

Missing Person

Jennifer Lester,
Ohio Attorney General



Bio:

Jennifer Lester has been a Criminal Intelligence Analyst at the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation since 2013 and has been employed by the State of Ohio for over 19 years. Prior to joining the intelligence unit, Jennifer worked in the Ohio BCI communications center as a Fingerprint Technician for many years. Jennifer received her Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University in 2008, majoring in Criminology.

As an analyst, Jennifer handles all types of criminal offenses but specializes in missing persons and unidentified remains cases. Jennifer provides intelligence support to law enforcement including subject research, cell phone analysis and mapping, link analysis, timelines, case organization, and omprehensive case support. Jennifer holds certifications in Analytics and Intelligence and Cell Phone Investigations by Police Technical and is a Certified Cyber Crime Intelligence Analyst through NW3C.

Jennifer has received many awards since working at the Ohio BCI including the Ohio Attorney General's Office Pride Award, Employee of the Quarter, Superintendent Award and the 2021 and 2022 Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award.

One-hour presentation

Class Description:

Ms. Lester will go over missing persons laws, case studies etc. along with what and how the Attorney General can aid agencies in missing person cases

Electronic Financial Investigation Unit

Scott Stranahan

Special Agent Supervisor
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost
Special Investigations Unit Northwest
Electronic Financial Investigations Unit



Special Agent Jeff Smith is a member of the Electronic Financial Investigation and Cyber Crime Units of BCI. He investigates both cyber-crime and fraud related cases as well as providing digital forensic and technical assistance to the EFIU. SA Smith has 17.5 years in law enforcement, with time spent in local law enforcement as an investigator.



Special Agent Supervisor Scott Stranahan has over 25 years of law enforcement experience. SAS Stranahan supervises both the Electronic Fraud Investigation Unit as well as the Special Investigations Unit in Northwest Ohio. SAS Stranahan is a graduate of the University of Toledo and has completed leadership programs through the Ohio State University and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. SAS Stranahan's law enforcement experience includes local, state and several federal task force assignments.



Criminal Intelligence Supervisor Mark D. Hoy

Mark D. Hoy proudly serves both the Criminal Intelligence Unit and Electronic Financial Investigation Unit of BCI. As a graduate of Tiffin University and studying at the University of Toledo, Mark has served within state government for over 22 years while maintaining an active commission as a peace officer.



Special Agent Jason Snyder

Special Agent Jason Snyder is an agent with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. He has been with BCI for approximately 12 years. SA Snyder has worked for 30 years in various capacities and with various agencies as a law enforcement officer. SA Snyder has worked numerous criminal investigations and has also received specialized training in criminal investigations from the US Army as well as the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy. SA Snyder has a BA in business and is a Certified Fraud Examiner and a Certified Cryptocurrency Investigator.

Class Description:

Will speak about the unit, case studies and what to look for when it comes to digital and cyber-crimes.

How Search & Rescue Teams can aid Law Enforcement and Coroners

Margo Kuderer

Cincinnati Search & Recovery



Bio: Margo is a full-time Ohio Deputy with the Butler County Sheriff's Office and a Certified Death Investigator formerly serving with the Hamilton County Coroner's Office. With nearly 25 years of law-enforcement experience, she has built a distinguished career specializing in Sex Offender Registration and Notification (SORN), death investigations, and search-and-rescue/recovery operations.

Her expertise includes six years conducting medicolegal death investigations and five years working in specialized search and recovery missions. In August 2024, Margo's leadership and operational skill led to her appointment as Chief of Cincinnati Search & Recovery (CSAR), where she continues to advance the region's capabilities in locating and recovering missing persons.

Class Description:

This course provides law-enforcement personnel and coroner's office professionals with a comprehensive understanding of how and when to effectively utilize search and rescue (SAR) teams. Participants will learn the benefits of deploying SAR resources in various situations, including missing-person cases, death investigations, evidence searches, and disaster response. The class will highlight operational capabilities, deployment considerations, and best practices for collaborating with SAR units to enhance investigative outcomes.

