



Michigan Suicide Prevention  
**COMMUNITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE**  
**2025 Conference Program**

**Reducing Risk, Saving Lives: Firearm Suicide Prevention**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 7**

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1:30pm-4:30pm	<b>Extreme Risk Protection Order Workshop</b> April Zeoli, PhD, MPH-University of Michigan	Huron
1:30pm-4:30pm	<b>Grant Funding Essentials: How to Find, Write, and Manage Grants</b> Kasie Pickart, MPH, PMP-Hope Network	Erie
6:00pm-7:30pm	<b>Coalition Connection: Best Practices for Suicide Prevention Coalitions</b>	Inn Lobby
7:30-10:00pm	Bonfire (weather permitting)	Legends Fire Pit

**THURSDAY, MAY 8**

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8:30-9:00am	Breakfast and Registration	Convention Center Foyer
9:00-9:15am	Welcome	Superior
9:15-10:25am	<b>Extreme Risk Protection Orders as a Tool for the Prevention of Suicide and Self-Harm</b> April Zeoli, PhD, MPH-University of Michigan	Superior
10:25-10:45am	Break	
10:45am-12:00pm	<b>Breakouts</b> <b>A1: Prevention of Suicide in Rural Communities</b> Sarah Derwin-Marquette County Health Department Cynthia Ewell Foster, PhD-University of Michigan  <b>A2: Advancing Prevention Through Data: Leveraging Dashboards For Suicide and Firearm Injury Surveillance</b> Alexandra Bianco, MPH-Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Mackenzie Furnari, MPH- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Jason Goldstick, PhD-University of Michigan  <b>A3: Historical Trauma in Tribal Communities and Its Relationship to Interpersonal Violence, Suicide, and Trafficking</b> Samantha Brown, MA-United Three Fires Against Violence Parker Clement, BCN-United Three Fires Against Violence Johanna Kononen, JD-Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence	

12:00-1:00pm	Lunch	Superior
1:00-2:10pm	<p><b>Breakouts</b></p> <p><b>B1: Implementation of Extreme Risk Protection Orders: A Life Saving Tool</b> Danielle Hagaman-Clark-Michigan Department of Attorney General Additional speakers to be announced</p> <p><b>B2: Preventing Firearm-Related Suicide and Violence in Black and Indigenous Communities</b> Taylor Puckett-American Indian Health and Family Services Javon Reese-Black Family Development, Inc. Adon Vasquez- American Indian Health and Family Services</p> <p><b>B3: School Safety Reporting Systems</b> Mary Drew-Michigan State Police Elyse Thulin, PhD-University of Michigan</p>	
2:10-2:30pm	Break	
2:30-3:45pm	<b>Regional Connections</b>	
3:45-4:00pm	Break	
4:00-5:00pm	<p><b>Breakouts</b></p> <p><b>C1: Firearm Injury Prevention in Schools</b> Heather Murphy MA, LPC, NCC, CCTP-II-University of Michigan Sarah Stilwell, PhD-University of Michigan</p> <p><b>C2: Firearm Injury Prevention in Clinical Settings</b> Cynthia Ewell Foster, PhD-University of Michigan John Kettley, LMSW-University of Michigan</p> <p><b>C3: Lethal Means Safety for Service Members and Veterans</b> Justin Coates, LMSW-Ann Arbor Veteran Administration Medical Center Angela Linsenman, LMSW-Saginaw Veteran Administration Medical Center</p>	
7:30-10:00pm	Bonfire (weather permitting)	Legends Fire Pit

## FRIDAY, MAY 9

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8:30-9:00am	Breakfast	Superior
9:00-10:15am	<p><b>Breakouts</b></p> <p><b>D1: Secure Storage as a Suicide Prevention Strategy</b> Kelly Huggett, MD-Corewell Health Maureen Reddy-Retired FBI Special Agent Nick Zambeck-Huntington National Bank, Retired FBI Special Agent</p> <p><b>D2: Ensuring Safety: Strategies for Firearm Disposal and Storage</b> Erin Kelly, DrPH, MA-University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus Chris Yaw-Disarmory Ministries</p>	

### **D3: Preventing Firearm-Related Suicide and Violence in Black and Indigenous Communities**

Taylor Puckett-American Indian Health and Family Services

Javon Reese-Black Family Development, Inc.

