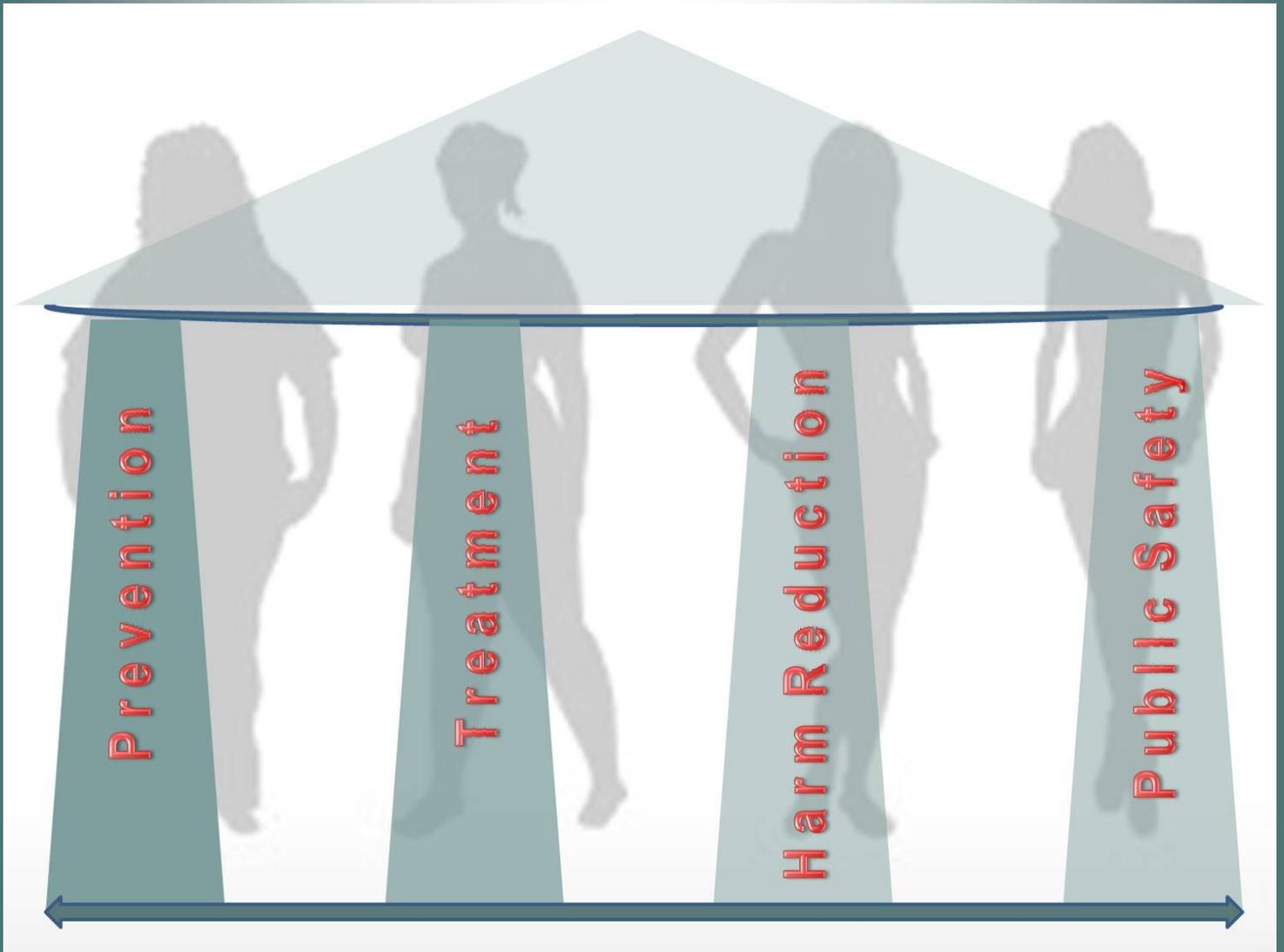




**WOMEN ON THE RISE  
TELLING HERSTORY  
(WORTH)**

***Presents***

**From Punishment to Wellness:  
A Public Health Approach to Women & the War on Drugs**



**Monday, May 20, 2013  
10am – 6:00pm**

**New York Academy of Medicine  
1216 Fifth Avenue (at 103rd St.)  
New York, NY, 10029**



**W**elcome to “*From Punishment to Wellness: A Public Health*

*Approach to Women and the War on Drugs.*” This conference is led by formerly incarcerated women whose lives demonstrate the failure of the war on drugs - a policy that has resulted in mass incarceration and mass criminalization that has destroyed families and communities. Women have been impacted by the war on drugs in very specific ways; we have been trapped in a criminal justice system that does not address our needs or life circumstances in prison or in the community and we have been harmed by punitive and unnecessary child welfare interventions which unravel family bonds. The damage crosses international borders resulting in incarceration of women from other countries and distorting those societies.

