

RTI INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING RESEARCH

Location: RTI Headquarters
3040 E. Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, NC
Holden Building
William M. Moore Jr. Collaboration Center

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

Day One Agenda

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Coffee and Virtual Reality Demonstration

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

Kevin Strom, PhD, Senior Director, Center for Public Safety and Resilience, RTI

Trevor Allen, Director, North Carolina Justice Academy

Duren Banks, PhD, Senior Vice President, Justice Practice Area, RTI

10:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. Best Practices in Health and Wellness for the Public Safety Workforce

This panel will describe evidence-based strategies for promoting safety and mental and physical health among public safety professionals. Implications for workforce recruitment and retention will also be discussed.

Crystal Daye, Program Manager, RTI

Julia Brinton, Program Manager, RTI

Meret Hofer, PhD, Research Psychologist, RTI

Bill Hollingsed, Executive Director, North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police

Aaron Back, Trooper, North Carolina State Highway Patrol, North Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program

Lance Miller, Senior Criminal Justice Technology Advisor and Compliance Testing Lead, RTI

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

Virtual reality demonstrations and displays will be available throughout the lunch period.

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Enhancing Responses to Victims

This panel will feature research on victim engagement including the role of victim advocates and other systems-based responders. Panelists will highlight research as it relates to law enforcement-based victim service personnel, the impacts of Covid -19 on victim service providers and their ability to provide services to survivors of gender-based violence, and the role that law enforcement and other systems professionals play in responding to and preventing victimization in the wake of natural disasters.

Lynn Langton, PhD, Program Director, RTI

Kelle Barrick, PhD, Senior Research Criminologist, RTI

Rebecca Pfeffer, PhD, Senior Research Criminologist, RTI

Hannah Feeney, PhD, Community Psychologist, RTI

Elizabeth Tibaduiza, Research Analyst, RTI

Leann McCallum Desselle, Research Analyst, RTI

Jesenia Alonso, Program Manager, International Association of Chiefs of Police

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Addressing Drug Overdose Deaths with Increased Public Safety and Public Health Coordination

This panel will discuss illicit drug markets and their connection to drug overdoses and community violence, as well as opportunities for incorporating an integrated approach for improving safety while mitigating harm.

Melissia Larson, Program Manager, RTI

Brad Ray, PhD, Senior Justice and Behavioral Health Researcher, RTI

Nicole Johnson, PhD, Research Criminologist, RTI

Richard Baum, Policy Advisor, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy

Brittney Garrett, Senior Director of Public Safety Engagement and Strategy, Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI)

4:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Mark Pope, Program Director, RTI

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Networking Event

Boxyard RTP

900 Park Offices Drive

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

<https://boxyard.rtp.org>

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Day Two Agenda

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Coffee and Virtual Reality Demonstration

10:00 – 10:05 a.m. Welcome
Stacey Cutbush Starseed, PhD, Program Director, RTI

10:05 – 11:15 a.m. Addressing How Law Enforcement and Community-Based Organizations Can Work Together to Reduce Community Violence

This panel will showcase examples from the field on what it looks like to develop a relationship, collaborate, and establish boundaries between law enforcement and community violence interrupters who serve in the same communities. Panelists will share perspectives from both sides of this relationship and will hear how research conducted at RTI contextualizes the issue of community violence and has generated recommendations for successful relationships between law enforcement and community groups.

Stacy Sechrist, PhD, Justice Researcher, RTI

Josie Caves Sivaraman, PhD, Research Analyst, RTI

Regina Glaspie, Community Coordinator, City of Greensboro (NC)

Ingram Bell, Program Manager & Community Violence Prevention Specialist, Gate City Coalition

Magan Fitzgerald, Police Officer, Greensboro Police Department

LaTonya Guy, Police Officer, Greensboro Police Department

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Modeling Human Behaviors After an Act of Targeted Violence

Securing soft targets and crowded places is a priority for public safety and homeland security. This panel will discuss efforts to better understand the responses of civilians and first responders during, and immediately after, acts of terrorism and other forms of targeted violence. An overview of the research, preliminary findings, and applications for state and local law enforcement will also be presented.

Matthew DeMichele, PhD, Senior Director, RTI

Will Parkin, PhD, Senior Research Analyst, RTI

Rainer Hilscher, PhD, Senior Research Data Scientist, RTI

Nathan Meehan, PhD, Behavioral Scientist and Support Contractor, Department of Homeland Security

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch

Virtual reality demonstrations and displays will be available throughout the lunch period.

Please join us for a presentation of RTI's documentary, "HEART: Serving Our Neighbors in Crisis." This documentary follows Durham's (NC) new public safety response team within the Durham Community Safety Department which connects neighbors in crisis to appropriate response and care.

1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Forensic Genetic Genealogy for Solving Cases and Addressing Serial Offending

Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG) is an innovative investigative tool that combines DNA analysis with traditional genealogy research for the purpose of generating investigative leads that will assist law enforcement in identifying an unknown perpetrator and/or victim of violent crime.

Ashley Rodriguez, Program Manager, RTI

Lt. Stephen Vaughan, Criminal Investigations Division, Durham Police Department (NC)

Sgt. Darwyn Hudson, Sexual Assault Cold Case Investigator, Fayetteville Police Department (NC)

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Lawfully Owed DNA

Conservative estimates indicate thousands of convicted offenders are missing from the combined DNA Index System (CODIS) across the country. This panel will discuss key factors contributing to this widespread problem including case examples which highlight the importance of collecting lawfully owed DNA samples and entering them into CODIS for solving cold cases and preventing future violent crime. Available resources to help address this issue will be discussed.

Lindsey Wade, Senior Law Enforcement Specialist, RTI

Amy Sweatt, DNA Collection Coordinator, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

4:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Kevin Strom, PhD, Senior Director, Center for Public Safety and Resilience, RTI