Adon Vasquez- American Indian Health and Family Services

10:15-10:30am	Break	
10:30-11:45am	<b>Preventing Firearm-Related Suicide in Our Communities: Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Practice</b> Erin Wright-Kelly, DrPH, MA-University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus	Superior
11:45am-12:00pm	Closing Remarks and Evaluation	Superior

**Co-Organized and Co-Funded with:**



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## Keynotes

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### **Extreme Risk Protection Orders as a Tool for the Prevention of Suicide and Self-Harm**

This keynote will describe extreme risk protection order laws. The research literature on extreme risk protection order laws, their implementation and use, and their estimated impacts on suicide will be discussed. The presentation will also introduce Michigan's extreme risk protection order law, including who can petition and what to expect. Learning objectives include: 1) Articulate how extreme risk protection orders can be used in cases of suicide risk and the research evidence behind this. 2) Understand how to use Michigan's extreme risk protection order law to prevent suicide in Michigan.

**April Zeoli, PhD, MPH**

**Associate Professor, Health Management & Policy, School of Public Health**

**Director of the Policy Core, Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention**

**University of Michigan**

Dr. April Zeoli is an Associate Professor in Health Management & Policy in the School of Public Health and the Director of the Policy Core in the Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention at the University of Michigan. She conducts interdisciplinary research, with a goal of bringing together the fields of public health and criminology and criminal justice. Her main fields of investigation are the prevention of firearm violence, intimate partner violence, and homicide through the use of policy and law. She is one of the nation's leading experts on policy interventions for firearm use in intimate partner violence. Her research focuses on legal firearm restrictions for domestic violence abusers and their impact on intimate partner homicide and the implementation of those firearm restrictions. Dr. Zeoli is also a leading expert on the use and implementation of extreme risk protection orders. She is the primary investigator of the largest study of extreme risk protection orders to date, involving six states and over 6,600 cases. Dr. Zeoli is an Associate Editor for the scholarly journal Homicide Studies and is on the editorial board of the journals Injury Epidemiology, Injury Prevention, and Criminology & Public Policy, and serves as the research expert for the National Domestic Violence and Firearms Resource Center.

### **Preventing Firearm-Related Suicide in Our Communities: Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Practice**

This keynote will describe efforts underway in Colorado and nationally to collaborate with firearms businesses and owners to prevent firearm-related harms among this higher risk population. The focus will be on lessons learned and recommendations for practice. Learning objectives include: 1) Describe efforts to engage firearm businesses in providing education and services to promote secure firearm storage. 2) Identify barriers for firearm business involvement in preventing firearm-related harms and how practitioners can help address these concerns. 3) Discuss lessons learned and how to engage firearm businesses and the firearms community in preventing firearm-related harms.

**Erin Wright-Kelly, DrPH, MA**

**Director of Research and Evaluation, Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative**

**Associate Director of Communications and Outreach, Injury and Violence Prevention Center**

**University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus**

Dr. Erin Wright-Kelly has over 15 years of experience in public health research and practice, specializing in suicide and violence prevention, firearm injury prevention, and upstream prevention focused on the social determinants of health. She uses community-engaged and mixed methods approaches in her research and has extensive experience in translating, disseminating, and supporting the implementation of evidence-based strategies, programs, and policies into practice environments.