Despite the passage of the Drug Law Reform Act, we still have much work to do. As of January 1, 2012, there were still 2,359 women incarcerated in New York State prisons, and while the male prisoner population decreased by 2% between 2011 -2012, women’s population increased by 4%. African American and Latina women make up 58% of the state’s female prison population and 71% of incarcerated women are mothers. Women remain more likely to be incarcerated for a drug crime than men, with 18% of women incarcerated for drug offenses compared to 14% of men.

Today’s convening will provide the space for a discussion about how New York State, once the national leader in harsh punishment for people charged with drug crimes, can instead lead the way in putting an end to the drug war. The Blueprint for a Public Health and Safety Approach to Drug Policy released by New York Academy of Medicine and the Drug Policy Alliance is a great starting point for envisioning what a drug policy grounded in public health will mean for women, our families and communities.

On behalf of all the members of the Coordinating Committee, we welcome you to a stimulating and empowering discussion.

Sincerely,

*Women on the Rise Telling HerStory*



# PROGRAM

**Opening Remarks and Introduction (Library):** 10:00 am–10:30 am  
Tina Reynolds – WORTH  
Gabriel Sayegh – Drug Policy Alliance  
Tracy Pugh – New York Academy of Medicine

**Plenary Panel: Aligning Services to a Public Health Approach (Library):** 10:30 am– 11:40 am  
*Moderator:*  
asha bandele – Drug Policy Alliance  
*Speakers:*  
Dr. Kathy Boudin – Women in Prison  
Dr. Anne R. Elliott – Greenhope Services for Women  
Howard Josepher – EXPONENTS  
Dr. Marsha Weissman – Center for Community Alternatives

**Morning Breakout Sessions:** 11:40 am – 1:20 pm

## **Prevention & Treatment (Room 21)**

This breakout session will continue the discussion set forth by the panel on Aligning Services to a Public Health Approach, with a focus on drug prevention and treatment programs and services that target women, their families and communities. Presenters will share their organization’s current practices as well as their perspectives on issues such as access to services; the impact of criminal punishment approach vs. public health approach on their work; and ideas or strategies necessary for moving toward improved, gender-informed, health-oriented direct services for women who abuse drugs.

*Moderator:*

Tracie Gardner – Legal Action Center

*Speakers:*

Tanisha Douglas – Center for Community Alternatives

Onaje Mu’id – Reality House

Jesenia Santana – STEPS

Sharon White – Housing Plus Solutions

April Triana and Aniyah Gamble - New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents

## **Public Safety & Harm Reduction (Room 20A)**

This breakout session will continue the discussion set forth by the panel on Aligning Services to a Public Health Approach, with a focus on public safety and harm reduction programs and services that target women, their families and communities. Presenters will share their organization’s current practices as well as their perspectives on issues such as how to better integrate a public health approach into harm reduction and public safety programs; the unique challenges that women and groups targeting women face within this space; and what they envision to be just solutions to the disparities that exist.

*Moderator:*

Dr. Kathy Boudin

*Speakers:*

Dr. Ernest Drucker – John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Hon. Jo Anne Ferdinand - Brooklyn Treatment Court, Criminal Court of the City of New York and Acting Justice

Evelyn Milan – VOCAL-NY

Laura Notini - NORML

Dr. Lynn Roberts – Hunter College

Dr. Vanda Seward – Dept. of Corrections and Community Supervision

**Lunch and Performance** 1:20 pm – 2:20 pm

*Introduction of Performance:* Carole Eady

*“The Space Between Time”*

**Theatre for Social Change Ensemble** (A College and Community Fellowship Project)

## Plenary Panel: Aligning Policy to a Public Health Approach (Library)

2:30pm – 3:30pm

*Moderator:*

Glenn Martin – The Fortune Society

*Speakers:*

Annette Dickerson – Center for Constitutional Rights

Tracie Gardner – Legal Action Center

Rev. Vivian Nixon – College and Community Fellowship

Lynn Paltrow – National Advocates for Pregnant Women

Gabriel Sayegh – Drug Policy Alliance

## Afternoon Breakout Sessions:

3:30pm – 5:15pm

### Prevention & Treatment (Room 21)

This breakout session will continue the discussion set forth by the panel on Aligning Policy to a Public Health Approach, with a focus on public policy that affects prevention and treatment programs and services as it relates to women, their families and communities. Presenters will share current policies that impact their work as well as their perspectives on issues such as the impact of policies centered on criminal punishment vs. those aimed at prevention and recovery; and strategies necessary for moving toward improved, gender-informed, health-oriented public policy for women who abuse drugs.

*Moderator:*

Laura Whitehorn – HIV/AIDS educator

*Speakers:*

Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin – Women's Prison Association

Robin McGinty – CUNY Graduate Center

Eddie Rosario – Correctional Association of New York

Waheedah Shabazz-El – Positive Women's Network

### Public Safety & Harm Reduction (Room 20A)

This breakout session will continue the discussion set forth by the panel on Aligning Policy to a Public Health Approach, with a focus on policies that affect public safety and harm reduction programs and services as it relates to women, their families and communities. Presenters will share the current policies that impact their work as well as their perspectives on issues such as how to better integrate a public health approach into policies aimed at harm reduction and public safety; and strategies necessary for moving toward improved, gender-informed, health-oriented public policy for women who abuse drugs.

