ARPA
Arkansas Psychological Association

FALL 2026 CONFERENCE

INTEGRATION OF SCIENCE & SERVICE

Bridging Research. Practice. Advocacy. Leadership. Service.



10 CEUs

OCTOBER 22-23, 2026
In-Person and Virtual Options

FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. TERRENCE ROBERTS

One of the Little Rock Nine | Psychologist | Advocate

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

ADVOCACY
Strengthening our voice for a healthier tomorrow.

HEALTHCARE FINANCING
The APA perspective on sustainable care.

RESEARCH & PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE
Evidence. Innovation. Better outcomes.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Building leaders for lasting impact.

APA APPROVED SPONSOR

Arkansas Psychological Association (ArPA) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Arkansas Psychological Association (ArPA) maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
Integrated Health Sciences Building
2200 Bruce St, Conway, AR 72034

Program

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22nd (4.5 CEUs)

8:30 - 9:00 AM — **Arrivals/Check-in with Welcome Remarks**

9:00 - 10:30 AM — **Get Caught Being The Difference (1.5 CEU)**
- Keynote: Dr. Terrence Roberts

10:30 - 11:30 AM — **Student poster presentations**

11:30 - 12:15 PM — **ArPA Business Meeting**

12:15 - 1:15 PM — **Networking Lunch**

1:15 - 1:30 PM — **Break**

1:30 - 2:30 PM — **Evidence-Based Assessment and Measurement-Based Care (1.0 CEU)**
- Dr. Mara Whiteside

2:30 - 3:30 PM — **Advocating for Change: Legislative and Policy Issues Facing Psychology in Arkansas (1.0 CEU)**
- Dr. Tisha Deen with Randy Thurman and Michael Grappe'

3:30 - 4:30 PM — **Counselors Assisting Veterans to Engage in Services (CAVES): Connecting Psychologists to Veteran Trainings, Resources, and Services (1.0 CEU)**
- Dr. Angie Waliski and Dr. Lisa Linson

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23rd (5.5 CEUs)

7:30 - 8:15 AM — **Optional Morning Yoga - Patricia Walz, PhD (Included with your registration)**

8:00 - 8:45 AM — **Arrivals/Check-in**

8:45 - 9:00 AM — **Welcome Back**

9:00 - 10:30 AM — **Healthcare Financing: Advocacy, Coding, and Policy Update (1.5 CEU)**
- Dr. Stephen Gillaspy

10:30 - 11:30 AM — **The Health and the Legal System (HEALS) Team: Reflections on 10 Years of Community-Engaged Research, Practice, & Education (1.0 CEU)**
- Dr. Melissa Zielinski

11:30 - 1:00 PM — **Lunch**

1:00 - 2:00 PM — **The Future of Psychology: What Are the Benefits and Barriers of Integrating Behavioral and Social Sciences Across Many Fields (1.0 CEU)**
- Robert Hines, PhD (Moderator)

2:00 - 3:00 PM — **Project Heal: A Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program (1.0 CEU)**
- Dr. Laura Rohm with Dr. Nakita Lovelady

3:00 - 4:00 PM — **Understanding the Value of Professional Association Membership (1.0 CEU)**
- Dr. Elise Oehring (Virtual presentation via Zoom)

Thursday, October 22nd

Get Caught Being The Difference

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
CE: 1.5



Keynote: Terrence J. Roberts, PhD

Dr. Roberts is CEO of Terrence Roberts Consulting, a management consultant firm devoted to fair and equitable practices in business and industry. Started in 1975 as Terrence J. Roberts and Associates, this firm seeks to assist management personnel in the creation of workplaces conducive to employee growth and development. (Parent Company: Modern Solutions, LLC; DBA Terrence Roberts Consulting)

A graduate of California State University at Los Angeles (BA), and UCLA (MSW), Dr. Roberts obtained his Ph.D. in Psychology from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

For forty years, (1975-2015), Dr. Roberts was a practicing clinical psychologist, first in Deer Park, California and later in Pasadena, California. During this same time period he was Director of Mental Health Services at St. Helena Hospital and Health Center (1977 - 1985); Assistant Dean of Student Services at UCLA's School of Social Welfare (1985 - 1993); and Department Chair and faculty member in psychology at Antioch University, Los Angeles (1993 - 2008).