30-minute presentation

Veterinary Forensic Sciences: Overview, Case Studies, and Considerations (2-hour presentation)

And

Veterinary Forensics: Documentation of Evidence and Forensic Photography (2-hour presentation)

Susan Underkoffler, MFS,



Susan C. Underkoffler, MFS
Director – Wildlife Forensic Sciences & Conservation
Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
University of Florida
<https://wildlife.forensics.med.ufl.edu/>

Bio:

Susan Underkoffler, MFS is an expert in wildlife crime scene investigation and holds an Associates of Fine Arts degree, two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Conservation Biology and Scientific Illustration from Arcadia University and a Master of Forensic Science degree from Drexel University College of Medicine. She has spent over ten years applying forensic and criminalistic techniques to the investigation of animal crimes, first as Forensics Manager for the Pennsylvania SPCA, where she developed the first Forensics Unit and handled all forensic responsibilities associated with humane law enforcement animal cruelty cases, and then as a consultant to wildlife, livestock and companion animal organizations. For many years she was an environmental scientist, performing wetland delineations, Phase I site assessments, and wildlife and habitat evaluations and monitoring in both Pennsylvania and Delaware and prior to that she researched vaccine development using molecular biotechnology approaches with plants as vector systems. She is currently Director of the Wildlife Forensic Sciences and Conservation graduate program at the University of Florida.

Susan has traveled nationally and internationally as a professional consultant and educator for wildlife and animal cruelty crime scene investigations and has conducted published international research in several African countries. Her artwork and illustrations have received numerous awards and have been featured in many scientific publications and private collections. A passionate science communicator, she enjoys bringing to life her background, experiences and commitment to conservation through her art. Her first textbook, titled *Wildlife Biodiversity Conservation: Multidisciplinary and Forensic Approaches*, was published by Springer International in 2021.

Class Descriptions:

Veterinary Forensic Sciences: Overview, Case Studies, and Considerations

This presentation will define and explain veterinary forensics through the use of animal welfare and abuse case studies in which particular forensic techniques were used in an effort to secure positive court outcomes.

Veterinary Forensics: Documentation of Evidence and Forensic Photography

General crime scene recognition and awareness will be emphasized in this presentation, along with definitions and explanations of forensic evidence of importance in animal cases. It will explore a variety of forensic evidentiary techniques (with particular emphasis on photography) and how anyone can utilize them to strengthen cases.

Child Abuse

Director, Children at Risk Evaluation Center
Child Abuse Pediatrician (CARE Center)
Akron Children's Hospital



Bio: Dr. McPherson is a child abuse pediatrician and director of the Children at Risk Evaluation Center at Akron Children's. He's been practicing since 2007 and with Akron Children's since 2016. He earned his medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine (formerly MCP/Hahnemann School of Medicine) in Philadelphia, Pa. and completed a residency in pediatrics at Akron Children's. Dr. McPherson went on to complete a fellowship in child abuse pediatrics at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. He is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in child abuse pediatrics and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Ray E. Helfer Society. Additionally, Dr. McPherson is a clinical associate professor of pediatrics at Northeast Ohio Medical University.

Class Description:

Dr. McPherson will present an overview of potential indicators of child abuse, discuss the various types of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect), and explain appropriate steps for responding when abuse is suspected.

In the field, participants will learn what to look for, including:

- Physical indicators (unexplained injuries, patterned bruising, burns, frequent injuries at different healing stages)
- Behavioral and emotional indicators (fearfulness, withdrawal, aggression, age-inappropriate behaviors)
- Environmental red flags (unsafe living conditions, lack of supervision, inconsistent explanations from caregivers)
- Risk factors within family dynamics and caregiver behavior

The session will also cover how to interview effectively and appropriately, including:

- Creating a safe, non-threatening environment for the child
- Using developmentally appropriate, open-ended questions
- Avoiding leading or suggestive language
- Observing nonverbal cues and inconsistencies
- Documenting statements accurately and objectively
- Understanding mandatory reporting requirements and next steps

The presentation emphasizes a trauma-informed, child-centered approach to ensure the safety of the child while maintaining professional, ethical, and legal standards.

Two-hour presentation

How to Report a Death

Justin Benner
Forensic Death Investigator
Summit County Medical Examiner



Bio:

I have been employed as a death investigator for the Summit County Medical Examiner since 2011. I hold a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in criminal justice, a master's degree in forensic science, and am currently pursuing a second advanced degree in business psychology.

Class Description:

A PowerPoint presentation and discussion of how to report a death to a coroner or medical examiner's office. An overview of the questions they may ask and the reasoning behind the questions. This will include a summary of the role and purpose of these agencies.