*Moderator:*

Annette Dickerson

*Speakers:*

Moya Brown – Harm Reduction Coalition

Kirstin Cornell – Delaware Center for Justice

Robert Cordero – CitiWide Harm Reduction

Deon Haywood – Women with a Vision

Quentin Walcott – Connect

## Closing Plenary (Library):

5:15pm – 5:45pm

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

**asha bandele** joined the Drug Policy Alliance in April 2005, a few months after the historic implementation of the first reforms to New York's draconian Rockefeller Drug Laws. She directs the Advocacy Grants program, an initiative that funds organizations dedicated to reforming drug policy through education and activism. In this capacity, she works with and learns from an incredible array of drug policy reformers across the United States. A former Columbia University Revson Fellow who earned her B.A. at The New School and her M.F.A. at Bennington College, bandele has spent much of her career documenting issues of social concern through her work as journalist. She has published a wide range of stories in outlets as diverse as The New York Times, Family Circle, Essence and Vibe, among others. bandele is the author of four books including the award-winning memoir, *The Prisoner's Wife*, and recently finished her fifth, another memoir about raising a child who has an incarcerated parent.

**Moya Brown** is a public health advocate who has worked in prevention and education for over 10 years. Before joining the Harm Reduction Coalition, she worked with various community-based organizations focused on HIV prevention, youth development, and reproductive health in Washington, DC, Chicago, and New York City. Moya earned a master's degree in Public Health from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree in Community Health Education from the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Dr. Kathy Boudin** has been an educator and counselor since 1964, working within communities with limited resources to solve social problems, and supporting individuals to overcome the odds and develop a sense of strength and direction, both individually and collectively. Dr. Boudin has focused her work on criminal justice issues including mother-child relationships across the separation of incarceration; restorative justice, higher education and basic literacy inside correctional institutions and HIV/AIDS. She worked on these issues both during her 22 year incarceration and since returning home. Dr. Boudin is the Director of the Criminal Justice Initiative: Supporting children, families and communities at the Columbia University School of Social Work. She also works at the Center for Comprehensive Care, HIV/AIDS Center, at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital where she is developing programs related to health care for people who are returning home from incarceration. She is currently a consultant to the Osborne Association in the development of a Longtermers Responsibility Project taking place in the New York State Correctional Facilities utilizing a restorative practice approach. Dr. Boudin also has been a consultant for Vermont Corrections, the Women's Prison Association, and Family Justice. She has provided training and supervision to social workers, health professionals and guidance counselors as they work with people in prison or returning home, their families and children. Her publications have appeared in such journals as *The Harvard Education Review*, *Journal of Corrections Education*, *Women and Therapy*, *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law*, and she is editor and co-author of the book, *Breaking the Walls of Silence: AIDS and Women in a New York State Maximum Security Prison*. She received her doctoral degree from Columbia University, Teachers College in 2007.

**Robert Cordero** serves as Executive Director of CitiWide Harm Reduction in the South Bronx. CitiWide Harm Reduction is committed to improving the health, social and economic status of active drug users who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in New York City. In 2011, Robert completed the Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/UCLA Health Care Executive Program at the Anderson School of Management, a management development program exclusively for executive directors and leaders of community-based health care organizations. The J&J program is designed to assist organizations adapt successfully to the changes implied by health care reform. On August 31, 2011, Robert was appointed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to serve on the HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York. Robert is also currently a We Are The Bronx (WATB) Fellow, a fellowship of over 25 non-profit organizations in the Bronx which represents a diverse group of community leaders working to strengthen both the non-profit sector and the Bronx through partnership, community development, and capacity building. Robert holds a master's degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago (1997), and was recognized as an alumnus of distinction in 2008.

**Kirstin Cornell** is the Advocacy Coordinator for the Stand Up for What's Right and Just (SURJ) program at the Delaware Center for Justice. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Georgetown University and also holds a master's degree in Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania. Kirstin joined DCJ with a variety of past experiences including working as a litigation paralegal in Washington, DC, working with the Philadelphia City Council, and volunteering with LIFT, a nationwide non-profit that focuses on expanding opportunity within low-income communities. Kirstin's responsibilities at DCJ include advocating on justice-based legislation, developing public education and advocacy curriculum, and developing programs and policies to reduce incarceration rates while also promoting public safety. She recently assisted Delaware's Women in Support of Health Program (WISH) develop and implement a series of trainings on the topic of self-advocacy for individuals participating in the Strengths Based Management program under the care of Brandywine Counseling and/or other partnering organizations.