Dr. Roberts has taught, written about and consulted with a variety of groups, institutions, businesses and professional organizations on issues related to race and racism in American society. It is his belief that complete resolution of these issues can only happen when we, collectively, decide to rid ourselves of the pernicious ideology of racism.

As one of The Little Rock Nine, Dr. Roberts has been in demand by a number of groups who wish to learn about the impact of the chaos in Little Rock in 1957 on the social, cultural, political, and economic life of citizens in contemporary America. This is especially true at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles where Dr. Roberts is a member of the adjunct faculty. He regularly spends time with educators from ELHI to colleges and universities as well as groups of law enforcement officers including but not limited to the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, The California highway Patrol, and the United States Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement Division. Our goal is to assist participants as they develop new skills and more advanced data bases of knowledge and to encourage them to develop more advanced understandings of the ways in which some of their attitudes about different others are established by their belief in systems founded upon mythological constructs and supported by pernicious ideologies promulgated by those who wish to preserve a static social hierarchy.

LESSONS FROM LITTLE ROCK, a memoir by Dr. Roberts was published on October 1, 2009. In this book he describes his experience at Central High School and talks about the salient lessons to be learned from that episode.

On February 1, 2010, his second book, SIMPLE, NOT EASY: Reflections on Community, Social Responsibility, and Tolerance was published. The essays in this volume seek to guide the reader toward more socially responsible positions in life.

In recognition of his contributions to society, Dr. Roberts has been the recipient of:

- The Congressional Gold Medal
- The Pere Marquette Discovery Award
- The Spingarn Medal
- The Robert S. Abbott Award

Abstract:

In the early twentieth century the profession of psychology was deeply involved in the pursuit of scientific investigation to discover why black people were inferior to white people. Note, the question was not "are black people inferior" but "why are they inferior?" In 1937 an American non-profit foundation was established to "advance the scientific study of heredity and human differences." It is significant to note that this organization, the Pioneer Fund, currently considered to be racist and white supremacist, was headed for ten years by psychology professor J. Philippe Rushton. His ten-year tenure lasted from 2002 to 2012. Psychology was not alone in this pursuit, no, there were (and are) many academic disciplines as well as professions, businesses, social and cultural organizations, churches, and community organizations all very eager to find the reasons why black people have not reached the pinnacles of excellence achieved by white people.

Many questions arise as we contemplate the impact of such thinking on the profession of psychology particularly the research, teaching, and practice in the myriad arenas where psychology is actively involved. Although psychology positions itself as a science of human behavior and mental health, its history reflects persistent racial bias in theory development, diagnosis, assessment, and access to care. In this presentation I will examine how racist ideology influences the field at multiple levels, including the underrepresentation of scholars of color, the pathologizing of ethnic minority communities, and the normalization of Eurocentric assumptions in psychological knowledge. Racism is not only a social problem studied by psychology, but also a structural force embedded within the profession itself.

Learning Objectives:

1. Make any changes necessary to eliminate any vestiges of racist ideology that interfere with one's ability to use self as the primary tool in the practice of psychology at any and all levels of human interaction
2. Speak clearly and distinctly about the ways in which the profession of psychology has aligned itself with the purveyors of racist ideology.
3. List ways in which the profession of psychology will be able move toward more antiracist and inclusive practices
4. Care enough to confront fellow psychologists who would prefer to "Let sleeping dogs lie."
5. Model for your colleagues how best to navigate the terrain of racist thought and practice
6. Run the risk of getting caught being the difference

Evidence-Based Assessment and Measurement-Based Care

1:30 - 2:30 PM
CE: 1.0



Mara Whiteside, Ph.D., ABPdN, NCSP

Dr. Mara Whiteside is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She is a board-certified pediatric neuropsychologist and a nationally certified school psychologist who specializes in the evaluation of neurocognitive late effects of childhood cancer. She practices primarily at Arkansas Children's Hospital. In addition to her clinical work, she also does private pay neuropsychological evaluations at PsychologyWorks in Bentonville, AR. She is the 2026 Arkansas Psychological Association president.