30-minute presentation

Death Investigations

Amy Schaefer
Chief Forensic Death Investigator
Summit County Medical Examiner



Bio:

Certified via ABMDI (American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigations) since 1999, and is the Chief Investigator with the Summit County Medical Examiner located in Akron Ohio.

Class Description:

This presentation provides an overview of the forensic death investigation process from the perspective of a Chief Forensic Death Investigator. Attendees will learn how sudden, unexpected, and violent deaths are investigated, including scene response, information gathering, collaboration with law enforcement and forensic pathologists, and the determination of cause and manner of death. The presentation also highlights the ethical responsibilities of death investigators and the role death investigation plays in the justice system and public health.

An advocate will also speak about who they aid the medical examiner's office with the families of crime victims.

One-hour presentation

Victim Assistance

Christel Durbec, CA
Assistant Director of Services – Crisis



Christel Durbec, CA

Bio:

Christel oversees all facets of crisis services across the community by leading teams that provide support on scene, in hospitals, schools, and other critical settings. In addition to crisis services, Christel oversees satellite offices and programs including Barberton Municipal Court, Stow Municipal Court and the Detective's Bureau, ensuring that every member of our community is met with dignity and care.

Course description:

Will cover VAP's 3 core services (Crisis Intervention, Advocacy, Education).

I will share our history, our locations, all services provided to the community including individual crisis intervention, group crisis interventions, safety planning, court advocacy, education on victim rights, etc.

I will have a PowerPoint with about 12 slides.

30-minute presentation

Homicide & Scene Investigations

Lt. Matthew Whitmire
Akron Police Department



Bio:

Lieutenant Matt Whitmire is currently assigned to the dayshift Major Crimes Unit of the Akron Police Department, where he serves as the commanding officer, supervising a sergeant, a crime technician and six detectives. In this role, he oversees violent crime investigations, manages case assignments, reviews, and provides leadership during critical incidents, including officer-involved critical incidents.

Lt. Whitmire began his law enforcement career in 2014 and has served as a patrol officer, Major Crimes detective, and patrol sergeant before being promoted to lieutenant. His investigative experience includes homicides, robberies, sexual assaults, amongst other complex felony investigations. He has received specialized training in homicide investigations, interview techniques, and hostage negotiations.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science/Criminal Justice from the University of Akron Honors College and has been recognized with multiple commendations, including the Summit County Prosecutor's Office "Top Cop" and "Detective of the Year" award. Lt. Whitmire is committed to continual development, investigative excellence, and sharing practical knowledge to support fellow law enforcement professionals.

Class Description:

This presentation provides an academic overview of homicide investigations with an emphasis on law enforcement procedures and best practices in crime scene investigation. It examines the legal, ethical, and methodological standards governing scene security,

documentation, and evidence handling. Key topics include investigative protocols, interagency coordination, forensic analysis, preliminary determinations of cause and manner of death, and the role of investigative decision-making. The presentation underscores the importance of systematic scene processing, adherence to chain-of-custody requirements, and analytical reasoning in reconstructing events, identifying suspects, and supporting judicial outcomes.

Two-hour presentation

Understanding of the Threat of Targeted Violence and Terrorism

Jordan M. Garza
Chief Executive Officer
Lifeline Strategies, LLC.



BIO

Lifeline Strategies was founded by Jordan Garza, an Army veteran with more than two decades of experience across local, state, and federal government, including service with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Over the course of his career, Garza has developed recognized expertise in reentry, community outreach, and crime prevention, designing and implementing initiatives that advance both public health and public safety.

He established Lifeline Strategies to expand this work independently, focusing on prevention-driven, public health-informed approaches to complex community challenges.

Throughout his career, Garza has collaborated closely with law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, medical, and behavioral health professionals to build trusted partnerships and deliver sustainable, cross-sector solutions. His work has contributed to nationally recognized case studies, record-setting federal indictments, and publications in peer-reviewed journals and professional outlets focused on behavioral threat assessment, community violence prevention, and reentry.

Through Lifeline Strategies, Garza leverages this experience to support organizations, agencies, and communities in strengthening resilience, reducing risk, and enhancing safety through tailored, evidence-based strategies and practical, actionable solutions.