**Tanisha Douglas** currently serves as the Clinical Supervisor for Youth Services at the Center for Community Alternatives in Brooklyn. She is a graduate of Columbia University School of Social Work where she focused on clinical practice, criminal justice, law and African-centered healing models. She did her undergraduate studies in culture and politics, with a minor in justice and peace with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa at Georgetown University. She has extensive experience in after-school programming, popular education, community organizing and advocacy in the juvenile justice, youth development and social and racial justice arenas, working for such organizations as the Harlem Children's Zone, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, Sadie Nash Youth Leadership Project and Children's Defense Fund, among others. She believes strongly in the healing power of telling stories, raising voices and taking action. She is excited to participate in the panel today.

**Ernest Drucker** is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Family and Social Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health; and Senior Research Associate at John Jay College of The City University of NY. Dr. Drucker was Director of the Division of Public Health and Policy Research at Montefiore and Founding Director of Montefiore's 1000 patient drug treatment program. He has been a NIH funded researcher since 1991 and is author of over 100 peer reviewed scientific articles and book chapters. He was founding Associate Editor of *The International Journal of Drug Policy*, Editor in Chief (with John Booth Davies) of *Addiction Research and Theory* (1993 - 2005), and is now Editor-in-Chief of the open access *Harm Reduction Journal*. He is licensed as a Clinical Psychologist in NY State and conducts research in AIDS, drug policy, and prisons and is active in human rights efforts in the U.S. and abroad. Dr. Drucker was a founder of the International Harm Reduction Association (1990) and a founder and Chairman of the Board of Doctors of the World / USA (1993- 1997) affiliated with *Medicins du Monde*, France. He was a Senior Fellow of the Lindesmith Center of the Open Society Institute and is now a senior Soros Justice Fellow writing a book for The New Press - *A Plague of Prisons: The Epidemiology of Mass Incarceration in America* - a public health paradigm of mass incarceration in America.

**Dr. Anne Rebecca Elliott** holds a Master of Divinity, Master of Religion and a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Union Theological Seminary. She has taught at both Union Theological and New York Theological Seminaries. She has served as the Executive Director of Greenhope Services for Women, Inc. for the past 19 years. Greenhope is an alternative to incarceration residential and out-patient program which empowers women involved in substance abuse and the criminal justice system to reclaim their lives, reunite with their families, and rebuild their communities. Since joining Greenhope, Dr. Elliott has increased the residential capacity from 14 to 72 women and has quadrupled the ambulatory census. Greenhope serves over 400 women per year. In addition, she has raised over \$20 million in operating and capital support for a new 43,000 square foot residential treatment center in East Harlem, Kandake House. Kandake House is an alternative to incarceration substance abuse treatment center and transitional housing residence that will serve 72 women, including 28 mothers with children. Dr. Elliott is also actively involved in local and nationwide advocacy efforts which address the burgeoning problems of the prison industrial complex and the exponential increase of women in prison.

**The Honorable Jo Ann Ferdinand**, an Acting Supreme Court Justice, was first appointed as an Interim Civil Court Judge in March 1986. She was subsequently appointed to the Criminal Court in February 1987. Judge Ferdinand received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University and her J.D. from New York University School of Law. She was previously with the Legal Aid Society and served as Deputy Commissioner of Trials for the New York City Department of Sanitation. She resides in Brooklyn.

**Tracie M. Gardner** joined the Legal Action Center in October of 2000 as Director of New York State Policy. She coordinates the Center's lobbying, advocacy, grass roots organizing and policy work on issues relating to HIV/AIDS, criminal justice and substance abuse in New York State. She is also the coordinator of an advocacy project at the Center, the Women's Initiative to Stop HIV/AIDS, NY (WISH-NY). Ms. Gardner started WISH-NY to respond to the escalating rates of HIV infection among women and girls of color. Prior to joining the Legal Action Center, Ms. Gardner has worked in various capacities of national and New York HIV/AIDS policy and advocacy since 1987. Ms. Gardner is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College.

**Deon Haywood** is the Executive Director of Women With A Vision, Inc. a community-based grassroots organization created by black women dedicated to providing HIV/AIDS, substance use prevention services, harm reduction, health promotion and advocacy to address risk behaviors and social vulnerabilities. Deon is a longtime activist in the city of New Orleans with a history of organizing low-income women of color around reproductive justice and women's rights. Deon is on the advisory board of BreakOUT, a project of the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (JJPL) focused on the criminalization of LGBTQ youth. She is also a board member of the Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network (LAAN). As an expert in community outreach and organizing marginalized groups, Deon was recognized in TheBody.com 2010 HIV/AIDS Community Spotlight. In 2011, Forum for Equality Awarded her the Political Activism Acclaim Award. Currently, she is spearheading the No Justice Project, a campaign which addresses the criminalization of sex workers, who are largely poor women and transgender women of color, and the excessive and inequitable punitive consequences of conviction under Louisiana's Crime Against Nature Solicitation Laws.

