

Beyond Programs: What it Takes to Build a Community Violence Intervention Ecosystem

Presented by DeVitta Briscoe, *Community Expert*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

11:20 am – 12:20 pm, Cascade 12

ABOUT

Communities have programs, committed practitioners, and ideas, but what connects their efforts into a coordinated strategy? Drawing on the recent work assessing Seattle's violence prevention landscape and developing recommendations for City Council, this session will explore what it takes to move from individual efforts to shared direction. Participants will discuss how government, community organizations, and other partners can clarify responsibilities, strengthen coordination, and connect funding to a plan that supports the people doing the work and is accountable to the communities it serves.

YOUTH BREAKOUT 1

TOPIC

The Anatomy of the Street: Decoding Structural Trauma & Lateral Conflict

Presented by Dr. Conrad Webster, *CEO, Black Boy Heal, LLC*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

11:20 am – 12:20 pm, Cascade 4

ABOUT

What if understanding youth violence required us to investigate more than the person who committed the crime?

In this interactive, crime-scene-style workshop, youth become detectives, witnesses, and investigators as they examine a fictional youth-violence case inspired by the realities facing communities like Rainier Beach. Together, they explore what happens when young people experience violence and loss year after year, while fear, distrust, and survival can make speaking up feel unsafe.

As the investigation unfolds, the "crime scene" expands beyond the individual. Youth investigate how structural racism, economic disinvestment, school and community conditions, chronic trauma, institutional distrust, and peer conflict shape the environments they navigate.

The workshop moves youth from feeling like the cause of violence to understanding themselves as people navigating an engineered environment, while building somatic (body-based) and communal tools to break the cycle.

Through "Deconstruct the Map" and a Radical Care framework, youth investigate their environments and themselves, exploring where they feel safe, where they stay on guard, what survival strategies they have developed, who they trust, and what they need to feel supported and empowered.

The goal isn't simply to answer "Who did it?" It is to uncover the deeper questions: **What created the conditions? What do we need? And what can we do to change them?**

BREAKOUT 2 A

TOPIC

NAMI: Ending the Silence for Youth Serving Professionals

Presented by Robin Hinz, M.A., *Youth & Young Adult Coordinator, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - South King County*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

2:00 – 2:55 pm, Cascade 5

ABOUT

A preventative and early intervention presentation that engages youth, school staff, and families in a discussion about mental health.

Audience members learn to recognize the early warning signs of mental health conditions and what to do if they or someone they know is showing these signs. Audience members can ask questions of family members and people experiencing mental health conditions. By engaging youth, school staff, and families in a discussion about mental health conditions, young people dealing with mental health conditions realize they're not alone.

BREAKOUT 2 B

TOPIC

Disrupting the Pipeline: Intersecting Foster Care, Juvenile Justice, and Trafficking Prevention

Presented by Roshni Sinha, *Pacific Northwest Regional Operations Coordinator, Safe House Project*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

2:00 – 2:55 pm, Cascade 6

ABOUT

Youth who interact with child welfare and juvenile justice systems face a heightened risk of human trafficking. Systemic gaps, placement instability, and fragmented agency communication often leave vulnerable youth open to exploitation—or lead to them being criminalized for acts they were coerced into committing.

This session explores how foster care and juvenile court involvement intersect to create vulnerabilities—and, more importantly, how multidisciplinary teams can disrupt this pipeline. Drawing on practical frameworks and systemic insights, this presentation delivers actionable, trauma-informed strategies to bridge gaps between juvenile justice, child welfare, and community advocate organizations. Attendees will gain concrete tools to identify early indicators of exploitation, distinguish trafficking from delinquency, implement safety planning, and foster collaborative interventions that empower court-involved and foster youth toward safe, positive pathways.

BREAKOUT 2 C

TOPIC

Beyond the Release Date: Understanding Post-Incarceration Syndrome (PICS) and the Journey Home

Presented by Dr. Felisa Bryant, *Executive Director, The IF Project,* **Janae Johnson, M. Ed.,** *Program Facilitation Manager, The IF Project,* **Trina Kennedy,** *Alcohol and Drug Case Manager Lead, The IF Project*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

2:00 – 2:55 pm, Cascade 8

ABOUT

Release from incarceration does not automatically mean freedom from the effects of incarceration.