Abstract:

This presentation applies the American Psychological Association's evidence-based practice model to psychological assessment through three integrated components: best available research on tests and assessment batteries, clinical expertise in test selection and data integration, and attention to patient characteristics. Dr. Whiteside will review how these components inform assessment of common behavioral health conditions. The presentation then extends this evidence-based lens into treatment, introducing measurement-based care (MBC) as a complement to evidence-based assessment. Practical solutions for integrating measurement into therapeutic care will be addressed. Attendees will leave with a scientist-practitioner framework applicable to both diagnostic assessment and ongoing treatment monitoring.

Learning Objectives:

1. Define evidence-based assessment practice
2. Review the established assessment practices of common behavioral health conditions
3. Apply assessment principles to therapeutic work with measurement-based care

Advocating for Change: Legislative and Policy Issues Facing Psychology in Arkansas

2:30 - 3:30 PM
CE: 1.0



Tisha Deen, Ph.D.

Tisha Deen, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), and Director of Behavioral Health Integration for the UAMS Primary Care and Population Health Service Line. She serves as UAMS Primary Care Project Director for Integrating Behavioral Health in Arkansas, a five-year SAMHSA-funded initiative. Dr. Deen has chaired ArPA's Government Relations Committee since 2018, served twice as ArPA President (2017, 2024), and was named an ArPA Fellow in 2024. She has served as APA's Federal Advocacy Coordinator for Arkansas since 2021 and was appointed to APA's Advocacy Coordinating Committee for 2026–2028. Her advocacy work earned the 2025 Karl F. Heiser APA Presidential Award for Advocacy and a 2025 Champion for Children Award from Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. She developed the Advocacy for Psychologists didactic for the UAMS clinical psychology internship.



Randy Thurman

Randy Thurman is a former member of the Arkansas House of Representatives (1989-1994), former Director of the Arkansas Environmental Federation (1993-2013) and founding Partner of Government Solutions, LLC (1998-present), a government relations firm representing a wide variety of manufacturing, utility, mining, automobile, information technology, waste management and healthcare interests. He and his partner Courtney Sheppard have worked successfully with six Arkansas governors and nearly 700 legislators since 1989. Mr. Thurman earned a B.A. in Political Science, a Master in Public Administration and a Master in Human Resource Development. He has volunteered with the Global Ties Arkansas for 27 years, providing insightful and entertaining Capitol Tours for clients and foreign guests sponsored by the U.S. State Department and Congress.



Michael Grappe'

Michael Grappe' possesses a wealth of experience locally and internationally in oil and gas, chemical production, semiconductor manufacturing design and construction, energy power generation and distribution, real estate development in retail and residential, as well as serving in Arkansas as a solid waste director and the governmental liaison for the Department of Energy and Environment. During his tenure with the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment Michael worked with the private and municipal sectors in addressing Air, Water, Land and Energy issues, including permitting and compliance. His primary role was communicating with the legislative body on policy concerns and assisting in resolving constituent concerns. Mr. Grappe' is an Associate member of the firm.

Advocating for Change: Legislative and Policy Issues Facing Psychology in Arkansas

2:30 - 3:30 PM
CE: 1.0

Abstract:

Laws, regulations, and licensing board decisions shape psychological practice in Arkansas as directly as the evidence base does. This session pairs Dr. Tisha Deen, chair of the Arkansas Psychological Association's Government Relations Committee, with ArPA lobbyist Randy Thurman for a review of the current legislative and policy landscape for psychology in Arkansas. Presenters will survey recent and pending legislation, regulatory actions, and licensing board developments affecting psychologists and the people they serve, including topics ArPA members identified as priorities in the association's member poll: the current state of the Arkansas Psychology Board, barriers to attaining licensure, prescriptive authority for psychologists, and policy changes affecting masters-level practitioners and psychology technicians. Presenters will examine how these policy decisions affect the psychology workforce and public access to care, and describe practical ways psychologists can advocate for change, both individually and through ArPA. The session will close with a moderated discussion inviting audience questions and advocacy priorities for the coming legislative session.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the current legislative and regulatory landscape affecting psychological practice in Arkansas, including recent developments at the Arkansas Psychology Board.
2. Analyze how state policy decisions, including licensure barriers, prescriptive authority, and changes affecting masters-level practitioners and psychology technicians, influence the psychology workforce and Arkansans' access to psychological care.
3. Describe at least two strategies psychologists can use to engage in legislative advocacy, individually and through ArPA.

