

# Monday July 29 Conference Workshop Session

**1-3pm (2 hours)**

**Presenter: Ashley Frazier, D.A.R.E. America**

**Session Title: D.A.R.E. Middle School Update**

**Session Description:** Join Ashley for a training session introducing the updated D.A.R.E. Middle School keepin' it REAL curriculum, designed to resonate with today's students. This session explores the updates made to the curriculum, including refreshed statistics, modernized design elements, and language that reflects current youth experiences. Check out the integration of vaping, marijuana, and pills into scenarios and role-plays, discover the innovative use of videos, featuring shorter, more focused content, and a new "like, comment, react" facilitation model aimed at encouraging active student engagement. All D.A.R.E. Instructors attending this session will be first in line to receive the limited supply of updated materials that will be available in Fall 2024.

**Bio:** Ashley Frazier is the Director of Curriculum and Training for D.A.R.E. America. With twenty years of experience in learning and development, she shares her passion for the power of quality curricula and skilled conversation to provide D.A.R.E. officers with state-of-the-art information and materials that will enable them to provide students with the necessary skills to avoid high risk behavior while supporting well-being and transforming conflict into positive communication.

# Thursday Aug 1 Conference Breakout Sessions

**8-9am (60 Minutes)**

**Presenter: Ashley Frazier, D.A.R.E. America**

**Session Title: D.A.R.E. Fentanyl Lessons and Community Partnership during the Continuing Opioid Crisis**

**Session Description:** Discover how D.A.R.E. America is taking proactive steps to combat the escalating threat of the fentanyl crisis with innovative prevention education initiatives. Join us as we review our comprehensive Fentanyl Lesson and Presentation series, designed to equip D.A.R.E. Instructors and other LEOs with essential knowledge and strategies to address the lethal risks associated with fentanyl use. Learn about the development of targeted curricula, assembly presentations, and community outreach and partnership efforts aimed at raising awareness, dispelling misconceptions, and saving lives in the face of this urgent public health crisis.

**Session Objectives:**

- Introduction to D.A.R.E.'s Fentanyl Prevention Education Program.
- Walkthrough of the middle school fentanyl enhancement lesson, focusing on educating students about the extreme lethality of fentanyl and dispelling misconceptions about Narcan effectiveness.
- Discussion of the collaborative efforts between D.A.R.E. America and local communities to address the fentanyl crisis through tailored prevention education, leveraging existing infrastructure, and fostering community engagement.
- Call to action for conference attendees to join the fight against the fentanyl crisis by implementing evidence-based prevention strategies, advocating for policy changes, and supporting community-based initiatives to protect our youth and save lives.

**Presenter: TBD**

**Session Title: What You Need To Know About Child Human Trafficking**

**Session Description:** This session will introduce the critical issue of child human trafficking, focusing on the recent "Operation March Sadness" in Polk County, Florida, as a case study. The speaker will provide insights into basics of risks and recognition of child human trafficking, the challenges faced in combating human trafficking, and the importance of community awareness and intervention. Overall, the talk aims to empower attendees with knowledge and actionable insights to contribute to prevention and protection of children in their communities. Through increased awareness, intervention, and support, this session is meant to inspire positive change and advocate for the protection of vulnerable individuals.

**Session Objectives:**

- **Case Study: Polk County, FL** deputies conducted "Operation March Sadness," an undercover investigation into human trafficking and prostitution, arresting 228 people, including school teachers, coaches, and active duty military members.
- **Identifying Vulnerable Populations:** Discussion will center around the vulnerabilities exploited by traffickers, including poverty, lack of education, displacement, and social factors.
- **Human Trafficking Dynamics:** Attendees will gain insight into the tactics used by traffickers, such as grooming victims through social connections and false promises. The talk will explore the multifaceted nature of human trafficking, including both labor exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation.
- **Collaboration and Support:** Importance of collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies, local organizations, and social services in combating human trafficking.

**9:30-10:30 (60 minutes)**

## **Presenter – Crissy Groenewegen, Smart Approaches to Marijuana Parent Action Network**

### **Session Title: Empowering Families: Advocating for Science-based Marijuana Policies**

**Session Description:** The Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) Parent Action Network (PAN) offers a session delving into the impact of marijuana legalization and commercialization on families across diverse communities. Drawing from real-life experiences, PAN showcases the voices of parents and family members who have been adversely affected by the consequences of legalization. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the multifaceted challenges faced by these families and about resources and toolkits available from PAN that can be shared with families in school communities.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- Highlight the diverse perspectives within the Parent Action Network (PAN), representing families affected by marijuana legalization.
- Share firsthand accounts of the negative impacts experienced by families due to the commercialization of marijuana.
- Emphasize the importance of science-based education in equipping parents with the tools to advocate for public health and safety.
- Explore effective advocacy strategies for empowering families to engage decision-makers and enact meaningful change.
- Introduce PAN's library of resources, including toolkits and training materials that can be used for community presentations, parent take-homes, and to keep families informed about current trends and opportunities to get involved.

