COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION TEAM

14-POINT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Set a clear goal: commit to saving lives by stopping violence.
2. Identify key people and places driving violence.
3. Create a plan for engaging key people and places.
4. Engage key people with empathy and accountability.
5. Address key locations using place-based policing and investment.
6. Place responsibility for violence reduction efforts at the top.
7. Emphasize healing with trauma-informed approaches.
8. Invest in anti-violence workforce development.
9. Set aside funding for new stakeholders and strategies.
10. Create the Washtenaw County Violence Commission.
11. Build a community center in eastern Washtenaw County.
12. Build community mural/safe grieving community space.
14. Establish Communication Alert System
Cherisa Allen
Tiaja Wynn Allen
Lois E. Allen-Richardson
Jessica Ashmore
Mikel Brown
Jamall Bufford
Crystal Campbell
Billy Cole
Drew Cosby
Greg Dill
Alyshia Dyer
Alex Easley
Zac Fosler
Roxanne Green
Dr. Celeste Hawkins
Justin Hodge
Derrick Jackson
Kimberly Jones
Brian Jones-Chance
Akintunde Oluwadare
Charles Peterson-Bey
Darnesha Pickens
Florence Roberson
Roger Roper
DeAndre Webster
Charles Wilson
Gail Wolkoff

Thomas Abt

Abt studies, teaches, and writes about the use of evidence-informed approaches to address violent crime and other public safety problems. He currently chairs the Council’s Violent Crime Working Group and recently directed its National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice. Abt is also an associate research professor at the University of Maryland and the founding director of its Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction. Previously, he served as a Senior Research Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and held leadership positions in the New York Governor’s Office and the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice. Abt is the author of Bleeding Out: The Devastating Consequences of Urban Violence - and a Bold New Plan for Peace in the Streets, published in June 2019. His work has been featured in media outlets including the Atlantic, the Economist, the New Yorker, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, CNN, MSNBC, PBS, and National Public Radio.
AGENDA

7:45 AM - 8:30 AM: REGISTRATION/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45 AM: HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

9:00 AM: INTRODUCTION OF CVI TEAM

9:25 AM: INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: KEYNOTE SPEAKER

THOMAS ABT
Author of Bleeding Out

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM: MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Trauma-Informed Practices - Chardae Korhonen
- Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) - Juard Barnes
- Cure Violence - Aric Johnson

12:00 PM - 12:45 PM: LUNCH (PROVIDED)

12:45 PM - 1:30 PM: PANEL DISCUSSION

"WHY LIVED EXPERIENCE MATTERS IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION"

- Florence Roberson - S.U.R.E Moms
- Billy Cole - Supreme Felons
- Trevonte Thomas - Survivor of Gun Violence
- Mrs. Mary Smith- Grandmother, lost her grandson to gun violence

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM: AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Grief & Loss/Impact on Community - Rev. Diane Smith
- Data on Violence (UM Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention) - Marc Zimmerman
- Local Programs and Emerging Practices - Supreme Felons, AE City of Hope & WeLive

3:00 PM - 3:45 PM: CLOSING REMARKS

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM: AFTERGLOW/NETWORKING

MUSIC - CHARLES PETERSON-BEY

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

THE HEALTH ALLIANCE for VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

Juard Barnes

Juard Barnes is Senior Advisor for Communities of Practice at The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (The HAVI), as well as Principle and Founder of The Rehoboth Project. He has nearly 40 years of experience as a community builder and violence prevention specialist helping organizations and cities nationwide to achieve community safety. Specializing in advocacy, training and Technical Assistance in the CVI Ecosystem, Juard recently served as a lead for the White House Community Violence Intervention Collaborative, helping to create powerful CVI leadership for 16 jurisdictions nationwide.

Juard and his wife Larita Rice-Barnes are the proud parents of four amazing and contributing adults and grandparents of six beautiful additions to the world.
Aric Johnson is family man with a devotion to God, his beautiful wife, his two children, and is a licensed social worker, counselor, motivational speaker and mentor who is passionate about helping people live lives to their fullest potential. Drawing from his own personal experiences related to drug addiction, incarceration, and various other struggles, Aric allows his life to be an “open book” showing that it is truly possible to achieve positive life transformation... one quality decision at a time.

Aric specializes in providing hope and direction to those who have lost their way, and bringing peace of mind to those who find themselves in the middle of crisis situations. He has had the privilege of serving disadvantage populations such as homeless men and women, individuals suffering with mental illness, those recently released from incarceration, and at-risk youth, including those already involved with the criminal justice system. As a social worker, Aric is committed to community activism and social justice, especially advocating on behalf of those affected by poverty and discrimination.

Aric holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from Georgia State University, a Master’s of Social Work from Kennesaw State University, is a certified anger management specialist, and founder of One Eighty Counseling and Coaching. Aric currently holds a position of National Coordinator for Strategic Partnerships for Cure Violence Global. In his free time, Aric enjoys all things sports-related, especially football, and is a huge Georgia Bulldog and Green Bay Packer fan.