**Mrs. Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin** is the Director of Operations for Re-Entry Services at the Women's Prison Association, a service and advocacy organization committed to helping women with criminal justice histories realize new possibilities for themselves and their families. Ms. Johnson-Peterkin joined WPA in January 2005 with over 20 years of experience in the Human Service field. Prior to that at the Episcopal Social Services, she was the Director of Network in the Community for New York State Department of Corrections, parole, probation and work release programs. She is active in prison and post-prison reform movements including Community Leadership and Education After Re-Entry (CLEAR) with the Study of Women and Society located at the CUNY Graduate Center. Through the work of CLEAR Mrs. Johnson Peterkin and her peers published an article in the Race/Ethnicity Journal (2008) titled "Life Capacity Beyond Reentry: A Critical Examination of Racism and Prisoner Reentry Reform in the US." Mrs. Johnson-Peterkin received her master's degree in Social Work from Hunter College in 2004. The Correctional Association of New York's Women in Prison Project honored her for her exemplary work as an advocate and her dedication to improving the lives of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women. She also received the Citizens Against Recidivism Vivian Nixon Award for her work to achieve the restoration of all the rights and attributes of citizenship among people in prison or jail and those who have been released. Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin holds certification in Women Offender Case Management training with Orbis Partners, Inc. (Ottawa, Ontario) and the National Institute of Corrections. This certification provides gender-responsive approaches to women. The WOCMM projects philosophy and core practices are to engage, assess, enhance motivation, and implement evidence-based practices. The model's goal is to change the way we work with women in prison. Mrs. Johnson-Peterkin is an active alumna of the College and Community Fellowship where the mission is to help formerly incarcerated people achieve their goals through higher education.

**Howard Josepher, LCSW**, is the founder and president of Exponents, a minority led, community-based organization in New York City helping people with drug problems, HIV/AIDS and reentry to the community after incarceration. Howard has extensive experience developing and implementing peer driven, therapeutic health and wellness programs utilizing harm reduction practices. His programs have been noted for their ability to draw participants through attraction rather than coercion and have helped bring thousands into recovery. Howard is a New York State Licensed Clinical Social Worker and recipient of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Diego Lopez Award for his work with HIV/AIDS patients.

**Glenn E. Martin** is currently the Vice President of Development and Public Affairs and Director of the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy at The Fortune Society, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to the successful reentry and reintegration of individuals with criminal histories. In these roles, Mr. Martin is responsible for developing and advancing Fortune's criminal justice policy advocacy



agenda and providing leadership over the agency's Development and Communication Units. Mr. Martin began his career at the Legal Action Center (LAC), eventually serving as Co-Director of LAC's National H.I.R.E. Network (HIRE), a national project dedicated to eliminating barriers to employment for jobseekers with criminal records. Mr. Martin is a 2011-2012 Americas Leaders of Change Urban Justice Fellow and a member of the Board of the NY Foundation. He also currently serves on the NYC Council Task Force to End Gun Violence, NYS Executive Work for Success Committee, NYS Executive Reentry Housing Committee, NYS Reentry Task Force, the Steering Committee of Reentry.net, the Correction Committee of the NYC Bar Association (adjunct), the Policy Committee of Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry and Employment (ICARE), the Employment Working Group of the NYC Discharge Planning Initiative, and the Board of Directors of the College and Community Fellowship.

**Ms. Robin McGinty** is a doctoral student at the CUNY Graduate Center; additionally, Ms. McGinty holds a B.A. from Antioch College, as well as a Master of Public Administration in Health Care Policy from Baruch College School of Public Affairs. Long interested in policy-related issues regarding social justice and health equity and the intersectionality with the criminal justice system, Ms. McGinty has significant experience in working with and on behalf of vulnerable and traditionally marginalized communities; most notably, assisting and supporting currently and formerly incarcerated individuals in navigating the reentry and community reintegration continuum. In addition to being a NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) credentialed alcohol & substance abuse counselor (CASAC), Ms. McGinty is one of several co-chairs of the CUNY Reentry Task Force, as well as serving on the Board of Directors for several New York City community-based/non-profit organizations, including The Coalition for Hispanic Family Services and The Resource Training Center. Ms. McGinty has participated in numerous panel discussions, related to justice-involved women and gender-specific issues. As a community activist, Ms. McGinty has also been the recipient of several awards, including the "Manual Maldonado" Award given by Exponents, Inc. in March 2013. Currently, Ms. McGinty is the Editorial Producer for "On The Count: The Prison and Criminal Justice Report," a weekly independent radio broadcast, airing on WBAI 99.5 FM in New York City.

**Evelyn Milan** is the Director of Services at VOCAL-NY, a grassroots organization building power among low-income people affected by HIV/AIDS, drug use and mass incarceration in order to create healthy and just communities. She has worked with active drug users for most of her life, including positions as a Syringe Exchange Counselor, Public Health Educator, Case Management, Crisis Intervention, Substance Use Counselor and Certified HIV Pre and Post Test Counselor. Throughout all of her work, Evelyn has combined her knowledge of HIV/AIDS and harm reduction principles with empathy and respect for all. Her counseling, active listening skills and creativity allowed her to develop deep trusting relationships with populations that are usually considered hard-to-reach. In 1998, Evelyn became a trainer for the Harm Reduction Training Institute, where she has presented on HIV, substance use and generational Issues. Evelyn also serves as a Chaplain and Director of the Manhattan Chapter of the Latin African American Chaplain Association. In October 2012, Evelyn was honored with the Faithfulness Award by Abound Grace Ministries.

