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# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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## *Monday, September 16th*

8:00am Check-In, Networking  
8:30am Breakfast  
9:00am Welcoming Remarks  
9:20am Plenary Session 1  
9:45am Break  
9:55am Concurrent Session 1  
10:40am Break  
10:50am Plenary Session 2  
11:45am Lunch  
12:10pm Keynote Presentation  
12:45pm Break  
1:00pm Concurrent Session 2  
1:45pm Break  
2:00pm Concurrent Session 3  
3:00pm Break  
3:10pm Concurrent Session 4  
3:55pm Break  
4:00pm Adjourn

## *Tuesday, September 17th*

8:00am Check-In, Networking, Breakfast  
8:30am Keynote Presentation  
9:00am Plenary Session 3  
9:20am Plenary Session 4  
9:45am Break  
9:55am Concurrent Session 5  
10:40am Break  
10:50am Concurrent Session 6  
11:45am Lunch  
12:10pm Keynote Presentation  
12:45pm Break  
1:00pm Concurrent Session 7  
1:45pm Break  
2:00pm Plenary Session 5  
3:00pm Break  
3:10pm Concurrent Session 8  
3:55pm Break  
4:00pm Closing Remarks  
4:15pm Adjourn

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## BEYOND GUNSHOTS

PATHWAYS TO SAFER COMMUNITIES

CONFERENCE HOSTED BY REAL LIFE

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# CONFERENCE AGENDA

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## Monday, September 16th

**8:00 AM**

**Check-In and Networking, Entrance Lobby**

**8:30am**

**Breakfast, Room A**

**9:00 - 9:20 am**

**Welcoming Remarks, Room A**

Featuring: Dr. Sarah Scarbrough, Founder and Director of REAL LIFE; Dr. Tauchanna Bullock, Senior Pathway Navigator, REAL LIFE; Jonathan Cotten, President and CEO of Easy Step Enterprises

**9:20 - 9:40 am**

**Plenary Session 1, Room A**

**Predicting Patterns: Leveraging Data Analysis for Crime Prevention and Public Safety**

Featuring: Heather Williams, Violent Crime Intelligence & Reduction Consultant, Full Spectrum Intelligence  
Overview: This presentation will focus on how data is predictable and therefore preventable using a birds eye view of crime to unveil the micro details. It will discuss the analysis of crime data from a micro and macro level, discuss how to identify patterns, and provide actionable insights to support law enforcement and public safety efforts.

**There will be light snacks in the lobby during this short break.**

**9:55 - 10:40 am**

**Concurrent Session 1**

- **Building Power for Peace: Coalition Building for Safer Communities, Room A**

Featuring: Mike McLively, Policy Director, Giffords Center for Violence Intervention

Overview: This presentation will discuss trends in the development of statewide coalitions focused on expanding resources and building infrastructure to support local, community-based solutions to violence. Topics covered will include major wins from Virginia and around the country, as well as best practices for building coalitions that can influence state and local policy to promote community-based safety solutions.

- **The Power of Cognitive Restructuring, Room B**

Featuring: Jessica Lee, Reentry Services Administrator, Virginia Department of Corrections and Jamii Wood, Roving SUD Cognitive Counselor, Virginia Department of Corrections

Overview: During this session, cognitive restructuring tools will be demonstrated that guide changes in thinking, resulting in behavior change. Through the utilization of these techniques, one individual will share their journey from gun violence and crime, to incarceration which spurred personal growth, resulting in a newfound freedom both internally and externally.

**10:50 - 11:45 am**

**Plenary Session 2, Room A**

**Ensuring School Safety in High-Risk Urban Areas**

Featuring: Dr. Melody Hackney, Superintendent Hopewell Schools

Overview: Serving both an urban and small school district, Hopewell encounters community challenges that often present issues in schools, which lead to issues like fights, distractions, and disengagement. This session will explore effective strategies for addressing these challenges and share the successful approaches we've implemented to overcome them.

**11:45am**

**Lunch, Room A**

Please feel free to help yourself to lunch from the buffet. You are welcome to continue to eat when the Lunch Keynote session commences.

**12:10 - 12:45 pm**

**Keynote Presentation, Room A**

**Recovery Capital Building with Violent and Non-Violent Offenders in Recovery Residences**

Featuring: Dr. David Best, Director, Centre for Addiction Recovery Research Leeds Trinity University, UK

Overview: In this presentation, Dr. Best will begin with a brief history of the methods and logic behind the concept of recovery capital. Evidence on the growth of personal recovery capital in Virginia and other regions will be shared. Dr. Best will introduce new research on peer recovery specialists, focusing on how their own recovery capital enhances their ability to support others. Finally, he will explore the distinctions between violent and nonviolent offenders, coupled with trends in substance use among the two groups.

