



FREE TO ATTEND!

Please register online at
www.LakeCountyJJC.org

FREE CLE

2026 ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR

May 8, 2026 | 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Greenbelt Cultural Center, 1215 N. Green Bay Road, North Chicago

Agenda

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Registration and Resource Tables
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	<i>Curt's Café: A Community-Based Approach to Workforce Development, Accountability, and Second Chances</i> Damita Cravens, Curt's Cafe Credit: 0.5 hr MCLE General
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	<i>The Power of One Caring Adult</i> Joshua Wayne, MA Credit: 1.0 hr MCLE General
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	<i>The Role of Law Enforcement in Preventing Juvenile Delinquency through Restorative Justice</i> Dr. Moises Prospero & Chief Steve Anjewierden Credit: 1.0 hr PMCLE Diversity/Inclusion
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	<i>The Value of Peace Circles in Juvenile Justice</i> Fr. David Kelly & Pamela Purdie, Precious Blood Ministries Credit: 1.0 hr MCLE General
12:15 PM – 12:30 PM	Break
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	<i>Mentorship is Key</i> Oscar Parham, Home Away From Home Credit: 0.5 hr MCLE General
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	<i>Partnering for a Safer Lake County</i> Eric Banks, GRO Community Credit: 1.0 hr MCLE General

Please visit our website at www.LakeCountyJJC.org to learn more about our council.

Speaker Bios

Damita Craven, LCPC

Damita Craven is a mental health therapist and life coach. She earned a Master's of Science in Clinical Mental Health from National Louis University in 2017 and received her LCPC (Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor) license March 2025. She has experience with people from diverse backgrounds, cultures and belief systems. She has worked with adults who have Severe and Persistent Mental Illness such as Schizophrenia, Major Depressive Disorder, Bipolar I, as well as, co-occurring Substance Use disorders. She has also worked with children ages 4-17 years old. She takes a person-centered approach and loves doing therapy with children and their families to help them navigate and cope with challenges in their life. She strives to assist clients and their families process emotions and learn coping skills to deal with everyday stressors and decrease symptoms. With the necessary tools and skills at our disposal it is easier to identify triggers, notice warning signs, and find ways to better prepare for oncoming stressors and challenges. She utilizes CBT, DBT, and trauma focused approaches.



Fun fact, Damita's undergraduate degree is a B.S. in Art with an emphasis on Photography from Illinois State University. Her era as a City of Evanston Outreach Worker ended after 3.5 years. Her takeaways working for the city include gained experience working for and supporting her community in whatever capacity needed. It has made her an even more well-rounded mental health professional.

She is starting the next journey of her life by accepting the position of Social Services Director with Curt's Café. She is also able to pursue more opportunities for her business, Center for Mental Resilience. She is a board member of the Children's Advocacy Center of North Cook, a board member of Friends of Evanston Farmers Market, and a board member of NAMI CCNS (She is also a Certified Facilitator for the NAMI "Sharing Hope" workshops.) She is a chartering member of NCNW(National Council of Negro Women) North Section, and is a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and part of the Central Region Mental Health Panel.

Joshua Wayne, MA

Joshua Wayne, MA has worked with kids in just about every setting imaginable since 1996: drug and alcohol treatment, with at-risk foster youth, community mental health, private practice, and as a Director of Special Education at District of Columbia Public Schools. A former struggling teen himself, Joshua understands deeply what they are going through. He inspires teens to courageously face the challenges before them, and build the skills & confidence needed to find the path in life that is right for them. He also teaches parents, teachers, and other caring adults how to best love and support them through this process. With teens, he addresses topics such as mental health & getting the support they need, how to say "no" without losing face, and building healthy relationships. With adults, he addresses topics like getting them to both "listen up" and "open up", warning signs there may be a deeper issue, and when to hold the line vs. give them room to figure it out. Joshua holds a Master's Degree in Counselor Education from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago and is a Nationally Certified Counselor. He has been featured as a Life Coach on the Style Network and is the co-creator with Josh Shipp of the One Caring Adult online community



