

# 2024 OCAM Conference *Amplify & Grow Our Individual Strengths*

## Presenter Bios

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**Tasha Wilkerson, MA, Director of Operations & Training, *SheRay's & Associates***

**Workshops:**

**Unleashing Your Full Potential: Embracing Diversity, Building Resilience & Cultivating Personal Growth Working With Marginalized Populations**

Tasha Wilkerson, Director of Operations and Training at SheRay's & Associates and TTJ Group LLC, is a highly sought-after expert in training and instructional design. With a Master of Arts degree in Training and Instructional Design, she has dedicated nearly three decades to refining her skills as a trainer and community activist. Specializing in strategic planning and community capacity building, Tasha collaborates with adults and faith leaders to establish safer community environments. She delivers customized training and action planning to local communities, focusing on areas such as coalition building, evaluation, and cultural competency. What sets Tasha apart is her dedication to supporting adult learners, incorporating adult learning theory into all her programs. In addition to her professional achievements, she has shared her personal journey within the justice system through her book "When the Other Shoe Drops", offering valuable insights and resources for individuals on similar paths.

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**Nicole Schiesler, M.Ed., MCHES, OCPC, ICPS, President & CEO, *PreventionFIRST!***

**Workshop: The Business Side of Non-Profit Organizations**

Nicole Schiesler is President and CEO at PreventionFirst! She has worked in the prevention field since 1997. She is professionally credentialed as an Ohio Certified Prevention Consultant (OCPC), an International Certified Prevention Specialist (ICPS), and Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES). Nicole has a Bachelor of Science in community health from Ohio University and a Master of Education in health promotion and education from the University of Cincinnati. She is the 2019 recipient of the University of Cincinnati, College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services (CECH) Distinguished Alumni Award. She is a graduate of the Community Leaders Institute (CLI) and the Nonprofit Leadership Institute of Greater Cincinnati (NLIGC.) EXCEL Leadership Program XIV. Nicole is also a BOLD 7 graduate and Leader Circle member — both programs of the Leadership Council for Nonprofits. She is on the Steering Committee of the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition (HCARC) and serves as co-chair of the coalition's prevention committee. She is on the Advisory Council for the One Source Center. She is a master trainer for SAMHSA's Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST). Nicole is also an Ohio Coaching and Mentoring (OCAM) Network coach and mentor.

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**Julia Kyser, CPA, Contract CFO, *PreventionFIRST!***

**Workshop: The Business Side of Non-Profit Organizations**

Julia Kyser has her own CPA practice performing accounting and consulting services for not-for-profit organizations. She works with approximately 25 small organizations providing services ranging from assistance with annual audit preparation to full-service accounting. Prior to this venture, Julia spent 13 years in public accounting with Arthur Andersen and then with Barnes, Dennig & Co., Ltd. At Barnes Dennig, Julia was an engagement specialist (manager) on the Not-for-Profit service team. Julia is a 1994 magna cum laude graduate of Miami University with a B.S. in Accountancy. She is Treasurer of the Boards' of Directors of the Good Shepherd Nursery School and the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Kenwood.

**Jennifer Benson, M.Ed., OCPC, President & Owner, *Prevention Across the Ages, LLC***

**Workshops: *Organizing Effective Meetings* | Panelist: *Soaring for Success Panel***

Jennifer Benson is an Ohio Certified Prevention Consultant. She owns a consulting firm, Prevention Across the Ages, LLC, which offers training and coaching to individuals and communities. Jennifer received her Master's in Adult Education and Training from the American College of Education. She has worked in prevention for 20 years, engaging in school-based programming, community services, and coalition work. Jennifer enjoys training and working with individuals and communities, helping them gain the tools and skills to implement effective prevention practices. Jennifer and three colleagues developed the adult low risk drinking curriculum, Minimize Risk~Maximize Life.

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**Rachel Miller, M.Ed., LSW, OCPC, ICPS, Prevention Consultant, *OCAM Network***

**Workshops: *A Pop of Trivia* | Moderator: *Soaring for Success Panel***

Rachel Miller has been working in the prevention field for 8 years, working in local schools delivering prevention education and coalition work. Rachel has experience with an array of prevention services, but suicide prevention has been a significant focus of her prevention career. Rachel has previously been a member of the OPPA Young Prevention Professionals Project, and currently sits on the board of the Ohio Prevention Professionals Association (OPPA) as secretary and co-chair of the Education & Training Team. Rachel is passionate about building the capacity of the prevention field and loves working with new professionals.