**Onaje Muid** is the Clinical Associate Director of Reality House, Inc., a behavior health agency in Queens, N.Y., co-founder member of the Men of Color Undoing Racism Organizing Committee (NY) and member of the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond Northeast Leadership Council and the Columbia University School of Social Work Community Collaboration Board. He is the former NGO United Nations representative for the International Human Rights Association for American Minorities (IHRAAM), former co-chair of the International Commission of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in American (NCOBRA), co-founder of the Malik Shabazz Human Rights Institute, and delegate to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa in 2001. He is a seasoned clinical professional holding a Master's degree in Social Work from Stony Brook University, a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor and Licensed Mental Health Counselor in New York State.

**Vivian Nixon is Executive Director** of College and Community Fellowship (CCF), an organization committed to removing individual and structural barriers to higher education for women with criminal record histories and their families. She started at CCF in 2001 believing that lack of access to education severely impedes one's ability to escape the cycles of poverty and criminal recidivism. She has worked in both corporate and non-profit sectors but has always had a passion for social justice. She identifies her most valued and life-changing experience as the time she spent as a peer educator in the adult basic education program at Albion State Correctional Facility in New York. Rev. Nixon is an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) and currently serves as an associate minister at Mt. Zion AMEC in New York City. She has received multiple honors including the John Jay Medal for Justice, the Ascend Fellowship at the Aspen Institute, the Soros Justice Fellowship, the Petra Foundation Fellowship, the Hudson Link for Higher Education Brian Fischer Award, the Citizens Against Recidivism Mary McLeod Bethune Award, and the Correctional Association of New York Lifting As We Climb Award. Her leadership activities include serving on the board of directors of the Fortune Society, and co-founding the Education Inside Out Coalition (EIO), a collaborative effort to increase access to higher education for justice involved students. Rev. Nixon holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York Empire College.

**Laura Notini** is the regional coordinator for the NORML Women's Alliance in New York, where she is working to organize and empower women to speak out about legalizing marijuana. Also in New York, she is a director and secretary for Empire State NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) and a core organizer of the NYC Cannabis Parade, an annual event which brings together a collation of organizations to address ending cannabis prohibition. She is founding member of the NORML Women's Alliance New England, was a member of the Speaker Coordinating Committee for the 2012 Boston Freedom Rally. She is the creator of the monthly "Drug War Trivia Night" at The Yippie Musuem and a correspondent for cannabis radio show The Boston Pot Report on Unregualrradio.com. Laura has a B.S. in Marketing Communications from Emerson College in Boston, where she began her involvement with drug policy reform as a member of Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP).



**Lynn M. Paltrow** is the Founder and Executive Director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women ("NAPW"). Ms. Paltrow is a graduate of Cornell University and New York University School of Law. As Executive Director of NAPW, Ms. Paltrow engages in research, legal advocacy, public education and grassroots and national organizing. She is a frequent guest lecturer and writer for popular press, law reviews and peer reviewed journals. Her articles include: Lynn Paltrow and Jeanne Flavin, "Arrests of and Forced Interventions on Pregnant Women in the United States, 1973– 2005: Implications for Women's Legal Status and Public Health" *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (January 2013); Lynn Paltrow, *Roe v. Wade and the New Jane Crow; Reproductive Justice in the Age of Mass Incarceration*, *American Journal of Public Health*; Lynn M. Paltrow, *Is it Ethical to Suggest That Some Women Need Incentives to Use Contraception or to be Sterilized?* 107 *ADDICTION* 1047 (2012).

**Tracy Pugh** joined The New York Academy of Medicine's (NYAM) Division of Health Policy as a policy associate in July 2008. Her main focus has been in the area of health disparities, specifically drug policy as well as prison health reentry and the staffing of the Health Reentry Working Group. Most recently, Tracy has been involved in the development of the newly released report for New York, *Blueprint for a Public Health Approach to Drug Policy*. The Blueprint, produced in partnership by NYAM and the Drug Policy Alliance, presents a comprehensive series of findings and recommendations, informed by community consultations around the State, to illustrate opportunities for bringing about a coordinated and aligned public health approach to drug policy. Ms. Pugh holds a Master of Health Science degree in Health Policy as well as a Health Finance and Management Certificate from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a B.A. from Cornell University.

**Dr. Lynn Roberts** is an Assistant Professor at Hunter College School of Public Health. Her current research examines the intersection of race, class and gender and the resulting impact of multiple oppressions on the dating relationships and sexual risk taking behaviors of young women and men of color. She is a Board Member of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective. From 2000-2002, she was a visiting professor at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Roberts previously served as Senior Program Coordinator at the New York AIDS Consortium, as Program Director for the Visiting Nurse Service's First Steps Program, and as Project Director for a New York State AIDS Institute project to provide HIV/AIDS education to incarcerated and foster care youth. She received her bachelor's degree from Howard University and her Ph.D. from Cornell University.

