



# NEWSLETTER

## Violence Prevention Program



**Joliet Township Government is poised to make a profound impact with a historic grant to tackle gun violence head-on.**

Through our new Violence Prevention Program's outreach, mental health expertise, victim support, and strong partnerships with our dedicated first responders, we are determined to create a safer, more harmonious Joliet for all. Your support and involvement can make a meaningful difference in our mission.

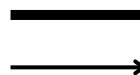


Joliet Township  
Ozzie and Peggy Mitchell Center  
*Formerly known as Peter Claver Center*  
172 S. Chicago, Joliet, Illinois 60432  
Monday –Friday, 9am–6pm  
Saturday, 12pm – 8pm  
Closed Sundays  
Additional times by appointment only  
  
Phone: 815-726-4781  
  
[www.joliettownship.net/services/violence-prevention/](http://www.joliettownship.net/services/violence-prevention/)

### IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue, you will gain insight into the three main programs falling under our Violence Prevention Program umbrella, and the dedicated leaders driving these initiatives forward.

[Read More](#)





## PEACE OVER VIOLENCE

Peace Over Violence (POV) is a new program born from the vision of the Joliet Township Government to interrupt the gun violence that has plagued Joliet. Through the core components of case management, street outreach, and victim advocacy, we are lighting the way toward a safer and healthier future for all.

Case management plays a pivotal role in our program, encompassing essential follow-up care, community referrals, and the provision of vital, compassionate support.

Outreach encompasses professional intervention, mediation, and access to a wide array of community resources, all designed to ensure the highest standards of support and assistance.

Advocacy entails providing specialized responses to the needs of gun violence victims, encompassing essential services such as clothing and food distribution, VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) assistance, and the steadfast support of a trusted victim advocate.

Leading the charge in this inspiring program is Andrea Cambray, MSW, LCSW, our dedicated Director of Violence Prevention.

She says, "I'm excited to be a part of Joliet Township during this time of growth and change. Violence prevention programming in all capacities are important for every community as a public health matter, which is why I am so honored to be a part of the birth of Joliet Government taking interest and initiating Violence Prevention programming and policy."

**ANDREA CAMBRAY MSW, LCSW**  
**DIRECTOR OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

*jtvpdirector@joliettownship.net*

Andrea Cambray is a highly qualified Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 20 years of experience in program management. Andrea has developed a diverse knowledge of community resources for populations considered high-risk through her work at Joliet Junior College, Legal Aid Chicago, and Instituto del Progreso Latino. She possesses expert level knowledge of Mental Health Law and protocol, extensive training in trauma-informed care, and is a trained Brainspotter (somatic intervention). While in private practice, Andrea developed and maintained an active caseload, providing various therapies to individuals, groups, families and adjunctive therapies.



Andrea holds a master's degree in social work from the University of St. Francis and bachelor's degree in political science from DePaul University. Although she was born in Chicago, Andrea has resided in the City of Joliet for a little over a decade. With extensive experience, diverse expertise, and commitment to providing comprehensive and compassionate care, Andrea Cambray is dedicated in her role within the Joliet Township Government.



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**LESHAE HUDSON**  
**VIOLENCE PREVENTION**  
**COUNCIL COORDINATOR**

lhudson@joliettownship.net

"Service has no Boundaries", this is my mantra. I created this saying after working over 2 decades in constituent services. My journey started when I was a teenager. While working for my local elected official, I gained extensive knowledge in how important neighborhood, community, resources and unity are to the quality of life. I have had the pleasure of serving as a Legislator Director for a state representative, Treasurer for state senators, Communications for sheriffs, Campaign Coordinator for district attorneys, Organizer for gubernatorial candidates and city council members, Senior Citizen Coordinator for mayoral candidates, Health Equity Navigator for the state of Illinois and currently a Violence Prevention Coordinator for Joliet Township Government, but most of all I serve to the Will of the Lord. It is my pleasure and Honor to help our neighbors and community thrive and advance.

My gift is helping.



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## **RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT LEAGUE (REIAL)**

Joliet Township collaborates with various community stakeholders to align violence prevention resources and activities, fostering synergy through the Racial Equity Impact Assessment League (REIAL).

They convene on a monthly basis to engage in in-depth discussions on firearm violence prevention, engage in collaborative efforts for emergency community response following incidents, and rigorously evaluate program implementation. At the helm of this dynamic group is LeShae Hudson, the dedicated Violence Prevention Council Coordinator.

This esteemed council of community leaders comprises: Coach Earl from Joliet West High School; Detective Dave Jackson from the Joliet Police Department; Donnie Chestnutt from the YMCA; Melvin Leach from the Harvey Brooks Motivation & Development Foundation; Christine Coster from the Will County Executive Office; Lavita Blackwell and Dr. Nauteia Brass from the National Center for Economics; Gwen Ulmer representing Joliet Public School District 86, Second Baptist Church, and Silver Cross Board; Elizabeth Protich, Mariah Feeny, and Andres Su from Holsten Human Capital Development; Nicole Lurry serving as the Community Engagement Coordinator for Joliet Township Government; and Angel Contreras, Supervisor for Joliet Township Government.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our REIAL members for their unwavering commitment to creating a safer community.

# RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT LEAGUE (REIAL)



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Joliet Township Government is excited to introduce the Trauma Informed Behavioral Health Program (TIBH), a transformative initiative made possible through one of the three Illinois Department of Human Services Greater Illinois Reimagine Violence Prevention grants awarded to our township.

This trauma-informed program is poised to make a significant impact by delivering crucial mental health services to residents who have been profoundly affected by trauma, especially those whose lives have been impacted by gun violence. A team of three licensed trauma therapists will actively engage with the community. Their mission includes educating community members to recognize and respond to signs of trauma, delivering essential behavioral health therapy, and ensuring effective resource coordination.

Furthermore, the TIBH team eagerly anticipates collaborating with partners engaged in the Reimagine Public Safety Act, reinforcing our commitment to a safer, more resilient community. Karissa Fleming, MSW, our Licensed Trauma Therapist, will spearhead this team.

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**KARISSA FLEMING, MSW  
TRAUMA LICENSED  
THERAPIST**

[kfleming@joliettownship.net](mailto:kfleming@joliettownship.net)

Karissa Fleming is a highly qualified mental health professional, holding the title of Licensed Social Worker, with a rich academic and experiential background.

She earned her master's in social work from the University of St. Francis. Karissa's extensive experience spans a wide spectrum of areas, including working with local foster youth, trauma therapy, community mental health, geriatrics, and individuals who have had involvement with the criminal justice system.

Karissa's approach to therapy is characterized by her expertise in Integrative Therapy. This approach allows her to draw from various therapeutic modalities to tailor her interventions to meet the unique needs of each individual.



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