

# PreventionFIRST!

## 2023 Coalition Academy *Tackling Threats to Prevention*

### Presenter Bios

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**Albert Gay**, MS, Chief of Development, *TTJ Group & SheRay's & Associates, LLC*

#### **Tackling Threats to Prevention**

**Time:** 9:00am – 10:15am | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 3 | **Domain:** P1

Albert Gay was born and raised in Gary, Indiana. He was ordained into the ministry in 1994 and since that time he has worked with youth and communities in many capacities. Albert has been in full-time ministry as a youth pastor, where he counseled urban youth in positive directions and provided them with alternative solutions to the “streets.”

Albert expanded into the prevention field in 1997 when he was employed by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana as a Prevention Coordinator. He has received credentials as a Certified Prevention Professional by the Indiana Association of Prevention Professionals in 1999. While attending ministry school in Florida, Albert worked as a Behavioral Specialist with at-risk youth.

Albert is currently a Master Trainer for TTJ Group, LLC by providing services to non-profit, faith-based and community organizations and governmental entities in developing and implementing technical assistance and training services in an innovative and practical format.

Albert obtained his B.A. in English Arts from the Hampton University in Virginia, and his Master of Science in Management from Oakland City University in Indiana. He received ministry training from Christian International's Ministry Training College in Florida.

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**Colleen Oakes**, MA, OCPS, Manager, *Montgomery County Prevention Coalition*

#### **If Doesn't Have to be Scary: Using Strategic Action Planning to Address the Threats to Your Coalition**

**Time:** 10:30am – 11:45am | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 3 | **Domain:** P4

Colleen Oakes, MA, OCPS, is a Senior Program Coordinator on the Prevention & Early Intervention team at the Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board. In this role, Colleen has the honor of managing the Montgomery County Prevention Coalition, a group of 300+ volunteers focused on reducing substance use and promoting mental wellness in Montgomery County.

Colleen holds a Masters in Communication from the University of Dayton with a certificate in Health Communication. Colleen is a certified instructor in Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid, QPR Suicide Gatekeeper Training, Trauma 101, Encompass, and Stewards of Children. She sits on the Women's Board for Dayton Children's Hospital, the Statewide Prevention Coalition Association Advisory Council, the Montgomery County Community Overdose Action Team, and is a Coalition Coach for the Ohio Coalition Institute.

Originally from Chicago (and you can tell from the accent), Colleen now lives in Miamisburg, Ohio with her husband, daughter, and fur-baby.

## Presenter Bios

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**Jason Scott**, LISW-S, Community Engagement & Partnership Coordinator, Cincinnati VA Medical Center  
**Suicide Prevention with Veterans**

**Time:** 10:30am – 11:45am | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 2 | **Domain:** P2

Jason Scott is a Clinical Social Worker that started in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center in 2016. His duties included individual and group therapies as well as intake coordination. In 2023, he transitioned to his current role with the Suicide Prevention Team as a Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator.

In his current role, Jason collaborates with community coalitions to establish partnerships that work to ensure Veterans are better identified in the community, improve access to Veteran services, and promote education around lethal means safety. Jason works to make sure that Veterans are a priority in the community and are able to access resources that are available to them. Prior to his roles at the Cincinnati VA, he worked in various settings including community mental health, substance use, private practice, and youth services.

Jason is trained in suicide prevention, community organizing, coalition building, as well as various therapy modalities such as Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Cognitive Processing Therapy.

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**Abdullah Mahmood**, LSW, LCDCIII-GAMB, OCPSA, Program Coordinator, *Problem Gambling Network of Ohio*  
**Introduction to Sports Betting Consumption & the Current Landscape**

**Time:** 10:30am – 11:45am | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 1 | **Domain:** P2

Abdullah Mahmood, LSW, LCDCIII-GAMB, OCPSA is the Program Coordinator for PGNO. He has counseled individuals with substance use disorders, opioid use disorders, and gambling disorders. He has experience in direct care as well as in prevention. He has collaborated with many different client populations including adolescents, adults, and minority communities. In his current role, Abdullah supports individuals obtaining their gambling endorsement, facilitates training, and answers daytime warm transfer calls through the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline.

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**Amanda Flaherty**, BA, Social Media Specialist, *Operation Parent*  
**Scary Truths of Youth Screen Addiction**

**Time:** 12:45pm – 2:00pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 3 | **Domain:** P3

Amanda Flaherty is a social media expert. Although she has only worked at Operation Parent for one year, she has developed a strong voice across their social media platforms and increased both growth and engagement. Along with her social media work, she assists in the design of webinar presentations and smoothly runs the webinar technology for the thousands of people who joined us live. Before joining Operation Parent, Amanda cultivated her marketing and social media skills through several internships with nonprofits and a job with a marketing consulting firm. Her B.A. is in Marketing from Murray State University. She passionately furthers the Operation Parent mission and vision, so that more families can have access to Operation Parent's prevention education. She will use all the parenting knowledge she has learned, one day when she has kids.

## Presenter Bios

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**Mike Eiden**, LCSW, LCADC, CSAT, CCS, Owner & Founder of *Eiden Integrative Counseling*

### **Scary Truths of Youth Screen Addiction**

**Time:** 12:45pm – 2:00pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 3 | **Domain:** P3

Mike Eiden is a licensed clinical social worker, licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor, board certified sex therapist, and certified sex addiction therapist who is a graduate of the University of Louisville's Kent School of Social Work. Mike has worked in mental health and substance use treatment for the past 10 years in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Mike is currently a PhD candidate at the International Institute of Clinical Sexology & his dissertation is focused on testing an interactive educational program for parents designed to improve their abilities to address screen use compulsivity in their children.