## Breakout Sessions

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### **A1. Prevention of Suicide in Rural Communities**

Across the US, age-adjusted suicide rates in rural counties are more than two times higher than those in urban counties, with these disparities driven by firearm-related suicides. This session will explore unique considerations for addressing and preventing firearm-related suicides in rural areas, including the critical role of community partnerships to ensure that messages are culturally tailored, acceptable to the community, and reflect the strengths and protective factors in rural areas. Participants will learn key components of effective firearm safety messages in rural areas and best practices for engaging rural populations. The importance of credible messengers in promoting firearm safety will be discussed, along with cultural factors that may influence firearm ownership and storage practices in rural communities. Attendees will be introduced to *Store Safely*, a tailored strategy developed in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, offering actionable insights for similar rural communities.

#### **Sarah Derwin-Health Educator, Marquette County Health Department**

Sarah Derwin is a public health educator with the Marquette County Health Department, where she has worked since 2009 on interventions related to injury prevention, substance abuse, and firearm safety. She serves as the project director for multiple grants focused on suicide prevention and leads the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Alliance, fostering community and tribal partnerships across Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Sarah was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to a state commission on suicide prevention and brought expertise in firearm safety in rural areas. Her approach emphasizes safety as a gateway to reducing firearm-related injuries and deaths. As a rural resident and parent of two children from a local tribe, she advocates for interventions reflecting cultural and rural values.

#### **Cynthia Ewell Foster, PhD- Clinical Associate Professor, The University of Michigan**

Dr. Cynthia Ewell Foster is a licensed child clinical psychologist and a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan. She directs the Suicide Prevention Research in the Community Lab (SPRCL), affiliated with the Youth Depression and Suicide Prevention Program. Dr. Ewell Foster leads the Community Engagement Core of UM's Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention and a statewide SAMHSA-funded Youth Suicide Prevention Emergency Department Network. Dr. Ewell Foster's research program is focused on youth suicide prevention, with a focus on optimizing family, community and systems-based protective factors. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and has been engaged in program evaluation and research efforts funded by the NIMH, CDC, and SAMHSA as well as local and national foundations. Dr. Ewell Foster is a clinical educator, AMSR trainer, and the co-author of *Teen Suicide Risk: a practitioner guide to screening, assessment, and management*.

### **A2. Advancing Prevention Through Data: Leveraging Dashboards For Suicide and Firearm Injury Surveillance**

This session will equip participants with the skills to identify and navigate key data sources for suicide and firearm injury prevention. Attendees will learn about the strengths and limitations of these data sources and gain practical insights into using the data to inform prevention strategies and support grant applications.

#### **Ali Bianco, MPH-Epidemiologist, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**

Ali Bianco is an Injury Epidemiologist at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. She holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Purdue University. She conducts surveillance and

epidemiologic analyses for both intentional and unintentional injuries and assists on a number of injury prevention efforts at the state level.

**Mackenzie Furnari, MPH-Epidemiologist, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**

Mackenzie Furnari is a Suicide Epidemiologist at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). She holds a master's in public health (MPH) in epidemiology from the University of Michigan. At MDHHS, she conducts public health surveillance and epidemiologic analyses on suicide deaths and nonfatal suicide behaviors, supporting the suicide prevention programs within the MDHHS Injury & Violence Prevention Section.

**Jason Goldstick, PhD-Research Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, Health Behavior and Health Equity, University of Michigan**

**Statistics and Methods Core Director, Injury Prevention Center, Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention, University of Michigan**

Jason is a Research Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Health Behavior and Health Equity at the University of Michigan (UM) and is also the Statistics and Methods Core Director at both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded Injury Prevention Center at UM, and the UM Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention. As a PhD-trained statistician and injury prevention researcher, Jason has extensive and varied applied expertise with analytically complex injury prevention research. He has been principal investigator of National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and CDC grants all related to novel analytic approaches applied to injury and violence research and has led near-real-time injury surveillance work since 2019. In addition, he has been the lead statistician on over a dozen federally funded studies, including randomized controlled trials, observational studies, and projects involving the complex spatial and longitudinal analyses. His ongoing research interests involve predictive modeling of behavioral outcomes, spatial and longitudinal analysis of injury, and estimating the effects of individual- and community-level behavioral interventions.