Cure Violence is a public health approach to violence prevention and reduction. It aims to stop the spread of violence in communities by using the methods and strategies associated with epidemic disease control: detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals, and changing social norms. This session gives an overview of the Cure Violence approach.

During this workshop, we will be taking a look at the most recent data surrounding gun violence both locally and nationally, gaining an understanding of the role that trauma plays both leading up to community violence and also as a residual factor following these events and will end with some strategies for creating a community that fosters healing and a sense of safety.

Chardae Korhonen, LMSW, is licensed Therapist, Youth and Family Outreach Specialist for the State of Michigan’s Stay Well program and TRAILS Site Coordinator at Ypsilanti Community High School. Chardae worked for over a decade providing trauma informed crisis intervention and mental health support to youth and families. During that period, she also managed a program that provided harm reduction-based substance use treatment to adolescents and young adults.
**AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Marc Zimmerman**

Dr. Marc Zimmerman is the Marshall H. Becker Collegiate Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education in the School of Public Health and editor of the Youth & Society. He is also editor emerita of Health Education & Behavior. He is the Co-Director of the University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention, Director of the CDC-funded Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center and the Prevention Research Center, Co-Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance funded National Center for School Safety, and Co-Director of the Outreach and Translation Core of the CDC-funded U-M Injury Prevention Center. He is also a founding scholar for Youth Empowerment Solutions, an evidence-based youth violence prevention program.

Dr. Zimmerman’s research focuses on the application and development of empowerment theory and the study of adolescent health and resiliency. He has translated his research on individual and community risk and promotive factors to develop and evaluate community-based programs with an emphasis on prevention of community violence. Dr. Zimmerman also studies developmental transitions and longitudinal models of change. Dr. Zimmerman contributed to the U-M IPC Massive Open Online Course, “Injury Prevention for Children and Teens” in the Introduction to Child and Adolescent Injuries section.

**DATA ON VIOLENCE: UM INSTITUTE FOR FIREARM INJURY PREVENTION**

This presentation will give an overview of the current state of the science on firearm injury prevention, and will discuss effective programs and resources that are currently in place in Michigan.

**Rev. Diane Smith**

As Director of Ministry Engagement, Diane Smith is charged with ensuring Angela Hospice’s ministry maintains its Catholic identity by staying true to the Felician Sisters’ core values. Her role includes directing the African American Church Empowerment Project, providing support for staff and volunteers as they embody the Angela Hospice mission, and serving as a member of the Executive Leadership Team. The Empowerment Project provides free education and resources to help caregivers navigate the task of caring for loved ones approaching end of life, while addressing issues such as grief and bereavement. Rev. Smith facilitates grief groups as part of the Project.

Formerly a missionary in Japan, Diane is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She holds a Master of Divinity from Claremont School of Theology, and is a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. Prior to coming to Angela Hospice in May of 2018, Diane served as Lead Spiritual Care Advisor for Arbor Hospice. Before that, she worked as an English lecturer at Osaka Women’s Junior College in Japan, and was a chaplain at Community Hospice Care in southern California.

Diane currently serves on the board of the Ann Arbor-based Housing Bureau for Seniors at Michigan Medicine, and is a member of Journey of Faith Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**WHAT YOU DON’T KNOW ABOUT GRIEF**

“How does grief happen?”
“Why does grief happen?”
“When does grief happen?”

These and other questions will be addressed during an interactive session where participants will listen to and share their own stories about this universal reaction to loss – and learn that it’s OK!
AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

LOCAL PROGRAMS AND EMERGING PRACTICES

This panel discussion will highlight three local programs which are all focused on preventing street violence. Hear from the leaders of WeLIVE, Supreme Felons, and AE City of Hope regarding what they do, why they do it, and how they go about the business of saving lives here in Washtenaw County. Panel facilitated by Derrick Jackson.

Billy Cole
Supreme Felons

In 1975 at 18-years-old, Billy Cole was sent to prison for the murder of a young man. After spending 43 years, 11 months, and 23 days incarcerated, he has turned his lived experience and expertise into a mission-driven focus of redemption. As the founder and executive director of Supreme Felons Incorporated, Billy and his team are working daily to support those returning from incarceration, prevent retaliatory violence, and build community among those often forgotten and cast aside.

Alex Easley
AE City of Hope

Born and raised in Ypsilanti, Pastor Alex Easley has been doing the work of saving lives for over 20-years. Pastor of Jesus International Ministry Network and President of AE City of Hope, Alex and his team take a holistic approach to violence intervention by engaging the entire family through a spiritual, educational, and community-focused initiative.

Roger Roper
WeLIVE

20 years ago, Roger was shot twice in the chest by someone attempting to rob him. He survived, and now works every day to reduce retaliatory violence by supporting others who have been violently injured. As a violence interventionist and member of the Sheriff’s Office WeLIVE program, Roger is focused on retaliation prevention from a hospital-based perspective.