**1:00 - 1:45 pm**

**Concurrent Session 2**

- **Addressing Crime Through Technology Policing and Community Relationships, Room A**

Featuring: Chief Steve Drew, Chief of Police, Newport News Police Department

Overview: Chief Drew will discuss the innovative approaches being implemented to reduce crime in Newport News. The session will cover the use of advanced technology in policing strategies, the importance of building strong community relationships, and how these combined efforts are making Newport News a safer place. Chief Drew will share insights into the successes and challenges faced by the Newport News Police Department and highlight the critical role of community collaboration in effective crime prevention and response.

- **Bridging the Gap: Victims and Perpetrators**, Room B

Featuring: Amber Leake, Victim Services Director, Virginia Department of Corrections; Emily Sattie, Victim Services Manager, Virginia Department of Corrections; Sadie the Therapy Dog, Virginia Department of Corrections

Overview: This presentation will describe the Victim Impact Program that is available to inmates, probationers, and parolees to understand the impact of their crimes on victims and the community. The heart of the program is bringing in victim speakers to share their stories and interact with participants. Sadie the Therapy Dog will be making a special appearance!

**There will be light snacks in the lobby during this short break.**

**2:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Concurrent Session 3**

- **Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs: Applying the Model Across the Commonwealth**, Room A

Featuring: Ashley Xavier, Director of Violence Intervention Initiatives, Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association; Kamron Blue, Program Coordinator, CHKD Safer Futures; Angela Parker, Program Manager, SNGH Foresight; Ade' Mason, Lead Violence Intervention Specialist, VCU IVPP- Bridging the Gap; Felicia Wilson, Violence Intervention Specialist, Riverside Regional Hand-in-Hand; Loretta Simmons-Jackson, Community Health Worker, Bon Secours Southside Regional Medical Center; Kris Robey, Violence Intervention Specialist, Carilion Roanoke VIRS

Overview: Violence is a public health issue. To truly tackle this problem with a public health approach means meeting patients at bedside after injury. Since 2019, VHHA has received state and federal funds to grow this model and implement it at seven sites across the state. This presentation will begin with an overview of what a HVIP is, how it centers the voices of survivors, and how it's grown across the state. The majority of the presentation time will be dedicated to a panel of HVIP staff from six sites across the state.

- **Silent Triggers: The Hidden Link Between Community Gun Violence and Domestic Abuse**, Room B

Featuring: T.J. Hall, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator, REAL LIFE; Maria Altonen, Rape Prevention and Education Director, Virginia Department of Health

Overview: There is a significant correlation between community gun violence and domestic violence within the home, with many individuals who commit domestic violence subsequently engaging in community gun violence. However, most violence prevention approaches focus primarily on community violence, while support services for domestic violence are almost exclusively directed toward survivors. This session will explore efforts to bridge these two areas, addressing both community and domestic violence simultaneously. We will examine innovative strategies that fill a critical gap in addressing perpetrators, providing a more holistic approach to violence prevention in our country.

**3:10 - 4:00 pm**

**Concurrent Session 4**

- **Strategic Law Enforcement in Violence Intervention: A Collaborative Approach with REAL LIFE**, Room A

Featuring: Kyle Woods, Director of Organized Retail Crime, Office of the Attorney General of Virginia; Major

Donnie Reid, Deputy Chief of Police, Hopewell Police Department, Corporal Taylor Reedy, School Resource Officer, Hopewell Sheriff's Office; Christine Cestaro, Deputy Commonwealth Attorney, City of Richmond; Colette McEachin, Commonwealth Attorney, City of Richmond (Panel Moderator)

**Overview:** This panel will explore the concept of strategic law enforcement and its critical role in reducing violence. We will delve into real-world examples of strategies that emphasize a comprehensive approach to violence reduction, focusing on the importance of programs, partnerships, and active community involvement. The discussion will cover three key target populations: individuals at high risk of engaging in violence, communities affected by violence, and law enforcement along with community stakeholders. Additionally, we will examine the essential role law enforcement plays in violence reduction through activities such as weekly shooting reviews, conflict management, and community engagement.

- **Approaches the Commonwealth of Virginia (through DCJS) is Taking to Address Violence**, Room B

**Featuring:** Greg Hopkins, Delinquency and Violent Crime Prevention Program Coordinator, Division of Programs and Services, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services; Jennifer Quitquit, Prevention and Intervention Grant Monitor, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services; Chad Felts, Capacity Building & Sustainability Coordinator, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

**Overview:** DCJS staff will provide an overview of the grant funding process. Topics covered will include eligibility and the types of programs commonly funded. They will also provide insight into the current program universe.