Young people and adults returning from correctional and institutional environments may carry experiences, behaviors, survival strategies, and emotional responses that were necessary inside an institution but can create significant challenges when returning to families, schools, workplaces, relationships, and communities.

This interactive breakout introduces participants to **Post-Incarceration Syndrome (PICS)** as a conceptual framework for understanding some of the psychological, emotional, behavioral, and social challenges that may emerge following incarceration or prolonged institutionalization. PICS is not a formal mental health diagnosis. Rather, it provides a useful lens for examining how incarceration, trauma exposure, institutionalization, isolation, loss of autonomy, hypervigilance, disrupted relationships, and the demands of survival can continue influencing a person's behavior after release.

What happens when behaviors that helped someone survive incarceration follow them home?

Participants will explore how institutional environments can influence trust, communication, emotional regulation, decision-making, relationships, help-seeking, identity, and responses to authority.

Through scenarios, discussion, and practical exercises, attendees will examine the difference between asking: “Why won't this person comply?” and asking: “What did this person have to learn to survive, and what will they need to learn, experience, and trust in order to successfully return?”

The session will conclude with practical strategies for creating more responsive reentry, behavioral health, mentoring, case management, and community-based services that recognize both accountability and the lasting impact of incarceration.

BREAKOUT 2 D

TOPIC

CLOCK IT: Turning Youth Voice into Community Action

Presented by Kechi Amaefule, *Founder/Executive Director, Mothers Impacting Lives Every Day (MILE)*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

2:00 – 2:55 pm, Cascade 9

ABOUT

Young people impacted by community violence, trauma, and systemic inequities are often invited to share their stories but rarely given the tools, leadership opportunities, or platform to transform those stories into action.

CLOCK IT is a healing-centered, youth-led advocacy framework developed by MILE (Mothers Impacting Lives Every Day) to help youth move beyond simply discussing community challenges to becoming leaders who influence change. Through storytelling, restorative dialogue, mental health education, community research, civic engagement, and creative expression, participants learn to identify issues affecting their lives, strengthen their voices, and design solutions that inspire action.

Designed for educators, youth-serving organizations, juvenile legal system professionals, behavioral health providers, violence prevention practitioners, and community leaders, this presentation offers practical strategies that can be adapted across schools, nonprofit organizations, diversion programs, and community initiatives.

Participants will leave with a framework they can immediately apply to create spaces where young people are not only heard—but empowered to become advocates, changemakers, and leaders within their own communities.

BREAKOUT 2 E

TOPIC

Centering Youth Voices and Mentorship in Community Violence Intervention

Presented by Esprene Liddell-Quintyn, PhD, *Research Scientist, Center for Firearm Injury Prevention - University of Washington,* **Kristian Jones, PhD,** *Associate Professor, University of Washington School of Social Work,* **Sam Decker,** *Program Coordinator, Walk About Yakima,* **Zaheed Lynch**, *Program Director - Family Integrated Transitions (FIT), Community Passageways*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

2:00 pm – 2:55 pm, Cascade 10

ABOUT

Community violence intervention (CVI) models employ multidisciplinary approaches that leverage a range of community resources to provide support such as wraparound services and mentoring to address the needs of individuals at highest risk of being involved in community violence. Programs can take place in a variety of settings and vary widely in terms of models, implementation, objectives while prioritizing the lived experiences of individuals including youth impacted by persistent community violence. CVI has increasingly expanded to confront violence in communities by using tactics for immediately reducing violence and saving lives. The promise of CVIs in promoting public safety has also attracted funding from local, state, and federal agencies. While CVIs continue to play an important role in addressing violence through evidence-informed responses, the full impact of CVIs is yet to be evaluated. In Washington State, several youth-focused community violence intervention programs received funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention (OFSVP). OFSVP contracted the University of Washington Center for Firearm Injury Prevention (C-FIP) to conduct a social impact evaluation and assessment of their programs. This presentation brings together researchers from C-FIP along with practitioners from two youth-focused CVI programs in Washington State to discuss our experience conducting collaborative evaluations of CVI programs, including efforts to build equitable partnerships, assess the impacts of these interventions on youth with lived experience of gun violence, and understand how mentorship operates within this context.