## **Presenter: Steve Abercrombie, D.A.R.E. Instructor and California STC**

### **Session Title: D.A.R.E. Lessons Peer-to-Peer Learning Workshop**

**Session Description:** Join Steve Abercrombie for an engaging session where he will model ways to supplement the traditional D.A.R.E. lessons with innovative approaches to captivate students' attention and enhance learning outcomes. Explore dynamic strategies to infuse extended learning opportunities into D.A.R.E. lessons while maintaining fidelity to the program's core principles. Discover how to invigorate your classroom sessions, empower students to make healthy choices, and foster lasting connections between drug prevention education and real-world application.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- **Extend Learning Beyond the Classroom:** Discover how to extend D.A.R.E. lessons beyond the classroom through take-home assignments, family engagement activities, and community-based projects that reinforce key concepts and encourage ongoing dialogue about drug prevention.
- **Personalize Learning:** Tailor D.A.R.E. lessons to meet the diverse needs and interests of students by offering choice-based activities, project-based learning

opportunities, and extension activities that allow for individual exploration and expression.

- **Maintain Program Fidelity:** Ensure that innovative teaching methods align with the core principles and objectives of the D.A.R.E. program, including promoting positive peer relationships, building self-esteem, and resisting peer pressure to use drugs.
- **Empower Student Leadership:** Cultivate student leadership and ownership of drug prevention efforts by providing opportunities for peer mentoring, student-led initiatives, and advocacy campaigns within the school and community.

**Bio:** Steve Abercrombie started his career in law enforcement in the city of Hayward, California in 1986 and became a certified D.A.R.E. instructor in 1994. He started teaching the program in Tracy as a volunteer in 2002, continued teaching the program after retiring from the Hayward Police Department in 2006 and eventually was hired by the Tracy Police Department in 2013. He has received a number of awards for his dedication to serving the children in his community: “His dedication to Tracy’s youth has made a long-lasting impact on those he has taught, some of those have children themselves who are now beginning to cycle through the D.A.R.E.”

## **11:00-12:00 (60 minutes)**

**Presenter:** [Marc Berkman, Organization for Social Media Safety](#)

**Session Title:** **Protecting Our Youth: More Strategies for Safer Social Media Safety in a Digital Age**

**Session Description:** Join the Organization for Social Media Safety for a session focused on safeguarding students against the dangers of social media. Hear an update on the trends surrounding cyberbullying, hate speech, sexual harassment, propaganda, and mental health implications linked to excessive social media use. Learn about the innovative education, advocacy, and technological initiatives spearheaded by the organization to empower parents, educators, and policymakers in creating safer online environments for our children.

### **Session Objectives:**

- Share the Organization for Social Media Safety's multifaceted approach, combining education, advocacy, and technology to address social media-related dangers.
- Collaborative efforts with D.A.R.E. to expand the reach of social media safety education and empower law enforcement officers to educate students on navigating online risks.
- Offer practical tips for parents and caregivers to mitigate social media dangers, including discussions on pausing social media access, teaching children about blocking and reporting, and leveraging third-party safety software.

## **Presenter: Josh Uhernik – Advanced Police Concepts**

### **Session Title: 2024 Drug trends in the schools and their impact on students, staff, and administration**

**Session Description:** Join Josh Uhernik , a seasoned law enforcement officer turned educator, as he delves into the alarming rise of new drug trends infiltrating our school systems. Drawing from his extensive experience in drug investigations and collaboration with federal agencies, Josh sheds light on the latest substances posing risks to school-aged children. From Fentanyl to Hexahydrocannabinol (HHC), Kratom, and Nitazenes, discover how these substances are finding their way into the hands of students. Josh not only highlights the threats but also provides insights into proactive measures for educators, administrators, and counselors to safeguard students and address addiction issues. Don't miss this essential session for anyone invested in protecting the well-being of students.

#### **Presentation Objectives:**

- **Educate on Emerging Drug Trends:** Provide attendees with up-to-date information on new drugs, including Fentanyl, HHC, Kratom, and Nitazenes, and their prevalence among school-aged children.
- **Raise Awareness of Risks:** Highlight the dangers associated with these emerging substances, including their potency, addictive potential, and adverse effects on physical and mental health.
- **Discuss Infiltration into School Systems:** Explore how these drugs are making their way into schools, whether through peer influence, online sources, or other avenues, and discuss strategies for detection and prevention.
- **Provide Resources for Intervention:** Equip educators, staff, and counselors with resources and strategies to identify signs of substance use, intervene effectively, and provide support and resources for students struggling with addiction.
- **Address Legal and Administrative Considerations:** Navigate the legal and administrative complexities surrounding drug-related issues in schools, including policies, procedures, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

## **Lunch**

**1:00-2:30 (90 minutes)**

**Presenter: Ashley Frazier, D.A.R.E. America (and friends)**

**Session Title: D.A.R.E. America Q&A**

**Session Description:** Join Ashley Frazier, D.A.R.E. America Director of Curriculum and Training (and anyone else she can round up for the fun) for an informal session where you can bring your questions, thoughts, ideas, and great stories to share and get answers, feedback, reactions, and anything else that comes up in the allotted time. Will there be prizes? Will there be crying? You won't know unless you show!