**4:00pm**

**Adjourn**

We will dismiss after the last sessions are over and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!

## **Tuesday, September 17th**

**8:00 am**

**Check-In and Networking**, Entrance Lobby

**Breakfast**, Room A

**8:30 - 9:00 am**

**Keynote Presentation**, Room A

**How We are Addressing Violent Crime Federally**

**Featuring:** Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger, Virginia's 7th Congressional District, United States House of Representatives

**9:00 - 9:20 am**

**Plenary Session 3**, Room A

**Project SAF: An Update from the Field**

**Featuring:** Dr. Sarah Scarbrough, Founder and Director, REAL LIFE

**Overview:** As REAL LIFE expanded into violence prevention, in addition to our recovery housing, our mission has been clear: to stop violence before it happens. Through our strategic approach, our now six dedicated

life coaches are boots on the ground every day, identifying individuals at the highest risk—whether potential perpetrators or victims. By offering intensive life coaching, we provide these individuals with the tools and opportunities to make transformative changes, steering them away from a path of violence and toward a brighter future.

**9:20 - 9:45 am**

**Plenary Session 4, Room A**

**Project Safe Neighborhoods: The U.S. Attorney's Office's Approach to Violent Crime**

Featuring: Jessica Aber, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia

Overview: This session will provide an overview of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative, a collaborative effort led by the U.S. Attorney's Office to reduce violent crime in communities across the Eastern District, as well as ongoing efforts within the office related to prosecution.

**There will be light snacks in the lobby during this short break**

**9:55 - 10:40 am**

**Concurrent Session 5**

• ***Prosecuting Violent Crime with Modern Challenges, Room A***

Featuring: Amy Ashworth, Commonwealth Attorney, Prince William County

Overview: This session will discuss the challenges of prosecuting violent crime, offering strategies to overcome these obstacles. It will explore the investigative and prosecutorial complexities associated with technology-enhanced violence and the use of weapons, while providing insights into how law enforcement and legal professionals can effectively address these evolving threats.

• ***Trends Observed in the Emergency Department Among Individuals Involved in Violent Crime, Room B***

Featuring: Dr. Robert Reiser, M.D., M.S., Former Medical Director of the Emergency Department, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Virginia

Overview: This session will examine trends observed in the emergency department and among hospital trauma patients who come in as a result of violence; medical responses to violence within hospital systems; key takeaways from working with the population in a medical setting and how those takeaways can inform further work in both a medical and community setting.

**10:50 - 11:45 am**

**Concurrent Session 6**

• ***What is Happening Across Virginia, Room A***

Featuring: Josh Webner, Community Resilience Program Coordinator, REAL LIFE; Michael Pinto, Project SAF Lead Life Coach, REAL LIFE; Erin Beard, Communications Co-Lead and Events Lead, Moms Demand Action Virginia; Scharnelle Hamlin, Homicide Survivor Support Group Coordinator, Virginia Victim Assistance Network; NaQuetta Mitchell, Founder and Executive Director, Women of Endurance; Sherron Cerny, CEO and Founder, Kids on First Foundation; Mike McLively, Policy Director, Giffords Center for Violence Intervention (Moderator)

Overview: Virginia is currently at the forefront of a wide array of exciting initiatives aimed at addressing

gun violence, ranging from grassroots movements and policy-driven efforts to community-based activities like basketball leagues and violence intervention programs. This panel will explore these diverse efforts, highlighting the innovative approaches being implemented across the state. Additionally, the discussion will focus on how community members can actively participate and support these initiatives, offering insights into the various ways individuals and organizations can contribute to the ongoing efforts to reduce gun violence in Virginia.

- ***Navigating Grief: Supporting Children and Families Affected by Homicide***, Room B

Featuring: Amanda Lynch, Trauma Informed Care Specialist, Virginia Department of Health

Overview: This interactive workshop will be led by Amanda L. Lynch, an expert in trauma informed care. She will lead this workshop where participants will gain practical insights and guidance on how to navigate the complex emotions and other challenges that arise in the aftermath of a homicide. Participants will learn how to create a safe and nurturing environment where children and families feel empowered to express their grief openly. Through a combination of discussions and hands-on activities, attendees will explore techniques for facilitating age-appropriate conversations about death, validating emotions, and fostering resilience in the face of adversity.

**11:45am**

**Lunch**, Room A

Please feel free to help yourself to lunch from the buffet. You are welcome to continue to eat when the Lunch Keynote session commences.

