



Department of Sociology, Criminology,
and Criminal Justice Presentation Series

CENTERING IMPACTED FAMILIES IN TRANSFORMING THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

for event link visit

www.shepherd.edu/sociology/cj-lecture

Wednesday, April 12

1:10 p.m. via Zoom

featuring **EMILY COLE**

Co-Founder and Executive Director

Ohio Families Unite for Political Action and Change

Police brutality is pervasive in communities across the United States, particularly communities of color and low- to middle-income communities. When building transformative justice systems, the voices of those directly impacted must drive the conversation, oppression will never be dismantled. There is no amount of justice that will make up for the loss of life for families who are victims of police brutality or the criminal legal system. We must do our part as a society to hold their trauma, amplify their experiences and demands, and build communities where we are all fully-resourced to thrive.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Emily Cole, M.P.A. is the co-founder and executive director of Ohio Families Unite for Political Action and Change, and the political director for sister organization Ohio Families Unite Against Police Brutality. Originally from Northern Virginia, Cole is a 2012 graduate of Shepherd University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in economics and Bachelor of Science in political science. After graduation, Cole moved to Columbus, Ohio, where she attended The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs, earning her Master in public administration.

Cole has over a decade of experience cultivating cross-disciplinary groups connecting organizations to drive effective research, advocacy, and change. She built the largest coalition Ohio had seen to-date to drive effective Medicaid expansion in Ohio in 2013—the now closed Ohio Network for Healthcare Enrollment, a collaborative consisting of over 250 community organizations and partners across Ohio once Medicaid expansion was announced. She advanced health equity at the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, improved the key drivers of community health through the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center, and brought needed resources into local communities to improve healthcare access by consulting with community health centers. In 2021, Cole co-founded Ohio Families Unite for Political Action and Change, a 501(c)4 that gives a voice to families impacted by police violence. She also works with OFUPAC's sister organization, Ohio Families Unite Against Police Brutality to build Ohio communities where all our families come first, before politics, to thrive.



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