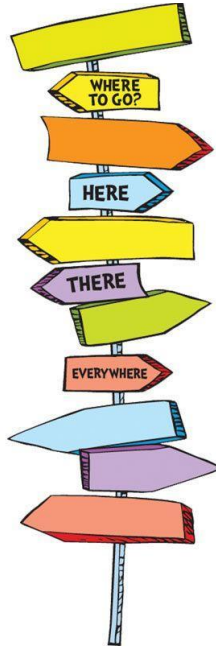


# NCJSA Spring Conference 2023



## **Broaden My Horizons: Attending Here or There with NCJSA Educating Everywhere**

**March 8-10, 2023  
Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
NCJSA 2023 SPRING CONFERENCE**



## President's Message

Greetings NCJSA Membership Body and Juvenile Justice Professionals:

As President of the North Carolina Juvenile Services Association, I would like to welcome you to the spring 2023 Conference. We are excited to bring you this conference and we appreciate you joining us in a new location and venue. We have experienced tremendous growth and as a board, we felt it was important to ensure that all juvenile justice professionals have the opportunity to attend, participate and connect,

I want to thank Mr. King Thomas for successfully leading the NCJSA for the past year. We appreciate your hard work and dedication. Thank you also to the board of Directors of the NCJSA for their efforts on behalf of the association in bringing you this conference.

On behalf of the NCJSA Board of Directors, we appreciate your support and dedication to the youth and families of North Carolina. Thank you for joining us for the 2023 Spring Conference.

With Gratitude,

**Shannon**

Shannon Tuzo  
NCJSA President

# NCJSA 2023 SPRING CONFERENCE

## Agenda

*Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>*

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>10:00am - 12:00pm</b> | <b>Registration</b> – sponsored by <b>Eckerd Connects</b>   |
| <b>1:00pm - 1:30pm</b>   | Welcome, Sponsor and Vendor Introductions<br><b>NCJSA Board of Directors</b>  |
| <b>1:30pm - 2:45pm</b>   | <b>Opening Speaker</b><br><i>Attending Here or There, with Green Eggs and Ham Everywhere</i><br><b>Charles Johnson</b>    |
| <b>2:45pm - 3:00pm</b>   | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>3:00pm - 4:15pm</b>   | <i>Gambling and Gaming as High-Risk Behaviors for Children,<br/>Adolescent and Young Adults</i><br><b>Alison Drain</b>    |
| <b>4:30pm - 6:30pm</b>   | <b>Dinner</b> (on your own)   |
| <b>5:00pm - 6:00pm</b>   | <b>Board, Sponsor and Vendor Reception</b>  |
| <b>6:30pm - 7:30pm</b>   | <b>Business Exchange and Networking Event</b> sponsored by <b>Teen Court and TarHeel Challenge</b> (Heavy hors d'oeuvres) |
| <b>7:30pm - 10:30pm</b>  | <b>Lip Sync Battle and Dance</b> sponsored by <b>Methodist Home for Children</b>  |

**\* Agenda is subject to change**

# NCJSA 2023 SPRING CONFERENCE

*Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup>*

- 7:30am - 8:30am**                      **Registration** sponsored by **Eckerd Connects**
- 8:30am - 9:45am**                      *A Queer Perspective: Support for Parents of LGBTQA Teens*  
**Joe Rick**
- 9:45am - 10:00am**                      **Break**
- 10:00am - 11:15am**                      *Breaking the Intergenerational Substance Abuse Cycle in  
Stokes and Surry Counties*  
**Tamara Veit and Jamie Edwards**
- 11:30am - 1:30pm**                      *Luncheon sponsored by CommuniCare*  
*Keynote Speaker*  
**Deputy Secretary-JJ, William "Billy" Lassiter**
- 1:30pm - 1:45pm**                      **Break**
- 1:45pm - 3:00pm**                      *Success Through Partnership*  
**Pamela Resch**
- 3:00-3:15pm**                              **Break**
- 3:15-4:30pm**                              *Family Matters: Improving Crisis Response Strategies Using Community  
Based Strategies*  
**Sarah Hallock, Kate Peterson and Ken Smith**
- 4:30- 5:15pm**                              *JCPC Provider Session: Critical Standards 101*  
**Megan Webster and Denise Briggs**
- 5:15pm - 5:45pm**                              **TEEN COURT MEETING**  
**5:45-6:30pm**                                      **Dinner (on your own)**  
**6:30pm - 8:00pm**                                      **Game Night:**  
*Montana Horseshoes*  
*Spades Tournament*  
*Board Games*
- 8:00pm - 10:00pm**                              **Bingo**