BREAKOUT 2 E

TOPIC

What is Credible Messenger?

Presented by Eddie Purpose, *Founder & Executive Director, Progress Pushers,* **Seraya Milton,** *Marketing & Public Relations Manager, Progress Pushers,* **Jeremy Winzer,** *Outreach Lead, Progress Pushers*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

2:00 – 2:55 pm, Cascade 11

ABOUT

Credible Messenger (CM) Groups provide mentorship through group facilitation, to youth and young adults who have been impacted by the legal/ injustice system (ages 12-24). CM groups focus on intervention but also take preventative measures to help participants begin to understand more about themselves, their futures, and purpose in life.

BREAKOUT 2 G

TOPIC

Emerging Trends to Youth Safety

Presented by John Holbrook, *Director of Security, Renton School District*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

2:00 – 2:55 pm, Cascade 12

ABOUT

A number of topics will be covered, all of which are increasingly impacting our youth that many adults may not be aware of. We cover substances of concern such as Kratom, how illicit substances are sold in schools, and online threats from groups such as 764.

YOUTH BREAKOUT 2 A

TOPIC

You Keep Telling Me to Cope. Who's Fixing the Problem?

Presented by Dr. Conrad Webster, *CEO, Black Boy Heal, LLC*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

2:00 – 2:55 pm, Cascade 4

ABOUT

What happens when the problem isn't just what happened to you, but the system you have to keep walking back into?

As a follow-up to *The Anatomy of the Street*, this interactive youth workshop moves from understanding systems to learning how to navigate them. Through real-life scenarios involving racist teachers, biased counselors, coaches, discipline, and institutional dismissal, young people will practice identifying what happened, deciding what they need, documenting harm, finding trusted support, and determining when they need healing, help, accountability, or all three.

Youth will leave with a practical playbook for advocating for themselves, navigating institutional power, and responding to racism and bias without being told that they are the problem.

The goal: Help young people move from *"What's wrong with me?"* to *"What's happening, what do I need, and what can I do about it?*

BREAKOUT 3 A

TOPIC

Redefining Reentry Through the Power of Lived Experience

Presented by Durell Green, *CHOOSE Freedom Program Manager, CHOOSE180,* **Kevin Franklin,** *CHOOSE Freedom Community Navigator, CHOOSE180*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

3:05 – 4:00 pm, Cascade 5

ABOUT

The words we use shape the work we do. “Reentry” frames returning community members as people crossing back over a threshold they were pushed out of, yet many were displaced long before incarceration, and the communities they return to have often changed without them.

Grounded in the conference theme of TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More), the session explores how shifting from a “reentry” mindset to one of welcoming, restoring, and reconnecting displaced individuals changes how we build our teams and programs. A central part of that shift is recognizing the true value of staff with lived experience.

This interactive workshop invites participants to question what we call this work and how that framing influences everything from program design to hiring to the way participants see themselves. Participants will leave with practical tools for reexamining their program language, structuring teams that fully invest in lived experience, and building approaches where returning community members are treated as neighbors being welcomed home rather than cases being managed.

BREAKOUT 3 B

TOPIC

Beyond the Buzzwords: Youth Work Jeopardy

Presented by Gerald Bradford, *Executive Director, Seattle Peace and Safety*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

3:05 – 4:00 pm, Cascade 6

ABOUT

Youth work is both an art and a science. Every day, professionals are asked to make decisions that influence the safety, development, and future of young people impacted by violence, trauma, and the legal system. But how well do we truly understand the foundational principles that guide our work?