**A3. Historical Trauma in Tribal Communities and Its Relationship to Interpersonal Violence, Suicide, and Trafficking**

This session will explore the lasting effects of historical trauma on Indigenous communities and its connection to the disproportionate rates of interpersonal violence, suicide, and human trafficking experienced today. The session will examine the factors that have contributed to Indigenous resiliency in the face of ongoing threats to community well-being and sovereignty. By the end of this session, participants will be able to identify the relationship between historical trauma and present-day challenges, as well as describe the essential factors that support Indigenous resilience and strength in preserving cultural identity.

**Samantha Brown, MA-Community Outreach Specialist, United Three Fires Against Violence**

Samantha Brown is Anishinaabekwe and an enrolled member of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. While she received her Master of Arts in Education from the University of Alabama and her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from Smith College, she is currently enrolled full-time at Bay Mills Community College in the Anishinaabemowin Language Immersion Program. Samantha worked in education for over fifteen years but has always had a passion for advocacy and her tribal culture.

**Parker Clement, BCN-Youth & Child Trafficking Project Director, United Three Fires Against Violence**

Parker Clement is a member of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Parker is the Youth & Child

Trafficking Project Director. Prior to joining the Uniting Three Fires Against Violence (U.T.F.A.V) team, she worked for Bay Mills Indian Community in Behavioral Health as the Native Connections Project Director. Additionally, she provided case management, substance use, and auricular acupuncture services during her time at Bay Mills Health Center. Parker obtained her bachelor's degree in Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience (BCN) from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. She is excited to continue her work in prevention and advocacy in youth and adolescents.

### **Johanna Kononen, JD-Director of Law and Policy, Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence**

Johanna Kononen has practiced law for 20 years. She supervises the Survivor Law Clinic which provides direct legal services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Johanna also leads the Coalition's multidisciplinary policy team working to advance legislation and policies that support survivors obtain and maintain safety. She has been an active part of MCEDSV's nonprofit management efforts, supporting domestic and sexual violence service programs across the state with their policy, employment, and legal questions. Johanna's undergraduate degree was in nursing, and she started her legal career representing survivors in family law litigation under a DOJ Legal Assistance for Victims grant at legal aid. Johanna later moved to private practice, and throughout her career has continued to work on complex domestic and sexual violence cases.

## **B1. Implementation of Extreme Risk Protection Orders: A Life Saving Tool**

This session will examine the implementation of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) in Michigan. Participants will explore the challenges, successes, and lessons learned from Michigan's experience with ERPOs to date. The session will also feature diverse perspectives from law enforcement, attorneys, and community advocates on the ERPO process, examining areas for improvement and how the implementation of this important law can continue to evolve for greater effectiveness in preventing gun violence.

### **Danielle Hagaman-Clark-Criminal Bureau Chief, Michigan Department of Attorney General**

Danielle J. Hagaman-Clark is the Criminal Bureau Chief of the Michigan Department of Attorney General. With over 20 years of prosecution experience, she previously served as the project director of the Violence Against Women Project, a program of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM). She has a wide variety of experience in training, prosecution, advocacy, and criminal law. Before joining PAAM, Ms. Hagaman-Clark spent 15 years with the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Detroit. She was a founding member of the office's Sexual Assault Team and served as the managing director of that unit. She also served as the lead attorney for the Homicide Unit, as a member of the Child Abuse Unit, and as a member of the Special Investigations Unit. She leads the AG's clergy abuse investigation and prosecuted two of the cases arising from the MSU investigation including William Strampel and Kathie Klages. She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and a Master with the American Inns of Court. She has served on the Criminal Advisory Board of ICLE. Ms. Hagaman-Clark has served as a guest lecturer for the National District Attorneys Association, the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, The State Bar of Louisiana, Wayne County SAFE, St. John's Hospital, the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, the University of Windsor and is an MCOLES instructor on non-stranger sexual assault investigations. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her 5 children and husband, camping, traveling and reading.