Dr. Moises Prospero

Moisés Próspero, Ph.D. has worked in the criminal and juvenile justice field for over 30 years as a professor, evaluator, trainer, and direct service provider. Presently, Dr. Próspero leads the implementation and evaluation of several community-based, crime prevention models, such as the Comprehensive Gang Model, Focused Deterrence Strategies, Communities That Care, and Project AWARE. Dr. Próspero provided training and technical assistance for the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) addressing a variety of areas related to young persons involved in the juvenile justice system. Dr. Próspero has presented his work in several local, national and international conferences and published articles in peer-reviewed journals, such as the Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Journal of Juvenile Justice, Journal of School Violence, and The Journal of Aggression, Conflict & Peace Research.



Chief Steve Anjewierden

Chief Steve Anjewierden retired from law enforcement as Deputy Chief of Police Services with the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake. Chief Anjewierden served in several boards related to criminal and juvenile justice policy reform, including the Utah State Advisory Board. Presently, Chief Anjewierden provides training, technical assistance, and evaluation services on crime prevention efforts to law enforcement agencies, school districts and community-based organizations. Presently, Chief Anjewierden consults in various police reform efforts, such as co-response models, school resource officer training, and law enforcement hiring practices. Chief Anjewierden also provided training and technical assistance for the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) addressing a variety of areas related to young persons involved in the juvenile justice system.



Fr. David Kelly, C.PP.S

David Kelly is Catholic priest of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. He is the Executive Director and founder of the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR), a restorative justice hub in the Back-of-the-Yards/Englewood community that began in 2002. PBMR works to accompany those impacted by violence and incarceration. PBMR also strives to be a resource to other groups and communities who seek healing and reconciliation. For more than 46 years he has worked as a chaplain at Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. During that time he has, also, worked at Kolbe House at Assumption, in inner-city parish-based jail ministry. David holds a Masters of Divinity and Masters of Arts in Cross Cultural Studies. He also holds a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min) from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. His doctoral thesis is entitled: "Responding to Violence among Urban Youth: a Restorative Approach". He has been trained and certified as a mediator from DePaul University and has received training in the restorative practice of Peacemaking Circles. He has published articles and spoken on reconciliation, restorative justice and jail/detention ministry.



Pamela Purdie

Pamela Purdie works as the Restorative Justice Coordinator and Peace Circle Trainer at PBMR (Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation). She partners with community partners, schools, and organizations throughout Chicago to cultivate restorative approaches to address and prevent harm, conflict, and violence. Pamela also works as a restorative justice and peace circle trainer for NEA (National Education Association) in various states throughout the country. She is the recipient of several awards including the Balanced and Restorative Justice Award from the Cook County Juvenile Court in 2012, for her contributions to the advancement of Restorative Justice in Illinois. She continues to work with judges and lawyers to introduce RJ practices and alternative approaches to addressing harm.



Oscar Parham

Oscar Parham spent thirty years wrongfully imprisoned before his sentence was commuted by Governor Rauner in January 2019. This life-changing event marked the beginning of a new chapter for Oscar, allowing him to pursue his passion for education and helping others.

In 2022, Oscar earned a Master of Arts degree in Christian Ministry and Restorative Arts from North Park Theological Seminary. This academic accomplishment empowered Oscar to further his commitment to community service.

Following his graduation, Oscar served as Youth and Mentorship Director for the Legacy Reentry Foundation in Lake County, Illinois.

At one point, the Illinois Prisoner Review Board sought an ex-offender to offer a new perspective and approached Oscar for the position. Although the job meant a significant upgrade in pay, Oscar turned it down because taking the job would have meant him giving up his vision of helping at-risk youth find themselves.

Today, Oscar is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Home Away from Home Youth Development and Reentry. He leads efforts to support at-risk youth through mentorship, advocacy, and holistic support. Oscar's work empowers young individuals, helping them break free from cycles of poverty and violence, and guiding them toward personal growth and positive change.



Eric Banks

Eric Banks is the Northern Region Supervisor for GRO Community.

Eric holds a B.A. in Social Work and a Master's of Social Work from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Eric is a Licensed Social Working and a trauma informed therapist.