Garza holds a degree in Health Science from American Military University, providing a strong interdisciplinary foundation in biology, public health, healthcare systems, and human behavior. His academic

training in health education, data analysis, and healthcare management complements his operational experience, allowing him to bridge public health and public safety to improve outcomes and promote long-term community safety and well-being.

Brief Description:

The presentation will provide a foundational understanding of the threat of targeted violence and terrorism and identify ways communities and schools can protect themselves and their loved ones through partnerships across every level of government. Attendees will learn how to develop effective community-based prevention and intervention strategies through the utilization of a proactive, evidence-based method of investigation, analysis, and management that focuses on an individual's patterns of thinking and behavior. This process can help attendees determine whether, and to what extent, an individual may be moving towards an act of intended violence, self-directed or towards others and work collaboratively to prevent it.

Goals and Objectives:

- Clearly describe targeted violence and terrorism in the United States and discuss the current threat landscape
- Explain the Public Health approach to violence prevention
- Define reasons why some people choose violence as a solution and ways our prevention professionals can become involved in prevention and intervention efforts
- Define Behavioral Threat Assessment and Threat Management (BTAM)
- Identify specific community needs and discuss ways prevention professionals can build prevention and intervention programs serving youth and families in your community and partner with current community-based violence prevention initiatives
- Review available grants to facilitate program growth and implementation

Two-hour presentation

Laura Strader | Program Manager | Alzheimer's Association, Greater East Ohio | office:



Bio:

Laura Strader serves as a Program Manager for the Alzheimer's Association Greater East Ohio Chapter. Before joining the Association, she built a diverse career in both the education and arts sectors. Her first-hand experience as a caregiver shapes her deep commitment to supporting individuals and families impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementias. In her current role, Laura brings the Association's free programs and services to communities throughout Coshocton, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas, and Wayne counties, ensuring that constituents across the region have access to vital education, care, support, and resources. Laura is a two-time graduate of the University of Akron, and an alumnus of Leadership Stark County's Signature Program 38th class. Outside of her professional career, Laura enjoys being a wife and mother to her two daughters and several pets. In her free time, she volunteers for Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio and her local PTA.

Class Description

Designed for first responders, EMTs and law enforcement, this presentation emphasizes the importance of dementia awareness in public service roles and how to better serve affected individuals and families. Included in the presentation:

- basic introduction to Alzheimer's and dementia,
- current methods for diagnosis and treatment options,
- tips and strategies for maintaining a healthy brain,
- overview of the services provided by the association
- clear, compelling call to action encouraging the audience to take meaningful steps.

Two-hour presentation

Crimes Against the Elderly

Forrest Thompson & Tommy Condosta
Medina County Prosecutor's Office



BIO:

Thomas Condosta is an assistant prosecutor in the Civil Division of the Medina County Prosecutor's Office with almost forty years of experience as an attorney in both civil and criminal law. He received two Bachelor of Arts degrees from Washington and Jefferson College and a J.D. from Cleveland-Marshall School of Law.

Among his many duties at the Prosecutor's office, he is the designated attorney for Medina County Adult Protective Services and serves as the director of the Medina County Scam Squad, a financial fraud task force that unites local, state, and federal law enforcement, along with non-profit organizations and social service agencies, particularly targeting scams against older adults.

In 2025, he was honored by the C3A Consortium with the Georgia Anetzberger Award for his advocacy for older adults in combating elder abuse. He sits as an advisor with the Medina County I-Team, tAAC, Dementia Friendly, and the Ohio Consumer Fraud Awareness Network.

Assistant Prosecutor Condosta is recognized as a key figure in the county's efforts to combat financial fraud and is a frequently requested speaker on recognizing and preventing identity theft and consumer scams.



Bio:

S. Forrest Thompson took office as the Medina County Prosecutor in January 2017. Prior to being elected, Mr. Thompson was an attorney in Medina County for over 26-years with extensive jury and bench trial experience, as well as strong litigation experience in criminal, domestic, civil, and probate law.

Since becoming Prosecutor, Forrest has made numerous strides toward bettering the justice system in Medina County. He has made elderly citizens a priority, created a position within the Victim /Witness division that would specialize in assisting victims of abuse and exploitation of our elderly citizens.