Counselors Assisting Veterans to Engage in Services (CAVES): Connecting Psychologists to Veteran Trainings, Resources, and Services

3:30 - 4:30 PM
CE: 1.0



Angie Waliski, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC

Angie Waliski, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, is a Research Health Scientist with the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System. Her work focuses on Veteran mental health, suicide prevention, community engagement, and strengthening partnerships between VA and community organizations. She leads the Counselors Assisting Veterans to Engage in Services (CAVES) initiative, which works to expand access to Veteran-focused training and resources and strengthen connections between Veterans, community providers, and VA services.



Lisa McGill Linson, PhD

Lisa McGill Linson is a Psychologist and has worked in veterans healthcare for 20 years. She began her career in North Little Rock, AR, working within a PTSD clinical team and later became involved in various healthcare employee engagement and wellness programs while serving as an employee assistance program coordinator. During that time, she was also actively involved with a Psychology Internship Training program where she served as an education coordinator and member of the training committee. Dr. Linson returned to working with Veterans at an outpatient clinic in Fort Smith, AR, and some became psychology program manager for mental health services in Fort Smith, AR; Ozark, AR; and Jay, OK. Dr. Linson has continued to support healthcare employee development and engagement by acting as training program facilitator since 2017 and national coach since 2019. Dr. Linson completed her undergraduate psychology training at the University of Central Arkansas; doctoral program in Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City; pre-doctoral internship with an emphasis in health psychology at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System; and post-doctoral fellowship in geriatric neuropsychology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Away from work, Dr. Linson enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her husband and dogs.

Abstract:

Counselors Assisting Veterans to Engage in Services (CAVES) is a VA Office of Rural Health supported initiative designed to strengthen engagement with Veterans, particularly those who may experience barriers to accessing VA and other supportive services. This presentation will introduce psychologists to common challenges affecting Veteran engagement and highlight practical opportunities for supporting Veterans within clinical and community settings. Participants will learn about VA-developed trainings, resources, toolkits, and other supports available through CAVES and related VA programs. The presentation will also examine strategies for strengthening connections between psychologists, VA providers, and community partners to improve pathways to care and support Veteran mental health and suicide prevention.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify common barriers that may affect Veterans' access to and engagement in mental health and supportive services.
2. Describe VA-developed trainings, resources, toolkits, and services that psychologists can use to support Veterans and facilitate connections to appropriate care.
3. Apply strategies for strengthening collaboration between psychologists, VA providers, and community partners to support Veteran engagement and suicide prevention.

Friday, October 23rd

Healthcare Financing: Advocacy, Coding, and Policy Update

9:00 - 10:30 AM
CE: 1.5



Stephen R. Gillaspy, PhD

Stephen Gillaspy, PhD is a licensed clinical psychologist with extensive experience integrating psychological services into larger healthcare systems. Dr. Gillaspy is recognized throughout the field of clinical psychology for his hard work and dedication as a Health Psychologist, as well as a vital member of American Psychological Association (APA) staff, serving as the Senior Director of Health and Health Care Financing August 2019 – December 2024, and now serving as the Deputy Chief for Health Policy and Healthcare Financing. He has also been long-standing, active representative of APA to the American Medical Association, and currently serves as the Alternate Advisor to the Relative Value Update Committee (RUC) and the CPT Editorial Panel. Prior to joining APA staff, Dr. Gillaspy was a Professor and Director of Pediatric Psychology in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma, College of Medicine. During his tenure in the Section of General and Community Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), he served as the Director of Research, the Director Clinical Psychology, and Associate Section Chief. He is also a past President of the Oklahoma Psychological Association (OPA), served as Director of the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline, and has authored or co-authored numerous articles published in scientific journals.