## **B2. Preventing Firearm-Related Suicide and Violence in Black and Indigenous Communities**

(Repeated in D3 session)

This session will focus on unique firearm injury prevention considerations for Black and Indigenous communities, emphasizing culturally tailored approaches to addressing their specific needs. Participants will explore trauma-informed practices to better understand the impacts of racism and discrimination on firearm ownership, storage, and related issues. Attendees will gain insights into how these communities' experiences shape firearm injury prevention efforts and learn strategies to ensure more effective, culturally competent interventions.

**Taylor Puckett-Sacred Bundle Project Program Manager, American Indian Health and Family Services**

Taylor Maxwell (Puckett) has been a part of AIHFS's Sacred Bundle Youth Suicide Prevention Project since 2020. The project was created in 2011 in partnership with American Indian Health and Family Services and University of Michigan's School of Social Work. The Sacred Bundle project cares for all underserved youth across the state of Michigan to help ensure mental health screening, prevention training, and community resources are accessible to all. She is also a certified SafeTALK trainer and has presented this gatekeeper training across the Midwest. She graduated with a Bachelors in Anthropology from the University of Alabama.

**Javon Reese-Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Black Family Development, Inc.**

Javon Reese is a Suicide Prevention Coordinator at Black Family Development, Inc. in Detroit, Michigan. He also serves as a board member for Kevin's Song, He is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, where he played football. He graduated with his bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in Chemistry. He is currently completing a dual master's degree from Wayne State University, in social work and public health. He is trained to facilitate evidence-based suicide prevention trainings/workshops: QPR, safeTALK, ASIST, and Mental Health First Aid.

**Adon Vasquez-Sacred Bundle Project Program Assistant, American Indian Health and Family Services**

Adon has been a part of the Sacred Bundle Project at AIHFS since 2019. Adon has been an advocate within the American Indian Health and Family Services community his entire life, including his work on the project. The Sacred Bundle project cares for all underserved youth across the State of Michigan to help ensure mental health screening, prevention training, and community resources are accessible to all. He is also a certified SafeTALK Trainer and has presented this gatekeeper training across the State of Michigan. He is currently a student at Wayne State University.

**B3. School Safety Reporting Systems**

This session will provide an overview of school safety reporting systems used in schools across Michigan and nationally, highlighting their role in promoting safety. Participants will gain an understanding of the evidence supporting these systems and how they can contribute to preventing firearm-related suicides and violence. The session will also explore opportunities for improving these systems to enhance their effectiveness in safeguarding students and preventing harm.

**Mary Drew-Department Specialist, Office of School Safety, Michigan State Police**

Mary Gager Drew is a school safety expert with over 25 years of experience. As Program Administrator for OK2SAY, Michigan's student safety program, she's been dedicated to student well-being since 2014. Her background includes leadership roles at the Michigan Attorney General's Office and Michigan State University, as well as consulting on school safety for the MSP and the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools. Previously, she specialized in children and victim-related issues in



the Michigan State Senate and Executive Branch. Ms. Drew is a passionate advocate for student safety and a leading voice in student safety tiplines for Michigan.

### **Elyse J. Thulin, PhD-Research Assistant Professor, University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention**

Dr. Thulin is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan's Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention. Dr. Thulin uses mixed behavioral science and data science methods to understand factors that enhance the risk of violence and injury in adolescents and emerging adults and ways that technology and online spaces can exacerbate or be leveraged to reduce the risk of harm. Her projects include evaluating student-submitted tips to a statewide Anonymous Report System, which is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Thulin graduated from the University of Michigan in 2022 with two PhDs, studying Health Behavior Health Education and Computational Science, and completed dual postdoctoral fellowships in Psychiatry at Michigan Medicine and Data Science at the Michigan Institute for Data Science.