# **NCJSA 2023 SPRING CONFERENCE**

*Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>*

**9:00 am - 10:15am**

**Closing Speaker**

*Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety*

**Mr. Eddie Buffaloe, Jr.**

**10:15am - 10:30am**

**Break**

**10:30am - 11:00am**

**Conference Closing**

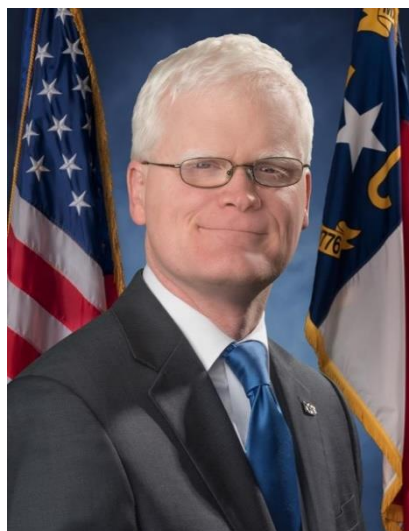


**Secretary Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr.**

Gov. Roy Cooper appointed Eddie M. Buffaloe Jr., as secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety effective Nov. 1, 2021. Secretary Buffaloe has served as a law enforcement officer for the past 30 years and serves as the sole representative on the governor's cabinet for the state's law enforcement, corrections, juvenile justice, and emergency management responsibilities. Mr. Buffaloe oversees the state's homeland security coordination and serves as Governor Cooper's Homeland Security Advisor. The department has more than 21,000 sworn law enforcement and civilian employees, along with more than 13,000 North Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

Prior to his appointment, he worked a dual role as Elizabeth City's interim city manager and director of the Elizabeth City Department of Public Safety. Mr. Buffaloe also served as the past president of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police. Mr. Buffaloe's work in various law enforcement and public safety capacities across the state have included police chief, sheriff's office, a correctional officer in the North Carolina Department of Correction, and as a law enforcement instructor for the North Carolina Training and Standards Commission. Mr. Buffaloe also served in the North Carolina National Guard for 10 years.

Mr. Buffaloe holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from the University of Mount Olive, a master's degree in criminal justice administration from Grand Canyon University, and numerous law enforcement and public safety certifications.



**William L. Lassiter, MPA**

Deputy Secretary, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
NC Department of Public Safety  
william.lassiter@ncdps.gov | 919-825-2719

Mr. Lassiter plans and directs operations of the Juvenile Justice Division and serves as a member of the Department's senior leadership team. As Deputy Secretary of Juvenile Justice, he oversees juvenile facility operations, juvenile court services, juvenile community programs, and juvenile intervention and treatment programs.

Mr. Lassiter received his master's degree in public administration from North Carolina State University; and in January 1998, he began working as a researcher for the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the Center for the Prevention of School Violence. In 1999, he became the project coordinator for North Carolina's statewide school safety tip line and its accompanying educational campaign: Working against Violence Everywhere (WAVE). By 2001, Mr. Lassiter had been promoted to the Center's School Safety Specialist. In this position, he coordinated a number of projects for the Center, including the "What We Want to be is Bully-Free" awareness campaign, North Carolina's annual census of school resource officers, the North Carolina portion of the National Institute of Justice-sponsored national evaluation of school resource officers, North Carolina's critical incident response kit project, North Carolina's pre-service teacher conflict management project, and the Center's character education effort. In 2005, Mr. Lassiter was called upon to lead the Center and help it realize its vision of "every student attending a school that is safe and secure, one that is free of fear and conducive to learning."



In 2010, Mr. Lassiter was called upon to serve as the State Contracts Administrator for Juvenile Community Programs. In 2013, he was promoted to Director of Juvenile Community Programs, where he worked to develop a comprehensive service delivery model for youth in the state's juvenile justice system.

In 2015, Mr. Lassiter was appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use for which he co-chaired the Work Group on Children, Youth and Families. Gov. Roy Cooper appointed Mr. Lassiter as chair of the N.C. Task Force for Safer Schools in October 2019. This task force serves as an advisory board to the Center for Safer Schools, and provides guidance and recommendations to the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the General Assembly to improve statewide policy to enhance statewide and local capacities to create safer schools. Mr. Lassiter was honored to receive the prestigious National Service Award from the Hamilton Fish Institute on School and Community Violence, for his exemplary service to children, youth, and communities. Lassiter has co-authored Preventing Violence and Crime in America's Schools: From Put-Downs to Lock-Downs, which

takes an in depth look at the causes and solutions of youth violence. He has been featured on a number of major news networks and national publications including: CNN, Fox News, the BBC, USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, and many others.