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**Dedra Perlmutter, CPCC, CPRW, PHR, SHRM-CP, Senior Career Coach, *JVS Careers***

**Workshop: *Strengths Unleashed: Maximizing Your Professional & Personal Potential***

Dedra Perlmutter, CPCC, CPRW, SHRM-CP, PHR, is a Senior Career Coach, Human Resources Manager, and Scholarship Administrator at JVS Careers. Dedra provides extensive knowledge to clients in job searching, interviewing, networking, personal branding, image, and career strategies. With almost 20 years of HR experience, in a variety of industries, Dedra is well-versed in recruiting and employment, and brings with her "insider knowledge" of what employers are looking for in potential employees. By leading workshops and working with clients individually, Dedra serves as a resource for those that are looking to make a career change or to enhance their current career path. In addition to utilizing her past experiences, Dedra also works in conjunction with other HR industry professionals to remain up to date on current hiring and employment trends.

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**Brian Kerstine, CPRW, Director of Business Development, *JVS Careers***

**Workshop: *Strengths Unleashed: Maximizing Your Professional & Personal Potential***

Brian Kerstine, CPRW, Director of Business Development, comes to JVS Careers with a passion for helping people. He has built his career on listening to the needs of others and problem-solving. Over his 20 years of experience in the corporate world, as well as owning his own business, Brian has worked with a vast array of individuals. Brian has worked in multiple industries including advertising, consumer services, and most recently in the staffing industry where he has made countless connections. He has a strong understanding of what hiring managers are looking for.

**Mary Francis, OCPC, LSW, LICDC, Private Consultant**

**Workshops: [Burnout Prevention](#) | [Conflict Resolution](#)**

Mary Francis is an experienced consultant who develops teams, communities of practice, portfolios of grants, and provides technical assistance that contributes to behavioral health solutions. Mary provides consultation with school districts, hospitals and FQHCs, social service organizations, governmental agencies, other health providers, and funders to expand services, create policy change, improve program design, embed, and spread best practices, and conduct evaluation. Previously, Mary served as Senior Program Officer at Interact for Health and as Director of its Assistance for Substance Abuse Prevention Center for over 20 years. Prior to that, Mary served as Director of Prevention Services at the Addiction Services Council for 7 years. Mary has published articles on a model for community-engaged grantmaking, mobilizing the faith community in prevention, and using the interactive systems framework. Mary has an Associate of Applied Science in Human Service from Edison State College, a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the Union Institute, and a Master of Arts in Adult Education and Distance Learning from the University of Phoenix. She is an Ohio Certified Prevention Consultant, Licensed Social Worker, and a Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor. Mary serves on the executive board of the Ohio School Based Health Alliance. Mary formerly served on the advisory board for Children's Oral Health Network, Growing Well, the OhioMHAS Health Equity Workgroup for Community Collective Impact Model for Change, Santa Maria's Bienestar program, and Cincinnati Public School's Safe and Drug Free Schools Advisory Committee.

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**Jen Bierer, BA, RA, Director, Communications, *PreventionFIRST!***

**Workshop: [Trending Now: Sustainable, Realistic Social Media Strategies](#)**

Jennifer Bierer is the Director of Communications at PreventionFIRST! At PreventionFIRST! Jennifer leads social media, public relations, and marketing strategies and coordinates problem gambling prevention strategies. Additionally, she provides training and technical assistance on sustainable, realistic communication strategies for community organizations and prevention professionals. She serves as a board member for the Problem Gambling Network of Ohio. Jennifer is passionate about public health and has health promotion experience in the areas of chronic diseases, obesity, traffic-related deaths/injuries, mental health, and substance use/misuse. She has also developed marketing strategies and branding for several worker-owned businesses. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Arts in communication and public relations from Xavier University and is currently working on her Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist credential.

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**Andrea Hoff, MPA, GPC, OCPC, ICPS, Owner & President, *YouThrive LLC*.**

**Workshops:**

**[Strengths-Based Leadership: Utilizing Your Natural Talents to Maximize Your Prevention Leadership](#)**

**[Panelist: Soaring for Success Panel](#)**

Andrea Hoff is the Owner & President of You Thrive Training & Consulting, LLC, a company that provides training and consulting services in the areas of behavioral health prevention, grant writing, organizational development, and leadership. Andrea has worked in the behavioral health field for almost 30 years, is certified in Ohio as a behavioral health prevention consultant (OCPC) and international behavioral health prevention specialist (ICPS) and is a certified QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Instructor and Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST) Instructor. She is a coach for the Ohio Coaching and Mentoring (OCAM) Network, and she uses the Gallup CliftonStrengths assessments in her coaching work. Andrea is also a certified grants professional (GPC) with extensive experience in grant writing. She is a Past President of the Miami Valley, Ohio, Chapter of the Grant Professionals Association (GPA) and is an approved GPA speaker. During her career, Andrea raised over \$54 million to support a variety of behavioral health and other social services. She graduated summa cum laude with her Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Dayton.