**Edward-Yemil "Eddie" Rosario**, Associate Director for the Correctional Association's Prison Visiting Project, holds a B.S. degree in Applied Psychology from New York University. Before coming to the CA, Eddie was the director of Developing Justice, an innovative, community-based approach to reentry. Deeply interested in understanding the mechanisms that assist people in effecting lasting change, Eddie sees the dialectic between knowledge and action as crucial to human development. Mr. Rosario's own experiences as a formerly incarcerated person have contributed to his passion for helping people move their lives in a positive direction and advocate for policies that create opportunities that would otherwise be closed to them. For the past 20 years, he has worked to bring about social change in various capacities.

**Jesenia A. Santana** is the Manager of Client Advocacy Services and Senior Policy Advisor at STEPS to End Family Violence. As manager, she oversees the advocacy needs of clients in the non-residential Counseling and Advocacy, Court-based and Reentry programs by assessing safety, housing, benefits, civil/criminal court involvement, economic empowerment and other critical needs of clients. Additionally, she analyzes current policies that affect survivors at the margins and STEPS positioning on the specific policy issue. For two years prior to this position, Jesenia served Legal Services Coordinator for STEPS' Alternatives to Incarceration Program, New York's only alternative-to-incarceration program designed specifically for domestic violence survivors. As Coordinator, Jesenia supervised legal and social work interns in the provision of trauma-informed advocacy for clients and maintained STEPS' legal resource database. For five years prior to coordinating legal services, Jesenia served as Senior Court Advocate/Counselor at STEPS where she facilitated therapy groups for trauma survivors, held individual counseling sessions with clients and consulted with attorneys on theories of criminal cases including the effects of battering on survivors of abuse. Jesenia is the Co-Chair of the Violence Against Women Committee of the Coalition for Women Prisoners. She holds a Master of International Affairs with a Concentration in Human Rights from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and received her bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University (dual major: Latin American Studies and Political Theory).

**Gabriel Sayegh** is the director of the Drug Policy Alliance's New York policy office. He joined DPA in 2003 as a member of the development team, joined the policy team in 2004, and in 2005 launched DPA's innovative State Organizing and Policy Project. He directed the project until 2010, coordinating DPA's work in numerous states, including Alabama, Connecticut and New York. Today, Sayegh and his team work in New York City and across the state, partnering with community organizing groups, human service agencies, and researchers to advance drug policies that are guided by science, compassion, health, racial justice and human rights. Recent successes include reform of New York's Draconian Rockefeller Drug Laws and the passage of historic legislation to prevent accidental overdose fatalities. Prior to joining DPA, Sayegh was session staff in the Washington State Senate, focusing on criminal justice and welfare policy; conducted research on global trade agreements and domestic welfare reform; organized with grassroots community groups to end domestic violence and mass incarceration; and worked as a line cook at a few different diners. He lives in Brooklyn.

**Dr. Vanda Seward** is the Statewide Director of Reentry Services for New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision in this capacity she is responsible for ensuring that there are resources and services readily available for persons under parole supervision in the State of New York. She is the former Executive Director of the Kings County District Attorney's Office ComALERT program which is the first full service reentry program run under the guidance of a prosecutors' office. Dr. Seward has

been serving “high risk” populations that are criminal justice involved for well over 25 years. Her extensive experience expands to providing services and linkages to men, women and adolescents suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness, unemployment, literacy and HIV and AIDS. Dr. Seward has worked for numerous community based organizations and government agencies including New York State Department of Correctional Services prior to the merge, where she has worked in a number of prisons at various security levels as a counselor. She has an extensive history working with the forensic population while working at FEGS where she was the Director. She has headed several pilot projects and committees to assist the needs of the formerly incarcerated and communities at large. Dr. Seward received her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Capella University. She is a graduate of Iona College where she holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and is also a graduate of The College of New Rochelle where she holds a B.A. degree. Vanda also has twelve years as an adjunct professor at the College of New Rochelle. Dr. Seward has received many rewards and aculeate for her work within the criminal justice arena.

**Waheedah Shabazz-El** is an African American Muslim woman and retired postal worker, diagnosed with AIDS in 2003. A founding member of the Positive Women’s Network-USA, she coordinates its Philadelphia chapter. Representing the Network, she delivered a Closing Plenary address at the International AIDS Conference in Vienna in 2010, shortly after serving as an official U.S. Delegate to the UN General Assembly’s 2010 High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. Shabazz-El is a board member for the PA AIDS Law Project and Chairperson for the Community Advisory Board at the University of Pennsylvania, Center for AIDS Research, CFAR from 2007-2012: She is also a member of the HIV Prevention Justice Alliance Steering Committee. Shabazz-El provided significant leadership in a 2008 successful “Condoms in Philadelphia Jails, Health Campaign,” that actually resulted in both male and female condoms being added to the commissary list of approved items. As part of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy Working Group, Shabazz-El was invited to the White House to meet President Barack Obama. Shabazz-El is a long time member of ACT-UP Philadelphia and former national Organizer for CHAMP-Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project. She is currently employed at Philadelphia FIGHT as their Goodwill Ambassador.