## **C1. Firearm Injury Prevention in Schools**

In this session, participants will explore a comprehensive model of school safety and gain an understanding of the resources and tools available to schools and stakeholders across Michigan. Attendees will evaluate the evidence base behind various school safety programs and strategies and engage in a discussion about the intersection of suicide prevention and school safety, highlighting the importance of a holistic approach to protecting students and staff.

### **Heather Murphy, MA, LPC, NCC, CCTP-II-School Safety Specialist, National Center for School Safety, Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention, University of Michigan**

Heather Murphy is a School Safety Specialist with the National Center for School Safety, Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention at the University of Michigan. She has experience in clinical counseling, social-emotional learning development and instruction, mental health crisis prevention, response and stabilization, child welfare, and trauma-informed care. Prior to joining the National Center for School Safety, Heather served as a Licensed Professional Counselor in a variety of settings including schools, partial hospitalization, community mental health, and private practice. Heather holds a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership and a Trauma-Informed Education Certificate.

### **Sarah Stilwell, PhD-Research Investigator, University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention**

Dr. Stilwell is a Research Investigator at the Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention. Dr. Stilwell's research focuses on comprehensive school safety, evaluation work, implementation efficacy, youth violence prevention, and positive youth development. She has experience in community-based research, program management/implementation, and mixed-methods data collection and analysis. As a former elementary educator, she brings a unique perspective that aims to bridge both research and practice. Sarah earned her M.S. and Ph.D. in Education and Psychology from the University of Michigan.

## **C2. Firearm Injury Prevention in Clinical Settings**

This session will review screening and brief intervention practices used in healthcare settings to integrate firearm safety education into patient care. Participants will also learn about the results from Michigan's statewide evaluation of Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training. The session will highlight effective strategies for incorporating firearm-related discussions into primary and behavioral health care,

offering insights on how healthcare professionals can engage patients in conversations about firearm safety and reduce the risk of firearm-related harm.

**Cynthia Ewell Foster, PhD- Clinical Associate Professor, University of Michigan**

Dr. Cynthia Ewell Foster is a licensed child clinical psychologist and a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan. She directs the Suicide Prevention Research in the Community Lab (SPRCL), affiliated with the Youth Depression and Suicide Prevention Program. Dr. Ewell Foster leads the Community Engagement Core of UM's Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention and a statewide SAMHSA- funded Youth Suicide Prevention Emergency Department Network. Dr. Ewell Foster's research program is focused on youth suicide prevention, with a focus on optimizing family, community and systems-based protective factors. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and has been engaged in program evaluation and research efforts funded by the NIMH, CDC, and SAMHSA as well as local and national foundations. Dr. Ewell Foster is a clinical educator, AMSR trainer, and the co-author of *Teen Suicide Risk: a practitioner guide to screening, assessment, and management*.

**John Kettley, LMSW-Clinical Director, Psychiatric Emergency Services Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan**

John Kettley, LMSW is a clinical social worker. He is the Clinical Director of the Psychiatric Emergency Services at Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan. He has special interest in suicide mitigation approaches in acute care settings through psychological interventions and public health approaches. With a focus on engagement and education with patients and families to reduce access to lethal means. Including developing Safe Firearm storage resource options in acute behavioral mental health programs and primary care.

**C3: Lethal Means Safety for Service Members and Veterans**

This session will address the unique risks of firearm-related suicide among service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF), with a focus on special considerations for these populations. Participants will explore the need for tailored firearm injury prevention resources for Michigan veterans and learn strategies that are currently being implemented within Michigan communities that can be replicated across the state. By the end, attendees will have a clearer understanding of how to enhance support and safety for veterans and their families.