Forrest has also been a leader in Opiate Litigation, against the big drug manufactures on behalf of Medina County. Due to the fact that Medina County was one of the first counties in the state to take this step. Mr. Thompson was appointed by the Governor DeWine to serve on the "One Ohio" committee and he continues to aggressively pursue this litigation.

Class Description:

Crimes against the elderly encompass a range of offenses that exploit age-related vulnerabilities, including physical abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, and psychological harm. This presentation examines the epidemiology, typologies, and risk factors associated with elder victimization, with emphasis on detection strategies, forensic and medical indicators, investigative challenges, reporting mechanisms, and the legal and ethical frameworks governing prevention, intervention, and prosecution.

Two-hour presentation

Sex Trafficking & Opioids Abuse

Anna Becks, BSN, RN, Manager – Forensic Unit The MetroHealth System



Bio: Anna immigrated to the United States in 1990 and learned English by watching *Rescue 911*, which sparked her commitment to emergency care and advocacy for individuals who often go unheard. She entered the field as an EMT after high school and became a paramedic in 2003. Her drive to deliver a higher level of care led her to pursue nursing, where she found her permanent home in emergency medicine. Anna joined The MetroHealth System seven years ago and, in 2020, discovered a new calling in forensic nursing. She now serves as the Forensic Unit Manager and leads MetroHealth’s SANE/SAFE program, working clinically at the Cleveland Heights Emergency Department while directing forensic operations across the system. Under her leadership, the program continues to strengthen its mission: providing coordinated, timely, comprehensive, and trauma-informed care to pediatric and adult survivors of sexual assault and interpersonal violence—24 hours a day, at no cost to the patient. MetroHealth was the first hospital in Northeast Ohio to offer SANE services, and Anna is committed to advancing that legacy. Her priorities include expanding access, elevating practice standards, and increasing community awareness of the program’s impact and outcomes. Anna’s work centers on one core purpose: ensuring that every survivor feels seen, believed, and supported, while strengthening the system’s ability to respond with expertise, compassion, and justice-focused care.

Kristin Hess

Session Description

This presentation examines the intersection of human trafficking and substance use disorder, with a specific focus on how substances are intentionally used as tools of coercion, manipulation, and control of vulnerable individuals. Participants will explore trafficking tactics that leverage addiction to maintain compliance, silence victims, and perpetuate exploitation, as well as the neurobiological and psychological impacts that complicate identification and disclosure. Using real-world clinical and advocacy examples, this session highlights trauma-informed, harm-reduction approaches for identification, intervention, and referral across healthcare, advocacy, and safety settings. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to recognize trafficking indicators within substance-using populations and to respond in ways that reduce stigma, enhance trust, and improve safety outcomes.

Learning objectives:

1. **Identify** how substances are used by traffickers as mechanisms of coercion, control, and exploitation within individuals experiencing substance use disorder.
2. **Recognize** clinical and behavioral indicators of human trafficking in patients with active or historical substance use, using a trauma-informed and harm-reduction lens.
3. **Apply** evidence-based strategies for safe engagement, referral, and multidisciplinary collaboration to reduce stigma and improve outcomes for trafficked individuals with substance use disorder.

4-hour presentation

Inside the Walls; What First Responders Need to Know about Hospital Emergency Management

with Cleveland Clinic Emergency Managers, Luke Hall and Phillip McHugh



Luke Bio: Luke Hall is a dedicated emergency management professional currently serving as an Emergency Manager for Cleveland Clinic's South Submarket. In this role, He has led preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery operations for several hospitals, including Tier I and Tier II trauma centers serving Tuscarawas, Stark, Summit, and Medina Counties. Previously, Luke served as the Director of Holmes County Emergency Management Agency where he coordinated the multijurisdictional response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has also served in the private sector as a consultant specializing in hazard mitigation, business continuity, and emergency operation strategies and is a combat veteran of the Iraq War.

Luke is a Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional (CHEP), state-certified ICS instructor, and federally-certified Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) instructor. He actively contributes to regional preparedness through a variety of boards and committees in Stark, Summit, and Tuscarawas Counties including serving as the Chairman of the Tuscarawas County LEPC. He is a volunteer for the Team Rubicon organization that specializes in disaster response and recovery across the United States. Luke graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Homeland Security from Trident University International in Cypress, CA.