This highly interactive breakout session transforms professional development into a fast-paced, team-based Jeopardy-style competition. Participants will work in teams to answer questions, solve scenarios, and discuss real-world situations related to youth engagement, ethics, communication, trauma-informed practice, systems navigation, and community resources.

Rather than focusing on memorization, the session encourages collaboration, critical thinking, and meaningful dialogue among professionals from different disciplines. Every question becomes an opportunity to learn from one another while reinforcing the knowledge and skills essential to effective youth development.

Whether you are new to youth work or have decades of experience, this session offers an engaging opportunity to test your knowledge, share perspectives, strengthen professional practice, and leave with new ideas you can immediately apply in your work with young people.

BREAKOUT 3 C

TOPIC

Adolescent Family Violence: Helping Youth and Parents Develop Respectful Family Relationships using the Step-Up curriculum

Presented by Francesa Peila-Phariss, MA, LMHC, *Senior Social Worker, King County Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS),* **Lashon Watson, MA, LMHC,** *Juvenile Services Social Worker, King County Superior Court*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

3:05 – 4:00 pm, Cascade 8

ABOUT

Step-Up is an evidence-informed behavioral change program designed to address adolescent violence and abuse toward family members. Key components of the curriculum will be highlighted, with a focus on engagement strategies that foster motivation and lasting behavioral change.

This training provides participants with an understanding of the unique dynamics of adolescent family violence, effective assessment strategies, and interventions that promote accountability, increase safety, and support healthier family relationships. Participants will gain an overview of adolescent violence toward family members, including its prevalence, characteristics, underlying dynamics, and the complex challenges faced by affected families. The training emphasizes the importance of comprehensive assessment, risk identification, and safety planning to ensure the well-being of all family members.

BREAKOUT 3 D

TOPIC

The CVI Blueprint

Presented by Soren Tsui, *Co-Founder, Our Power Collective*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

3:05 – 4:00 pm, Cascade 9

ABOUT

Who's most at risk of community violence involvement? What stakeholders need to be at the table to plan and implement community violence intervention (CVI) programs? What interventions are most effective? What's the best way for public safety professionals to collaborate with CVI programs?

Despite increasing recognition of CVI as an essential pillar of public safety, there remains significant confusion and disagreement about what exactly CVI, how it's distinct from violence prevention, and how it fits into the public safety ecosystem.

This session will present a blueprint for effective CVI, starting with a clear definition of the work and the values that guide it, including what distinguishes CVI from deterrence-based strategies that target the same population. We will define "highest risk" and use it to separate intervention from prevention, review the data that identifies who is most at risk and the interventions with the strongest evidence behind them, examine what meaningful community engagement requires and what "community" actually means here, and close with practical guidance for partners on collaborating with CVI programs.

BREAKOUT 3 E

TOPIC

Who is CCYJ and What is LINC?

Presented by William "Billy" Hairston, *Director of Impact, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ),* **Fredricka "Freddie" Pie,** *Associate Director of Impact, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

3:05 – 4:00 pm, Cascade 10

ABOUT

This workshop will provide an overview of the Leadership, Intervention, & Change (LINC) program that brings together a community-wide, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-disciplinary coordinated effort to reduce youth gang involvement and community violence in King County, Washington. Based on the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM), the LINC program is a collaboration between regional communities and government systems that uses a data-driven and evidence-based process and works with up to 200 young people annually who are involved with or at risk of involvement with gangs and/or violence. Outcomes for youth/LINC clients will also be reviewed, and are based on the youth's individual intervention plans and goals in multiple areas, including a reduction in gang activity/association, improvement in academic performance, enrollment in school, improvement in school attendance, obtaining employment, attending work regularly, and connection to prosocial activities.

BREAKOUT 3 F

TOPIC

Hospital Based Violence Intervention & Prevention in Washington State

Presented by Laura Johnson, *Violence Intervention & Prevention Program Manager, Harborview Medical Center*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

3:05 – 4:00 pm, Cascade 11

ABOUT

As the only Level One Trauma Center in Washington State, Harborview Medical Center cares for the more injured patients in our region. The Violence Intervention & Prevention program at Harborview Medical Center provides patients and families, impacted by firearm injury, with support and connection to resources in their communities. Our team partners with a network of skilled community agencies across the state to create holistic integrated healing.