**Justin Coates, LMSW-Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator, Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Ann Arbor VA Medical Center**

Justin Coates is a Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator with the Ann Arbor Veteran's Health Center. A graduate of the University of Southern California's Military Master of Social Work program, Justin pursued a career in military social work following five years spent as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army. Justin has specialized in providing trauma recovery to veterans struggling with PTSD and moral injury, as well as those diagnosed with severe mental illness. Justin's current role as a CEPC involves educating local coalitions on military culture and the unique needs faced by the nation's veterans.

**Angela Linsenman, LMSW- Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator Aleda E. Lutz Saginaw VA Medical Center**

Angela Linsenman is a Licensed Master Social Worker at the Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in the Community Based Outreach Clinic located in Gaylord Michigan. Angela graduated from Michigan State University and supported women, children and families in her community for over a decade prior to re-

discovering her passion for supporting veterans and their loved ones. Angela has had the privilege of serving active-duty military and veterans while working at a United States Naval Base in her young adulthood. Her current role, Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator allows her to fulfill her passion of working with communities to address suicide prevention for veterans. Supporting, empowering, and connecting veterans who live, play and thrive in beautiful northern lower Michigan is her top priority. Angela enjoys walking, swimming, looking for Petoskey stones and beach glass, vegetable gardening and learning about sustainable foraging practices.

## **D1: Secure Storage as a Suicide Prevention Strategy**

This session will review various firearm storage options, exploring the pros and cons of each method in relation to the motivations behind firearm ownership. Participants will gain insights into how different storage solutions can align with or challenge these motivations. Additionally, attendees will learn best practices for having respectful, informed conversations about firearm storage, empowering them to engage others in meaningful dialogue that promotes safe and responsible practices.

### **Kelly Huggett, MD-Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Physician, Corewell Health West**

Dr. Kelly Huggett is an internal medicine/pediatrics physician who has been passionately practicing pediatric/adolescent and young adult medicine for 20 years. She got involved in gun violence prevention work in 2018 when she realized that death and injuries from firearms were becoming a public health crisis, and she wanted to be a part of the solution. She has since spearheaded the development of a firearm screening and education tool for primary health providers at Corewell Health West, as co-lead of their Firearm Injury Prevention workgroup. She serves on the Board of the Physicians To Prevent Gun Violence Michigan and is on Governor Whitmer's Gun Violence Prevention Clinical Taskforce as well as the Safe Storage Subcommittee. She is a part of the Firearm Injury Prevention Special Interest Group through the American Academy of Pediatrics and has volunteered at community events with Everytown For Gun Safety and End Gun Violence Michigan as well as Keep our Kids Safe West Michigan. Dr. Huggett has also lobbied at a state level for common sense gun legislation, alongside her children, with March For Our Lives, and at a federal level with OnCall4Kids. She believes that together, we can save lives!

### **Maureen Reddy-Retired FBI Special Agent**

Maureen Reddy is a 30-year veteran of law enforcement, having graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. She spent 27 years with the FBI investigating violent crime and white-collar crime, working as a Special Agent in Chicago from 1991-2006. Maureen later transferred to the FBI Headquarters in Washington DC, where she was a Supervisory Special Agent in the International Operations Division, later transferring to Legat Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. She worked closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, receiving the Medal of Merit in 2011. Maureen later transferred to the Detroit Division of the FBI and became the Assistant Special Agent in Charge in 2015. She retired from the FBI and started a consulting firm with her husband.

### **Nick Zambeck-Chief Physical Security Officer, Huntington National Bank; Retired FBI**

Nick Zambeck is the Chief Physical Security Officer (CPSO) for Huntington National Bank, responsible for the safety and security of 20,000 colleagues and 1100 branches and corporate buildings in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. He retired from the FBI Detroit Field Office in 2019 with over 20 years of distinguished service in law enforcement, working primarily in violent crime, counterterrorism, and with the Critical Incident Response Group, Quantico, Virginia. He has served as a Trooper with the Michigan

State Police, and U.S. Marines, retiring as a captain. Nick is active in local community service and has deployed in disaster recovery efforts.