Phil Bio:

Phillip McHugh is a mission-driven public safety and security leader with nearly two decades of experience spearheading tactical and strategic operations across law enforcement, emergency management, and the private sector. He currently serves as an Emergency Manager for Cleveland Clinic - one of the world's top-ranked health systems - where he leads preparedness, crisis response, and continuity planning programs. He also operates a national consulting firm specializing in event security, threat assessment, and executive protection.

Previously, McHugh served as Senior Advisor for Public Safety in the City of Cleveland, providing counsel to the Mayor and executive leadership for the Divisions of Police, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management. Earlier, he spent 16+ years with the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, DC, advancing to senior roles and directing major crime reduction initiatives, investigations, and public safety technology projects.

McHugh is a Certified Protection Professional (CPP) and Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional (CHEP). He holds a master's degree from American University, a Certificate in Public Sector Leadership from Cornell University, and Google's Project Management Certificate.

Class Description

"Inside the Walls: What First Responders Need to Know about Hospital Emergency Management."

Hospitals are often viewed by first responders as the *end point* of an incident—but inside the walls, a complex emergency management operation is unfolding in parallel with field response. This presentation provides police, fire, and EMS personnel with a practical, behind-the-scenes look at how hospitals plan for, respond to, and operate during emergencies and how prior engagement with local healthcare Emergency Management professionals can pay dividends when it matters most.

Participants will gain insight into hospital incident command, internal communication and decision-making, surge and diversion realities, facility complexity, and how clinical priorities drive operational actions during major incidents. The session also highlights common points of friction between hospitals and first responders, explains why certain hospital decisions are made, and identifies opportunities for stronger coordination before, during, and after incidents.

Designed for frontline responders and supervisors, this presentation aims to build shared understanding, improve interoperability, and strengthen trust between hospitals and public safety agencies—so when the next critical incident occurs, responders know not just *where* to bring patients, but how hospitals are functioning once they arrive.

Two-hour presentation

Trauma / Traumatic Injuries

Rathna Shenoy MD, FACS

Vice Chair, Department of Surgery

Division Chief, Trauma/Critical Care/Acute Care Surgery

Associate Program Director, General Surgery

Summa Health, Akron City Hospital



Bio: Dr. Rathna Shenoy is a member of the Summa Health trauma team. Her special interests include trauma surgery, general surgery and surgical critical care. She attended medical school at Northeast Ohio Medical University, served as Chief Resident of General Surgery at Summa Health System Akron Campus, and completed fellowships in Acute Care Surgery and Trauma/Surgical Critical Care at Carolinas Health Care System in Charlotte, NC.

Class Description:

Upon completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Describe common types of traumatic injuries encountered in hospital settings and their medical and medico-legal implications
- Identify critical scene considerations for law enforcement, fire, EMS, prosecutors, and death investigators responding to traumatic incidents
- Recognize actions and interventions that should be avoided to prevent secondary injury, compromise of evidence, or adverse medical or legal outcomes
- Demonstrate appropriate initial assessment, stabilization, treatment, and documentation priorities for trauma patients and decedents
- Apply effective questioning strategies during scene assessment and victim or witness interviewing to support clinical decision-making, death investigation, and legal proceedings

Two-hour presentation

Amy Hirnikl BSN,RN,CCRN

Trauma Program

Education and Injury Prevention Coordinator

Summa Health



Bio:

Amy Hirnikl, RN, BSN, CCRN, serves as the Education and Injury Prevention Coordinator for the Trauma Program at Summa Health – Akron. She began her nursing career after graduating from the Summa St. Thomas School of Nursing in 1998 and later completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Ohio University.

Amy has dedicated her entire 28-year nursing career to Summa Health, with 25 years spent in the Trauma/Surgical Intensive Care Unit, where she provided high-acuity care to critically injured and postoperative patients. She is nationally certified as a Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) through the American Board of Specialty Nursing Certifications, reflecting her clinical expertise and commitment to excellence in critical care.

In her current role, Amy leads trauma education initiatives, community injury-prevention strategies, and quality-focused programs that support both clinical teams and the broader community. Her extensive experience, leadership, and passion for trauma care make her a vital asset to Summa Health's Trauma Program.

Class Description

Uncontrolled bleeding is the #1 cause of PREVENTABLE death from trauma.