BREAKOUT 3 G

TOPIC

The Neuroscience of Connection: Building Relationships That Help Youth Thrive

Presented by Tovah Shotland, *Founder & CEO, Innovative Behavioral Consulting (IBC)*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

3:05 – 4:00 pm, Cascade 12

ABOUT

Strong relationships are more than a "soft skill." They are a powerful tool for creating safety, building trust, supporting regulation, and helping young people thrive. In this interactive session, participants will explore the neuroscience behind connection and learn how relationships with trusted adults can influence a young person's stress response, behavior, decision-making, and ability to engage with support.

Using a trauma-informed and strengths-based lens, participants will examine what happens in the brain and body when young people experience stress, conflict, disconnection, or safety. The session will translate neuroscience into practical strategies that adults can use to build trust, respond to behavior without escalating it, repair relationships after conflict, and create environments where young people feel seen, valued, and empowered.

Designed for professionals and community partners working across systems, this session reinforces LINC's commitment to building safe, healthy, and positive pathways for young people throughout King County. Participants will leave with a shared understanding of how relationship-centered practices can strengthen individual interactions while also contributing to more responsive, collaborative, and youth-centered systems of support.

BREAKOUT 4 A

TOPIC

Meaningful Ways to Engage Young People and Build Resilience

Presented by William "Billy" Hairston, *Director of Impact, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ),* **Fredricka "Freddie" Pie,** *Associate Director of Impact, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

4:10 – 5:00 pm, Cascade 5

ABOUT

This training provides participants with practical tools and techniques to effectively engage young people, build meaningful relationships, and foster resilience using proven Community Violence Intervention (CVI) strategies. The session offers real-world applications to empower young people facing adversity. Participants will explore methods to connect with youth by "speaking their language," employing motivational interviewing, and creating spaces for trust and growth. The training also emphasizes goal-setting, emotional regulation, and the role of credible messengers in mentorship. Attendees will leave equipped with actionable practices that integrate relationship-building with long-term resilience development, bridging CVI strategies with broader community-based interventions.

BREAKOUT 4 B

TOPIC

Gang-Related Offense or Forced Criminality? A Conversation on Coercion, Control, and Accountability

Presented by Nicholas Oakley, *Director of Public Policy, TTA & Capacity Building, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)*

WHEN

Friday, November 6, 2026

4:10 – 5:00 pm, Cascade 8

ABOUT

Some young people charged with gang- or group-related offenses are not acting only for themselves. They may be selling drugs, stealing, or carrying weapons because someone older or more powerful is directing them and profiting from their work, sometimes through threats, debt, or violence. When that control involves force, fraud, or coercion, it can be labor trafficking, often called forced criminality. It is easy to miss. In Washington, for example, the validated-screening requirement for juvenile justice agencies covers commercial sexual abuse, not labor trafficking. This session holds open a hard question: when a young person commits a crime under someone else's control, what does accountability look like for the young person, for the adults who direct and profit from them, and for the systems that respond?

CCYJ has years of experience in gang intervention and in anti-trafficking work, but we are just beginning to connect the two, and we want to learn from the people closest to young people. We will start with plain-language definitions, a few warning signs, and early findings from CCYJ's 2026 statewide survey for Washington's Youth Human Trafficking Statewide Coordinating Committee, including how often courts and law enforcement consider trafficking when gangs are involved.

Most of the session is a conversation. In small groups that mix CVI workers, outreach staff, law enforcement, probation, educators, attorneys, and service providers, participants will share what they are seeing, what keeps young people from speaking up, and what would actually help. We expect, and welcome, different views.

Participants will be asked not to share names or identifying case details. What we hear will be recorded without identifying information and will shape CCYJ's upcoming listening sessions and recommendations. We will share a summary back with participants.

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