# NCJSA 2023 SPRING CONFERENCE

## Featured Presenters

**Charles Johnson**, was born and raised in a military home with strong moral beliefs. Being the son of a retired Sergeant Major, and as assistant public-school teacher it was instilled in him at an early age to strive for excellence without excuse. As he was motivated in his life, he developed a passion to motivate others. Raised in the small rural town of Lumberton, NC, he excelled academically, athletically, and socially. After attaining numerous awards for leadership both in the classroom and on the athletic field, he used these traits in the corporate world. He attended Winston-Salem State University until his passion for leading led him to opportunities that would take him to new heights. His professional career began as Sr. Vice-President of Marketing & Promotions for Danbla Records, an independent recording company in Maple Wood, NJ. There he exposed the company and its artists to a national audience with an appearance on one of the national iconic television shows, "The Jay Leno Show " and to international audiences with a concert tour of Italy. While developing nationwide relationships with retail music stores, radio and television stations, he took the plunge to create his own production and management company.

The leadership skills that he has developed throughout his life have led him to speak to literally thousands of people of various backgrounds. He has inspired them through various local and national news and magazine articles where he has been a featured writer, or interviewee. He also inspired and taught on his "No Limit" internet radio show, the "Motivational Monday " conference call, as well as daily posts on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram social networks. Also, Charles is the author of the much-loved book entitled "I Am Same" Ten Keys to Success from Green Eggs & Ham and the newly released "Affirmation: The Power of Words". Charles has been blessed to speak for UNC Chapel Hill, Winston Salem State University, and Robeson County Community College. Charles has been fortunate to speak to community youth groups such as the Hoke County Daycare Association, the Robeson County Youth/Teens Association, Our Youth Matters Inc., as well as several business networking groups across the state of North Carolina. Charles has served corporate organizational staff groups such as the NC Medical Board and Allied Refrigeration Corp. Charles' goal and purpose is to be the coach, cheerleader and inspiration for people around the world helping them become the absolute best they can be. Charles has been married for 30 years to the lovely Pamela Lane Johnson. He has two talented sons and two beautiful granddaughters.

**Alison Drain**, NC Problem Gambling Youth Prevention and Treatment Specialist, manages over 60 statewide prevention grants. She trains and provides technical support on gambling and gaming as high-risk behaviors for adolescents, other co-occurring needs, and a “train the trainer” workshop on, Stacked Deck, an evidence-based prevention curriculum. Last year, she launched a program evaluation of the updated Stacked Deck curriculum with two bonus lessons in a learning management system. Recently, she has been working with a team to create a self-paced learning module services for behavioral health clinicians combining gambling, gaming, digital media use, and co-occurring needs.

**Joe Rick**, serves as the Chief Experience Officer at the Parenting PATH. He holds a Masters in Counseling and a Master’s in Business Administration with more than 18 years of professional experience in residential high schools, higher education administration, and non-profit organizations. Joe is a nationally Certified Counselor through the National Board for Certified Counselors and is a Trainer for Children’s Alliance Protective Factors Framework.

**Tamara Veit**, SFoY Executive Director who has abundant experience managing federal and state-level awarded funds and currently oversees SEMSAY, SFoY’s mentoring program specifically for youth affected by addiction. She has decades of experience working directly with addiction and its consequences via in-home parenting programs, juvenile crime services, homeless and domestic violence shelters, and child abuse prevention programs.

**Jamie Edwards**, holds a post Master’s Degree Certificate in Addictions Counseling and a Post Master’s Degree Certificate in Gerontology from Appalachian State University. He also completed a Master of Education Degree from Radford University and a Master of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies from Wake Forest University. Jamie is a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS), a Certified Clinical Supervisor - Intern (CSI) and a Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS). He also holds certifications as an Associate Credentialed Coach (ACC) by International Coach Federation; a Board-Certified Coach (BCC) from the Center of Credentialing and Education and has worked in the addictions, human services, government and educational settings since 1996.

**Pamela Resch**, was born and raised in New York, where she held many positions in the human services field. She graduated from Empire State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology. She went through the New York State Police Academy and became involved in Law Enforcement. She went on to work with Juvenile Probation for five years, before going to work as a family support specialist in inner city schools. It was here where her understanding of the importance of community partnerships was developed. Pamela understood the key components of what it took to create sustainable partnerships and the benefit they gave to agencies, the community and the families she was working with. She moved to North Carolina five years ago where she became a Child Protection Supervisor. This expanded her knowledge in the community, and key partners in wrapping families in services to keep youth Safe.

Three years ago, she became the Director of the Juvenile Day Reporting Center, and as soon as she started, the pandemic happened. Ever since then, she has created multiple partnerships that have taken her agency and has made it a well-known, respected, and utilized agency in her county. Their success, sustainability, and growth is mostly because of their strategic partnerships that have been created in order to assist their youth in making better decisions that impact their future.