Mike currently works full-time in private practice focusing on cases related to traumatic bonding, process addictions, and complex trauma. Mike has conducted lectures for teachers and parents in elementary and high school settings as well as online educational content for parents in the United States.

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**Michelle Massey**, M.Ed., Education Program Developer, *Operation Parent*

### **Scary Truths of Youth Screen Addiction**

**Time:** 12:45pm – 2:00pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 3 | **Domain:** P3

Michelle Massey is the webinar producer and parent education developer at Operation Parent. Over the last 7 years working with Operation Parent, Michelle has worked with 50 different experts and served 24,000 unique webinar registrants by crafting prevention education and sharing parent resources. Her goal is to always give parents conversation-focused resources to ramp up confidence and prevention skills along with empowering youth's refusal skills. Prior to non-profit work, she worked as a progressive leader in Spalding University and the University of Louisville's Housing and Residence life program(s) for 20+ years.

Michelle's B.A. is in Psychology from the University of Kentucky and M.Ed. in College Student Personnel with a counseling focus was obtained at the University of Louisville. However, her most important work will always be raising her two daughters, and she is thankful she gets to do that while on the Operation Parent team who highly values family!

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

### **Holding It All Together**

**Time:** 12:45pm – 2:00pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 2 | **Domain:** P6

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.

## Presenter Bios

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

### **Holding It All Together**

**Time:** 12:45pm – 2:00pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 2 | **Domain:** P6

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 collaborating with clients individually, Dedra serves as a resource for those who 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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**Jennifer Benson**, BA, OCPC, ICPS, Prevention Consultant, *Prevention Across the Ages*

### **Impact of DORAs on Prevention**

**Time:** 12:45pm – 2:00pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 1 | **Domain:** P5

### **The Importance of Prevention Credentialing**

**Time:** 12:45pm – 2:00pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 1 | **Domain:** P5

Jennifer Benson is president and owner of Prevention Across the Ages, LLC which is a consulting firm providing coaching for individuals and communities. She is an Ohio Certified Prevention Consultant (OCPC).

Jennifer has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Florida State University. She has over 20 years of prevention experience engaging in school-based programming, community services and coalition work. Her areas of expertise include training development, coaching supervisors, prevention science, coalition development, Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) planning, and prevention credentialing.

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**Christi Valentini-Lackner**, BS, OCPC, Chief Program Officer, *PreventionFIRST!*

### **Utilizing the Stanford MJ Prevention Toolkit Model**

**Time:** 2:15pm – 3:30pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 3 | **Domain:** P2

Christi Valentini-Lackner is a Chief Program Officer at PreventionFIRST! She is an Ohio Certified Prevention Consultant (OCPC) who has worked in the prevention field for over 20 years. Christi has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Ohio University.

Christi is an Ohio Prevention Professionals Association board member and serves as Vice President and Education & Training Team Co-Chair. In 2016, she received the ADAPAO Advocate of the Year Award. Christi is an Ohio Coaching and Mentoring (OCAM) Network coach and mentor. She is co-author of the low-risk drinking course for adults, “Minimize Risk-Maximize Life”.

## Presenter Bios

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

**Utilizing the Stanford MJ Prevention Toolkit Model**

**Time:** 2:15pm – 3:30pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 3 | **Domain:** P2

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. Jayla has a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a certificate in minority health from the University of Cincinnati. She currently is an Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist Assistant (OCPSA) and has been working in the field for over a year.

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**Jade Jacobs**, BS, CHES, OCPSA, Program Coordinator, *PreventionFIRST!*

**Utilizing the Stanford MJ Prevention Toolkit Model**

**Time:** 2:15pm – 3:30pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 3 | **Domain:** P2

Jade Jacobs is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and an Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist Assistant (OCPSA). Jade graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor's of Science in Public Health. As Program Coordinator at PreventionFIRST!, she is responsible for helping to build, grow, and sustain prevention coalitions across the Greater Cincinnati region. Jade also works to bring prevention education and implementation to communities of color in the Tristate.

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**Chief Tom Synan**, Police Chief, *Newtown Police Department*

**Xylazine & Other Drug Trends in the Tristate**

**Time:** 2:15pm – 3:30pm | **Location:** Sequoia Ballroom 2 | **Domain:** P2

Tom Synan's wide experience has allowed him to have a unique look into the opiate crisis. Tom is a United States Marine Corps veteran. A 30-year police veteran and is the Police Chief with the Newtown Police Department. A 10-year SWAT veteran serving 4 years as Team Leader. In 2014, after watching the last of an entire family die from drugs, the last two from heroin and fentanyl, Tom met with other members in Hamilton County and helped form the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition where he sits on the Steering Committee and Chair Interdiction. Tom coordinates law enforcement efforts to reduce supply and collaborates with other members to help reduce demand.

Tom was asked to testify in Washington D.C. at a U.S. Senate Homeland Security Committee giving testimony on synthetic opiates and the impact fentanyl and carfentanil have had on the country. Tom was a speaker with President Bill Clinton and other distinguished panelists for the Clinton Foundation discussing the opioid crisis at Johns Hopkins University. Tom's career and work with the opiate epidemic has been recorded and archived in the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington D.C. His work with Hamilton Co. Arc has been used in national and international publications and media outlets. Tom has spoken internationally on the opiate issue.