Abstract:

Dr. Gillaspy will discuss the value of psychologists' engagement in advocacy and recent outcomes. He will also discuss the relationship between state and federal advocacy regarding health care financing. There will also be discussion of relatively new billing codes. Lastly, he will discuss current issues around reimbursement for behavioral health services and access to care.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe health policy and healthcare financing advocacy efforts and outcomes at the state and federal level.
2. Explain recent CPT and HCPCS coding changes for behavioral health and future directions.

The Health and the Legal System (HEALS) Team: Reflections on 10 Years of Community-Engaged Research, Practice, & Education

10:30 - 11:30 AM
CE: 1.0



Melissa J. Zielinski, Ph.D.

Dr. Melissa Zielinski is a tenured associate professor and clinical psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences with nationally-recognized expertise in community-engaged implementation science research and practice in carceral settings. In her faculty role, she directs both her own large research team (the Health and the Legal System [HEALS] Research, Practice, and Policy Lab) and also UAMS' NIDA-funded T32 "Translational Training in Addiction" program. She also previously served as an Associate Director of UAMS' Community Engagement Core.

Dr. Zielinski focuses her work on interventions to reduce the burden of traumatic stress exposure and sequelae on individuals and communities—particularly people who use drugs, have posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and/or are incarcerated. She has worked extensively with legal settings such as prisons, drug treatment courts, jails, and reentry centers on implementation of evidence-based therapies for trauma and PTSD as a path to promote addiction recovery. She has also done concentrated research and practice work at the intersection of incarceration and pregnancy, including co-founding Growing Together, Arkansas' first program aimed at supporting the health of incarcerated women during the perinatal period. Her work has been funded by a variety of agencies including multiple active research project grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Dr. Zielinski is also active in disseminating education on traumatic stress and has served as education production committee chair for the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies since 2019. She also serves on the board of directors for the Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health and the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies.

Abstract:

The Boulder Model, which emphasizes equal weight on research and practice, has been a dominant model in psychology training for many decades and uniquely positions psychologists for impactful work towards improving individual and community health. This presentation will illustrate how engagement across these domains can be realized by career psychologists. It will use as a case example the inspiration for and the development of the psychologist-led "Health and the Legal System (HEALS): Research, Practice, and Policy Lab" at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, which has been a vehicle for capacity building, knowledge acquisition, and direct impact over its first decade of existence. Attendees will explore the reciprocal relations between research, practice, education, and policy and be encouraged to consider how psychologists at all career stages can take steps to support the multiple missions emphasized in psychology training to advance the health of those they serve.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the need for psychologists to engage in work at the intersections of research, practice, education, and policy to maximize their community impact.
2. Illustrate the reciprocal relations of multifaceted work at the intersection of health and the legal system by a psychologist-led team in Arkansas.
3. Discuss opportunities to more fully actualize psychologists' potential impact via policy engagement.

The Future of Psychology: What Are the Benefits and Barriers of Integrating Behavioral and Social Sciences Across Many Fields

1:00 - 2:00 PM
CE: 1.0



Robert Hines, PhD

Dr. Hines earned his B.S. in psychology at Union College in Schenectady, NY in 1985, his M.A. in experimental psychology at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY in 1988 and his Ph.D. in cognitive psychology at Purdue University in W. Lafayette, IN in 1993. He taught as a visiting faculty member at Clarkson University (1993 - 1995) and Whittier College (1995 - 1997). He began his career at UA Little Rock in 1997 and earned tenure in 2003. He has served as graduate coordinator of the Master of Applied Psychology Program (1999 - 2009) and chair of the Psychology Department (2007 - 2011) and undergraduate coordinator from 2012 - 2017. He continues to serve as advisor to the Psychology Club and Psi Chi (honor society) as he has since 1997. Dr. Hines has completed two research OCDAs (sabbaticals) in his time at UA Little Rock. As a cognitive (experimental) psychologist, Dr. Hines' interests are primarily concentrated in the area of human memory (specifically, mental models of comprehension, and text processing). Recent undergraduate courses taught include: Cognitive Psychology, Sensation & Perception, Psychology & The Human Experience (introductory psychology).

