



STEVEN PERKINS

Director of Field Instruction

Increasing public safety and helping the most disenfranchised residents, primarily the formerly incarcerated and those most prone to gun violence are passions of Steven Perkins, Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P) Director of Field Instruction, with Metropolitan Family Service. In that capacity, Steven is responsible for managing the Field Managers, who provide technical support and assistance in street-outreach to over 20 community areas/sites.

Born and raised on Chicago's South Side and a graduate of National-Louis University with a BA in Applied Behavioral Science, Steven understands the effect and plight growing up in Chicago's most dangerous communities. His close encounters with gang-activity, gun violence and witnessing many close friends going to the penitentiary or the grave led him to become a change agent and advocate for community justice and equity.

Steven has over 19 years working in the field of public safety mainly in the areas of reentry and violence prevention. He has been Director of Reentry of CSAC (Community Support Advisory Council), a state-funded Illinois Department of Corrections re-entry program, building relationships with inmates at the Sheridan Correctional and provide support and services once released. He was part of the Cook County State's Attorney Steering Committee, a role that ties neatly with his involvement with the Chicago Police Department and the John Jay Violence Prevention Strategy (VPS). In that capacity, he conducted call-in and custom notifications with the Chicago Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, and state attorney prosecutors. This initiative seeks to reduce gun violence by identifying those "high-risk" youth and young adults who are gang affiliated through alternative resources.

Steven has received acknowledgements and rewards from community organizations and several legislators including State Rep. Camille Lily of the 78th House District; State Sen. Kimberly Lightford of the 4th District, as well as Marcus King, former community outreach administrator for the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). The department cited Steve with an Excellence in Leadership award.

Today, his work entails supervising and managing the day-to-day activities that includes overseeing the CP4P Field Managers and working with the Director of The Metropolitan Peace Academy. The Metropolitan Peace Academy, aka MPA, provides a multi-disciplinary training approach to train and develop street-outreach workers to become leaders and practitioners through research and evidence-based best practices in violence production. The goal of the MPA is to standardize and professionalize the field of outreach.

Steven is most proud of establishing meaningful and fruitful relationships over these many years, from those in "high-ranking positions" to those "dudes on the block." He believes in the power and strength of relationships by means of building character, having unwavering commitment and gaining trust.