**Sarah Hallock**, is a Fayetteville native and holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and is the Executive Director of Cumberland County CommuniCare Inc. Ms. Hallock has worked with the agency 23 years. Ms. Hallock is responsible for the non-profit agency's fiscal, administrative and service line development functions for the agency. The agency specializes in providing high quality clinical assessment and counseling strategies to address trauma, problem sexualized behaviors and substance use disorders. With a focus on family crisis intervention, the agency teaches youth, parent and family coping strategies, family attachment and skill building to achieve positive, long-term outcomes. Ms. Hallock has served on several task and advisory boards that develop interventions and strategies to address the needs and create supports for our youth, adults, families and communities.

**Kate Peterson**, leads the project management and development services for Alliance Health Plan. Kate has been with Alliance for many years and has assisted communities in creating innovative clinical and operational strategies that address local service gaps and facilitates access to services. Ms. Peterson has worked in the behavioral health field for many years and has extensive provider management experience through her work at KidsPeace® and other agencies. A leader in her field, Ms. Peterson has worked on several boards, committees and groups to construct a more responsive crisis continuum that builds on family strengths and decreases barriers to services.

**Ken Smith**, has more than 30 years' experience working with children, adolescents and families in a variety of settings. Mr. Smith began his career working in an adolescent residential facility and has extensive experience providing outpatient therapies including trauma based individual, family and multi-family therapy. Mr. Smith worked as a clinical coordinator for a local detox program in Fayetteville for many years before joining the CommuniCare team in 2019. Mr. Smith is an accomplished group therapy leader. Mr. Smith is a certified clinical supervisor and provides clinical supervision and guidance to several provisionally licensed social workers and mental health counselors. Mr. Smith is an avid believer in motivational interviewing, DBT and crisis de-escalation and management.

**Megan Webster**, joined the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in May 2018, as a Western Area C consultant, providing oversight and technical assistance to Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPC) and their evidence-based funded programs that serve youth and families within her region. Currently she serves ten counties in the Western North Carolina Mountains and sits on the DPS JCPC Policy Committee. She also serves on her county's Transportation Advisor Board. Hailing from a small town, Marion, North Carolina, Megan earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Law and Entrepreneurship as well as her Master's in Business Administration from Western Carolina University. Upon graduation and while obtaining her Master's degree, Megan began working as an Executive Director for a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Agency, During the ten years of Executive Level Nonprofit leadership, she was able to attend numerous leadership training and earned a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University. In 2012, after ten years of nonprofit service and leadership, Megan began working as a Program Manager for a JCPC funded program providing Why Try Curriculum for at-risk youth. She took the program from not meeting minimum standards to meeting and exceeding all standards by developing the program's protocol manual to include all policies and procedures.

**Denise Briggs**, joined the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in May 2005 as the JCPC Contracts Manager, where she provided oversight to the state and federally funded department initiatives including Standardized Evaluation Protocol (SPEP), Gang Grants, the JCPC Demonstration Projects, and the JCPC-endorsed Level II Dispositional Alternatives Programs, now known as Intensive Intervention Services. Additionally, Denise has served as the chairperson of the Policy Committee and has been responsible for annually revising minimum standards of operation for Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils and JCPC funded programs. In July 2014, she was named the Central Area Consultant, providing oversight and technical assistance to JCPCs and their evidenced based funded programs that serve youth and families within her region. In 2021, she was promoted within the Juvenile Community Programs Section to her current position as Implementation Specialist. In this position, she continues to serve as the DPS JCPC Policy Chairperson while formulating practices to ensure accurate reporting for audits of financial functions, data quality and program quality of service operations. Additionally, the position assists with statewide rollouts of education/training initiatives that align with evidence-based supported practices and compliance with tax, financial or programmatic procedures and regulations.

Originally from Graham, Denise earned her bachelor's degree in corrections and a minor in social work from East Carolina University. She immediately began her juvenile justice career after graduation as a transportation driver with a pilot project at Pitt Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Greenville. The project was designed to assess the need for establishing an internal transportation system to address movement needs of confined juveniles to/from detention, court hearings and other appointments.

After relocating to Raleigh, Denise served as the Diversion Coordinator, and later as the Restitution/Community Service Coordinator with the Wake County Juvenile Restitution and Community Service Program that later merged with ReEntry, Inc. She designed and facilitated the *Get Smart!* Diversion program for first-time shoplifters and recruited more than 100 community service worksites in Wake County for Youth.

As the ReEntry Director of Juvenile Programs, Denise provided oversight and secured JCPC funding for five programs that served youth and their families. Throughout her career, she has coordinated and facilitated numerous state and local trainings.

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North Carolina Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Partnerships