Abstract:

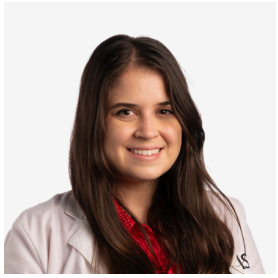
The purpose of this Graduate Student Paper Presentation is to provide convention attendees with an educational opportunity to explore recent psychological research that is being conducted across Arkansas. Two graduate students will present their papers during a 1-hour slot (30 minutes per presenter). They conducted the studies under the mentorship of psychology faculty members in Arkansas.

Learning Objectives:

1. Gain more knowledge about the scientific research that is being conducted in psychology across Arkansas.
2. Have a deeper understanding about the research progress and ways of systematically investigating psychological variables that are related to one another.
3. Identify ethical conduct in the academic, professional, and/or community environment as it relates to psychological research in Arkansas.

Project Heal: A Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program

2:00 - 3:00 PM
CE: 1.0



Laura Rohm, PsyD

Laura Rohm, Psy.D., is an Assistant Professor and clinical psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Dr. Rohm graduated from Loyola University in New Orleans, La., with a bachelor of science in Psychology in 2015 and received her master's in Health Science from Louisiana State University Health Science Center in New Orleans in 2017.

She graduated from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology at New Orleans' Xavier University with a master's in Clinical Psychology and a doctorate in Clinical Psychology. She sees patients in the Psychiatric Research Institute's Walker Family Clinic for treatment of trauma as well as working across the hospital providing screening, assessment, and brief intervention to patients admitted to the trauma surgery and ortho-trauma teams. Dr. Rohm is also engaged in research with the Psychiatric Research Institute's Health and Legal System (HEALS) Lab, UAMS Project Heal, and the METEOR Project.



Nakita Lovelady, PhD, MPH

Dr. Lovelady is an Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in the College of Public Health; Founding Director of Arkansas' first Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program, UAMS Project Heal; and a native of the Arkansas Delta. She is a 2023 Implementation Research Institute (IRI) Fellow at Washington University, a 2023 Graduate Fellow of the NIH Randomized Behavioral Clinical Trials Summer Institute, and a former KL2 Scholar with an NCATS- funded CTSA, the UAMS Translational Research Institute. She also serves Associate Director of the Community Engagement Core at the UAMS Translational Research Institute. She was honored as a 2023 Arkansas Times' Visionary Arkansan and received the M. Kate Stewart Community Engaged Researcher of the Year Award. Dr. Lovelady's research is centered on investigating health and community violence prevention, particularly developing and implementing multi-level public health interventions to improve mental and behavioral health outcomes and reduce gun violence among vulnerable populations. This includes linkage interventions that leverage peer support, enhance healthy coping, and improve access to resources and supports to confront persistent post-traumatic stress in both institutional settings (i.e. hospitals, jails, prisons) and non-traditional community settings (i.e. churches, barbershops). She currently leads a hybrid effectiveness implementation pilot that evaluates a local HVIP within Arkansas' only adult level one trauma center. She also leads formative research that explores adaptation for underserved rural communities; and serves as MPI on an NIH funded study, The HVIP+ Community Model: A Community Violence Prevention Program in a Southern State, that partners with community to refine, expand, and test the HVIP model to prevent escalation and revictimization of gun violence in Central Arkansas.

Project Heal: A Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program

2:00 - 3:00 PM
CE: 1.0

Dr. Lovelady has an extensive background in community engaged research dating back to her predoctoral years. She wholeheartedly believes that community is the essence of public health and key to reducing complex health problems and achieving optimal health for all. Her research hopes to effect real-world meaningful change among communities with the greatest need.

Abstract:

Project Heal is Arkansas' first Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) housed within the state's only adult Level I trauma center, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). The HVIP focuses on engaging gun assault survivors in four intervention components - Brief Bedside, Peer Support, Case Management, and Group Therapy. This presentation will provide an overview of the hospital-based violence intervention model, emphasizing its role in addressing the psychological impact of gun assault and the social determinants that contribute to firearm violence and recurrent injury, including those that influence overall recovery. Preliminary program findings will be presented, highlighting trends in mental health outcomes, including depression, anxiety, and PTSD, measured at 3-, 6-, 9-, and 12-month follow-up intervals among program participants. The presentation will demonstrate how HVIPs can serve as a critical bridge between acute trauma care and community-based support, advancing violence prevention, enhancing recovery, and improving health outcomes for individuals.