## **James A. White Sr., CEO, *Performance Consulting Services***

### **Workshops: *Empowerment and Productivity | Emotional Intelligence***

James A. White Sr. is a senior, Master Training Management Consultant and Executive Coach with over 40 years of corporate, education, and government training and development experience. He is the owner and operator of Performance Consulting Services, a business performance training, development, coaching, and consulting firm located in Columbus, Ohio. James is committed to sharing his experiences, insight, enthusiasm and energy with individuals, groups, and organizations. To date, James has successfully trained over 400,000 thousand people in a classroom environment and has recently co-authored a book on the topic of diversity and inclusion: *A Better World: A Framework for Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement*. James has over a million hits on his Tedtalk International presentation titled: *A little problem I had while trying to rent a house* and he was featured in *The Legacy Project – Echoing Greatness*, a website designed to inspire people through the experiences and lessons learned from others. Known for his humorous, yet real world and impacting, informative training style, James is committed to the growth, development, and advancement of all people. He has inspired people of all races, genders, generations, and backgrounds in achieving their level of performance excellence.

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## **Lake Miller, OCPC, ICPS, Director of Education, *NCCJ***

### **Workshops:**

#### ***Beyond Compliance: Leveraging Best Practices in Prevention Supervision***

#### ***Panelist: Soaring for Success Panel***

Lake Miller is the Director of Education at The National Conference for Community and Justice of Greater Dayton (NCCJ). Since 2018, he has overseen NCCJ's youth programs, including Anytown Youth Leadership Institute, Police and Youth Together, and school-based programs. Lake believes in the power of conversation, creating safe spaces for individuals to engage in meaningful conversations around DEI. Lake is an Ohio Certified Prevention Consultant (OCPC) and is a certified QPR suicide prevention instructor. He also works to educate other preventionists on how to be more inclusive and equitable in their prevention practice. Lake served on the National Leadership Team for Scouts for Equality, a nationwide non-profit working to end discrimination in the Boy Scouts of America. As an Eagle Scout, Lake utilized his knowledge and interest in Scouting to assist in advocating for a national campaign that successfully resulted in policy change at the national level. Lake currently serves as the Treasurer of the Montgomery County Prevention Coalition. Lake currently serves on the Board of Trillium Nature School. Lake is also a Volunteer Trainer with 4 Paws for Ability where he assists in training a Service Dog in Training for a kid of Veteran with disabilities.

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## **Amy Hamilton, MPA, OCPS, Behavioral Health Consultant, *YouThrive LLC*.**

### **Workshop: *Leading Beyond Authority: Empowering Prevention Professionals to Lead from Any Position***

A dynamic professional with a profound commitment to community well-being and organizational excellence, Amy blends a rich academic background of social work, nonprofit and community leadership, public administration, and gender and diversity studies with extensive hands-on experience to drive impactful change in the realms of nonprofit management, behavioral health, and community development. Amy specializes in trauma and resilience, suicide prevention, coalition building and best practices, strategic planning, and volunteer management. She is a certified instructor for Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid, QPR, Pax Tools, Social Resilience Model, SAMHSA's Ethics in Prevention, OMHAS's Trauma Informed Approaches, and is certified as an Advanced National Organization for Victim's Assistance Responder. Amy currently works for You Thrive Training and supports over 34 prevention coalitions across the State of Ohio in developing foundational processes to support maximum community impact and the reduction of mental illness and substance misuse. She is a professional trainer and content developer and loves supporting professionals in their prevention journey.

**Takiyah Anderson, BA, OCPC, Project Director, *Youngstown UMADAOP***

**Workshop Title: Panelist: Soaring for Success Panel**

Takiyah Anderson is an Ohio Certified Prevention Consultant (OCPC) and is a Project Director with Youngstown Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (YUMADAOP) where she has worked in the prevention field for over 10 years. As Program Director she's managed Drug Free Communities and Partnerships for Success Grants, working with coalitions, schools, and the community using the Strategic Prevention Framework and Strategies for Community Change. Takiyah has a Bachelor Degree in Accounting from Youngstown State University. She is a Pax Tools Community Educator and certified in QPR Suicide Prevention.

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**Jayla Lee, BS, OCPSA, Program Coordinator, *PreventionFIRST!***

**Workshop Title: Panelist: Soaring for Success Panel**

Jayla Lee is a Program Coordinator at PreventionFIRST! In this role, she supports PreventionFIRST! workforce development goals by increasing awareness and capacity for substance use/misuse prevention in schools and faith-based communities. Additionally, she supports and strengthens existing prevention efforts with minority communities. She has a Bachelor of Science in public health and a certificate in minority health from the University of Cincinnati. She is currently working on her Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist credential.