**12:10 - 12:45 pm**

**Keynote Presentation**, Room A

***The Widespread Impact of Crime***

Featuring: Jon Burkett, Crime Insider Reporter, WTVR-CBS6

**1:00 - 1:45 pm**

**Concurrent Session 7**

- ***The Church's Response to Violence***, Room A

Featuring: Pastor Marvin Gilliam, Senior Pastor, The Mount Carmel Baptist Church; Rev. Donté McCutchin, Love Cathedral Community Church and Greater Mount Moriah Baptist Church; Rev. Ciarra Smith-Bond, Senior Pastor, Faith Community Baptist Church, Amy Starr Redwine, Pastor and Head of Staff, First Presbyterian Church (Moderator)

Overview: The church holds a unique and pivotal role in the community, especially in addressing social challenges like violence and mentoring youth. While many churches are already actively responding to violence and engaging with young people, others are still exploring how they can best contribute and make a meaningful impact. This panel will explore various approaches that churches can take to address these issues, offering insights and strategies for those looking to understand and define their role in fostering a safer, more supportive community.

- ***From the Streets: Community Based Public Safety Collective's Experiences Brokering Peace***, Room B

Featuring: James Braxton II, CVIPI, Project Manager, Community Based Public Safety Collective

Overview: For years, we have been at the forefront of efforts to reduce violence on the West Coast, playing a pivotal role in brokering peace treaties among rival gangs, including the Bloods and the Crips in the 1990s. Our work extends beyond these historic interventions, as we continue to actively engage in community-based violence reduction efforts. Additionally, we contract with organizations across the country, providing training on behalf of the Department of Justice to help others implement similar services. This session will provide context and understanding behind this work we continue to be committed to do.

**There will be light snacks in the lobby during this short break**

**2:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Plenary Session 5, Room A**

**Bringing Hope to Hopewell: Reducing Violent Crime Through Partnerships and Intervention**

Featuring: Delegate Carrie Coyner, Virginia House of Delegates 75th District; Dr. Sarah Scarbrough, Founder and Director, REAL LIFE; Detective Sergeant Chris Hewett, Hopewell Police Department Criminal Investigative Unit; Maurice Washington, Violence Prevention Initiative Coordinator, REAL LIFE; Darchie Lewis, Director, City of Refuge Recovery Center and CEO, VA Chain Breakers LLC; Kevin Foster, John Randolph Foundation (Moderator)

Overview: In response to a significant surge in violent crime in 2022, the City of Hopewell took swift action to prevent a recurrence. Partnering with REAL LIFE in 2023, REAL LIFE's Project SAF was launched, which is a targeted intervention aimed at reducing violent crime and homicides through intensive life coaching. The program has been remarkably successful, achieving a sharp decline in violence by focusing on those most at risk of engaging in criminal activities. Through strategic interventions and strong partnerships, Project SAF has transformed the community and stands as a powerful example of how collaborative efforts can lead to meaningful change.

**3:10 - 4:00 pm**

**Concurrent Session 8**

• **Chiefs and Superintendents: Approaches to Violence, Room A**

Featuring: Chief Rick Edwards, Chief of Police, City of Richmond; Chief Timothy Longo, Sr., Associate Vice President for Safety and Security and Chief of Police, University of Virginia; Colonel Gary T. Settle, Superintendent, Virginia State Police; Wayne Huggins, Former Superintendent, Virginia State Police; Kyle Woods, Director of Organized Retail Crime, Office of the Attorney General of Virginia (Panel Moderator)

Overview: This panel discussion will focus on the critical roles that police departments and state police play in violence reduction efforts. We will explore how these law enforcement agencies collaborate with communities, implement strategic interventions, and respond to violent incidents to maintain public safety. The panel will also discuss the challenges faced by police in addressing violence, the importance of building trust with community members, and how partnerships between local police departments and state police can enhance the effectiveness of violence prevention initiatives. Through real-world examples and expert insights, this discussion will shed light on the multifaceted responsibilities of law enforcement in creating safer communities.

- ***Unlocking the Power of the Body: Trauma-Centered Yoga for Healing the Brain, Room B***

Featuring: Joni Watling, Trauma Centered Trauma Sensitive Yoga Facilitator, Occupational Therapy, Mental & Behavioral Health, Rooted in Function, LLC and Therapeutic Yoga RVA; Madeline Vann, LPC, CSAC, Trauma Program Manager, The Farley Center

Overview: Trauma and violence can have devastating neurological and physiological impacts, affecting brain function, the nervous system, and overall well-being. Trauma-centered yoga (TCTSY) can promote neuroplasticity and healing through guided practices that cultivate body awareness, self-regulation, and a sense of safety and control, supporting violence prevention and long-term healing. In this session, Participants will explore the evidence-based benefits of TCTSY, experience a guided practice, and learn to adapt concepts for individuals and communities to support healing and prevent future violence.

**4:00 - 4:15 pm**

**Closing Remarks, Room A**

We will gather for brief closing remarks, as well as the raffle drawings.