## **D2: Ensuring Safety: Strategies for Firearm Disposal and Storage**

This presentation will examine the growing issue of firearm ownership in the United States, particularly the increase in firearms ending up in the hands of individuals who do not want to own them. Focusing on one organization's efforts in Metro Detroit, attendees will learn about safe disposal methods for unwanted firearms and the importance of out-of-home storage for at-risk individuals. The session will also explore how community organizations and resources can collaborate to offer effective options for safe firearm disposal and storage, helping to reduce the risk of firearm-related harm.

### **Erin Wright-Kelly, DrPH, MA**

**Director of Research and Evaluation, Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative**

**Associate Director of Communications and Outreach, Injury and Violence Prevention Center  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus**

Dr. Erin Wright-Kelly has over 15 years of experience in public health research and practice, specializing in suicide and violence prevention, firearm injury prevention, and upstream prevention focused on the social determinants of health. She uses community-engaged and mixed methods approaches in her research and has extensive experience in translating, disseminating, and supporting the implementation of evidence-based strategies, programs, and policies into practice environments.

### **Chris Yaw-Disarmory Ministries**

Chris Yaw is an Episcopal priest, author, and former television journalist. He holds two graduate degrees in theology. He has been the rector of St. David's Episcopal Church in Southfield, MI since 2007. Chris also holds leadership positions with End Gun Violence Michigan and The Hyacinth Fellowship which supports those who have caused unintentional harm and death. In the last three years the church has organized eight gun buyback/safe surrender events, disposing of more than 650 firearms.

## **D3. Preventing Firearm-Related Suicide and Violence in Black and Indigenous Communities**

(Repeated in B2 session)

This session will focus on unique firearm injury prevention considerations for Black and Indigenous communities, emphasizing culturally tailored approaches to addressing their specific needs. Participants will explore trauma-informed practices to better understand the impacts of racism and discrimination on firearm ownership, storage, and related issues. Attendees will gain insights into how these communities' experiences shape firearm injury prevention efforts and learn strategies to ensure more effective, culturally competent interventions.

### **Taylor Puckett-Sacred Bundle Project Program Manager, American Indian Health and Family Services**

Taylor Maxwell (Puckett) has been a part of AIHFS's Sacred Bundle Youth Suicide Prevention Project since 2020. The project was created in 2011 in partnership with American Indian Health and Family Services and University of Michigan's School of Social Work. The Sacred Bundle project cares for all underserved youth across the state of Michigan to help ensure mental health screening, prevention training, and community resources are accessible to all. She is also a certified SafeTALK trainer and has presented this gatekeeper training across the Midwest. She graduated with a Bachelors in Anthropology from the University of Alabama.

**Javon Reese-Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Black Family Development, Inc.**

Javon Reese is a Suicide Prevention Coordinator at Black Family Development, Inc. in Detroit, Michigan. He also serves as a board member for Kevin's Song, He is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, where he played football. He graduated with his bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in Chemistry. He is currently completing a dual master's degree from Wayne State University, in social work and public health. He is trained to facilitate evidence-based suicide prevention trainings/workshops: QPR, safeTALK, ASIST, and Mental Health First Aid.

**Adon Vasquez-Sacred Bundle Project Program Assistant, American Indian Health and Family Services**

Adon has been a part of the Sacred Bundle Project at AIHFS since 2019. Adon has been an advocate within the American Indian Health and Family Services community his entire life, including his work on the project. The Sacred Bundle project cares for all underserved youth across the State of Michigan to help ensure mental health screening, prevention training, and community resources are accessible to all. He is also a certified SafeTALK Trainer and has presented this gatekeeper training across the State of Michigan. He is currently a student at Wayne State University.