Learning Objectives:

1. Define the core components of the Hospital-based violence intervention model.
2. Describe the social determinants of gun assault and recovery.
3. Identify preliminary trends in mental health outcomes of an HVIP.

Understanding the Value of Professional Association Membership (Virtual presentation via Zoom)

3:00 - 4:00 PM
CE: 1.0



Elise Oehring, Ph.D.

A native of Pine Bluff, Dr. Elise Oehring is a licensed psychologist and private practice owner based in Nashville, Tennessee. She specializes in trauma-informed care and evidence-based psychotherapy for adults. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Oehring serves as Executive Director of the Tennessee Psychological Association, where she leads the association's statewide operations, professional development initiatives, and strategic direction. She also serves as Chair-Elect of the Council of Executives of State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Associations. She is a frequent presenter and educator whose work addresses telepsychology ethics, state- and national-level advocacy, leadership development, and professional identity. Dr. Oehring is a proud graduate of Southeast Arkansas College in Pine Bluff and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She earned her PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is credentialed by the National Register of Health Service Psychologists. In 2025, Dr. Oehring received the Connie S. Paul, PhD, Tennessee Psychology Advocacy Award for Lifetime Commitment to Advocacy on Behalf of Psychology and the People of Tennessee. The award is named in honor of a fellow psychologist from Pine Bluff.

Abstract:

Upon graduation, many psychology professionals become disengaged from the field, often related to work settings such as private practice, larger hospital systems, or other workplaces that may be psychology-adjacent. Professional association membership provides a mechanism to remain connected; it is not just about paying dues and being asked to volunteer for free labor. Professional associations coordinate the work to protect the profession, offer mechanisms to explore professional identity and expand skills, and provide a strong sense of community for those engaged. There are also opportunities for leadership development, whether formal (e.g., leadership development programming, organized mentorship matching, etc.) or informal (e.g., service at lower levels through committee work or work groups). This presentation will include information about some of the less obvious membership benefits that come with paying our dues and will explore the importance of advocacy at the state level as the state association is the primary advocate for psychology as a field. While there are many concerns to address, your state association is likely the only organization that is advocating on behalf of your profession.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify at least three benefits of professional association membership.
2. Describe the importance of state-level advocacy on behalf of the profession of psychology.

With Gratitude to Our Sponsors

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site

We gratefully acknowledge the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site for their generous support of the 2026 Fall Conference, especially for making it possible to welcome Dr. Terrence Roberts as our keynote speaker. We deeply appreciate their partnership and commitment to supporting this important gathering.

TICKET PRICES

TICKET TYPE	ONE-DAY	BOTH DAYS	ACCESS INCLUDES
ArPA Professional Member	$175	$225	In-person + Virtual + CEU + Replay
Non-Member Professional	$200	$275	In-person + Virtual + CEU + Replay
Student Member	$10	$15	All formats + Replay (CEU optional)
Student (non-member)	$15	$20	All formats + Replay (CEU optional)

TARGET AUDIENCE

Psychologists, students, and professionals from other mental health and allied disciplines. The instructional level for all activities is at the introductory to intermediate level.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Arkansas Psychological Association (ArPA) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. ArPA maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

CERTIFICATES

At the close of the conference, ArPA will email CE Certificates. Credit is only to be awarded for full attendance during the conference.

ABOUT ARPA

The Arkansas Psychological Association (ArPA) is committed to expanding the parameters of psychology in our state and increasing the quality of services within communities. In an effort to promote the mental and emotional well-being of individuals, families, and society at large, we strive to serve both the public and our membership through education opportunities, workplace training, networking, and professional development.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Arkansas Psychological Association is receiving no commercial support for these programs that might present any conflict of interest for attendees.

REGISTER NOW!

office@arpapsych.org
501.614.6500
arpapsych.org

Don't miss out on this chance to expand your knowledge, network with fellow professionals, and contribute to a more equitable and just society.