

## 2026 AJOA Spring Conference • April 1-3, 2026

*Chateau On The Lake Resort Spa & Convention Center – Branson, MO*

**Workshop Title:** Partnering for Safety: Utilizing Community-Based Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence

**Workshop Description:** This session will provide an introduction to how systems can partner with community-based organizations (CBOs) engaged in community violence intervention (CVI) strategies to create safer communities. Panelists will discuss:

- Components of a community safety ecosystem
- CVI: What it is and what it is not
- Ways systems create obstacles for CVI Program participants and staff

This presentation will also highlight the work of the National Network for Safer Communities' collaborative Gun Violence Intervention (GVI) and Community Violence Intervention (CVI) approaches to gun violence in Arkansas.

Nationally Recognized Timmecka Perkins serves as a Senior Associate with the Amle E. Casey Foundation's National Community Strategies team where she focuses on community-based strategies for safety and violence reduction. She oversees a portfolio of national investments around gun violence prevention and place-based initiatives throughout the US. Perkins has over a decade experience in safety efforts, juvenile justice, alternatives to policing and law enforcement transformation with a focus on creating more equitable and trauma-informed systems. She has also been a tireless advocate in both the public and non-profit sectors in the fields of social justice and child welfare. Perkins received her M.S. in Criminal Justice from Colorado State University and her B.A. in Counseling from Marshall University.

**Workshop Title:** Peeling Back the Curtain on Drug Testing

**Workshop Description:** This presentation was designed for people that are not familiar with how drug testing is performed in the lab. The three major learning objectives of the presentation are as follows:

- Give a behind the scenes look at how a toxicology lab performs a drug test.
- Understanding some of the strategies for differentiating between CBD and THC.
- Understanding new drug trends
- Determining fact versus fiction of common drug myths.

After the presentation, attendees will better understand the instruments used in the lab, how drug confirmation is determined and how specimen tampering can affect drug tests. This presentation will also introduce some sources of information available on the web to drug abusers. These sources provide guidance on beating drug tests. After the presentation, time will be given to answer any questions that may arise during the presentation.

Nationally Recognized Garry Metcalfe has worked as a toxicologist for the state of Oklahoma since 2001.

**Workshop Titles:** Plenary: 'What Works with Youth? Effective Use of Science To Assess Risk and Improve Outcomes'/Juvenile Officers: 'Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the SAVRY But Were Afraid to Ask'/Supervisors: 'Coaching Juvenile Officers in the SAVRY & Case Planning'

Gina Vincent, Ph.D. is a Professor and Co-Director of the Law & Psychiatry Program in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at UMass Chan Medical School. She is also President of the National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners (NYSAP; [www.nysap.us](http://www.nysap.us)), a training and implementation support center that assists youth justice agencies in effective implementation of screening and assessment instruments and case planning. She is author of the *Risk Assessment in Juvenile Probation: A Guidebook for Implementation* manual and has assisted over 50 county or state youth justice agencies in improving their risk assessment, dispositional, and case planning practices. She has received funding from NIMH, NIDA, the MacArthur Foundation, OJJDP, NIJ, and NIDILRR for studies related to behavioral health concerns and implementation of best practice risk/needs assessment and risk-need-responsivity strategies for youth and young adults involved in the justice systems. She has over 60 publications in the areas of risk assessment, adolescent substance use and mental health symptoms, callous-unemotional traits, and implementation science-related studies.