Stop the Bleed is a U.S. Department of Defense-initiated, national campaign designed to train how to identify and treat life-threatening, traumatic bleeding emergencies within minutes using direct pressure, wound packing, and tourniquet application. It aims to reduce preventable deaths from accidents or disasters before EMS arrives, functioning similar to CPR for blood loss.

The Stop the bleed course is designed to equip participants with life-saving skills to manage bleeding emergencies effectively.

1. Applying Direct Pressure: Learn how to use your hands to apply firm pressure to a wound to control bleeding
2. Wound Packing: Understand how to pack a deep wound to help control blood loss
3. Using a Tourniquet: Gain hands-on experience in correctly applying a tourniquet when necessary.

One-hour presentation

Domestic Violence

Julius Payne

Director of Prevention

974 E Market St

Akron Oh 44305



Class Description

A concise, informative presentation that explains what domestic violence is, highlights common forms of abuse (physical, emotional, psychological, financial), discusses warning signs and impacts on individuals and families, and provides information on prevention, support resources, and how to seek help safely.

One-hour presentation

Introduction to Forensic Anthropology

Nicholas Passalacqua

Associate Professor with the Ohio State University



Areas of Expertise

- Forensic Anthropology
- Forensic archaeology
- Ethics
- Bioarchaeology

I am a forensic anthropologist with numerous research interests, most of which focus on the nature and practice of forensic anthropology as a discipline. As such, much of my research is centered on ethics and professionalism and how forensic anthropology operates within those concepts.

At OSU I am an Associate Professor and the Director of the Forensic Anthropology laboratory at The Ohio State University. I am also a co-founder and a current editor of the journal *Forensic Anthropology*. I have served as the Vice President of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology (ABFA), the Chair of the Anthropology Consensus Body of the American Academy of Forensic Science Standards Board (ASB), and the co-Chair of the Anthropology Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC).

I was the winner of the 2021 American Academy of Forensic Sciences Outstanding Emerging Forensic Scientist Award and I have co-authored the award-winning textbook: *Forensic anthropology: Current methods and practice*, which is currently in its third edition. I have also co-authored the books: *Ethics and professionalism in forensic anthropology*, and *A laboratory manual for forensic anthropology*, in addition to numerous publications in such journals as: *Forensic Anthropology*, *The American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *The International Journal of*

Osteoarchaeology, and *The Journal of Forensic Sciences*, as well as chapters in such books as: *Skeletal trauma analysis: Case studies in context*, *The analysis of burned human remains*, *Age estimation of the human skeleton*, and *A companion to forensic anthropology*.

Class Description:

Attendees will receive an overview of skeletal remains, including how to differentiate human bones from non-human remains. The course will cover proper documentation procedures, evidence collection, and best practices for packaging and preserving remains.

Two-hour presentation

Law Updates

Brian V. LoPrinzi
Chief, Criminal Division
Summit County Prosecutor's Office

Bio:

Chief Assistant Summit County Prosecutor Brian LoPrinzi graduated from Baylor University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He worked as a circuit court clerk in Virginia for several years before attending the University of Akron School of Law. While attending law school, he worked for the City of Akron Law Department as a legal intern in the criminal division. He joined the Summit County Prosecutor's Office in 1996. He is the Chief Assistant Prosecutor of the Criminal Division.

Class Description:

- Statutory Law Updates
- Case Law Updates

*A Mandatory OPOTA Course

Two-hour presentation

Firearms: Safety, Laws and more

Sgt Ben Taylor, Firearms Instructor
Medina County Sheriff's Office



Class Description:

Sgt Taylor will present on Firearms in criminal and domestic contexts play a significant role in patterns of violence, injury, and mortality. This presentation examines the use of firearms in criminal activity and within the home, with emphasis on firearm typologies, mechanisms of operation, and principles of internal and external ballistics. Topics include gunshot wound analysis, trajectory determination, toolmark and firearms examination, evidentiary value of ballistic evidence, and the implications for forensic investigation, risk assessment, and legal proceedings.

Two-hour presentation

Accreditations

CLE's 35.50 hours
(hours will be entered within the first week after the seminar – please check after 30 days, if you do not see your credits, contact Margo)

CME's 35.50 hours
(hours will be submitted within the first week after the seminar – please check after 30 days, if you do not see your credits, contact Margo)

OPOTA
(approved course(s) CPT numbers in this program booklet next to the approved subject)

ABMDI Pending
(course number will be attached to your certificate)