Through his bold work, **Quentin Walcott** is pushing communities to redefine manhood and is building a society that embraces equality, mutuality and rejects violence in communities as the status quo. An anti-violence activist and educator, he has spent the last 18 years addressing a critical part of the equation to stopping violence against women: men. Quentin has developed and launched some of New York City’s only programs aimed at transforming bystanders, men and boys, and even batterers into allies and activists against all forms of violence. Quentin is the newly appointed CONNECT Co-Executive of Director, along with Sally MacNichol, where they are working together as allies to prevent and end all forms of violence. Quentin’s innovative work, vision, and activism were recently honored by NOW – NYC as a recipient of their 2012 Susan B. Anthony Award. In 2011, Quentin through a special invite facilitated one of ten events that occurred across the country during October to support Vice President Joe Biden’s call to action and to commemorate National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In 1996, Quentin trained, supervised and mentored by Dr. John Aponte, began facilitating Batterer’s Intervention Programs and various other groups for men and youth throughout New York City. For 6 years, Quentin co-chaired the Committee on Working with Abusive Partners (CoWAP), a committee of men and women that run batterers programs throughout New York City. Quentin has also worked with Eve Ensler to help facilitate and launch V-Men programming in NYC.

**Annette Warren-Dickerson**, the Director of Education and Outreach at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), is responsible for overseeing the development of CCR’s political and public education strategies as a companion to CCR’s litigation. Annette served as the Statewide Coordinator of the New York Campaign for Telephone Justice, which successfully ended the high collect call rates for the families of those incarcerated in New York State prisons. Annette worked on several political campaigns in New York City prior to becoming the Associate Director of Student Activities at New York University, and was central to the development of NYU’s Martin Luther King Jr. Scholars Program. She has served as Assistant Director of the Institute for Community Empowerment at the Community Service Society, Chief Project Administrator of the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, and Associate Director of the Upper Manhattan Task Force on AIDS. Annette speaks frequently on topics related to criminal justice and policing, racial profiling, mass incarceration, detention policies, the endless war paradigm, and the abuse of executive power.

**Dr. Marsha Weissman** is the founder and Executive Director of the Center for Community Alternatives. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Science and a Master in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship, Syracuse University. The Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) promotes reintegrative justice and a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services and public policy development in pursuit of civil and human rights. In 1990, CCA developed the first alternative-to-incarceration gender-specific drug treatment program for women, Crossroads. Crossroads has been included in several national evaluations that show it to be effective in helping women to move on to healthy and productive lives. Dr. Weissman has presented and written on issues related to mass incarceration in general and its impact on women in particular. Among these publications are “Inspiring Hope, Envisioning Alternatives: The Importance of Peer Role Models for Treatment Engagement in a Women’s Program for Felony Offenders” published in Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions, Special Issue on Criminal Justice. December 2006, “Aspiring to the Impracticable: Alternatives to Incarceration in the Era of Mass Incarceration,” New York University Law School Review of Law and Social Change. She is currently completing a book “Prelude to Prison: Youth Perspectives on the School-to-Prison Pipeline” that will be published later this year.

**Sharon White-Harrigan** became involved with women's advocacy during her 11 years in Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for women. Once released it became her sole purpose to become the voice of the unheard and promote change. Mrs. White-Harrigan is an active advocate and activist for women in and out of prison system. She is an alumnae member of Reconnect and WAP, both advocacy groups for women. Mrs. White-Harrigan is the Director of Drew House, an Alternative to Incarceration program under the auspices of Housing + Solutions. Presently, Mrs. White-Harrigan is on the Board of Directors for The Redemption Center, which provides housing for men and women. She is involved with various organizations such as: College and Community Fellowship, College Initiative, CSS, WPA, Correctional Association etc. Sharon is also a motivational speaker on prison reform. Since her release in November 2004, Sharon has been on the radio numerous times, featured in the New York Times, Amsterdam News, and the Village Voice, and was consultant to the Judge Hatchett Show. She also participated in four documentaries. Currently, Mrs. White-Harrigan has an associate's degree in Liberal Arts, Bachelor of Arts (concentrated in Social Work and Criminal Justice) as a Thomas W. Smith Fellow, and made the National Dean's List for 2006-2007. She is also a published poet with a book, *From Me 2 You*, that is available on [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). She is now in her second year of graduate studies in Lehman's Department of Social Work pursuing her M.S.W.

**Laura Whitehorn** served 14 years in federal prison and was released in 1999. Until 2012 she was an editor at a magazine for people living with HIV/AIDS. She currently works with Release Aging People in Prison Project (RAPP).

**Andrea B. Williams** is a seasoned public interest lawyer and public policy advocate with substantial experience in non-profit program development and management, leadership development, stakeholder and constituency building, advocacy campaign strategizing, strategic planning, and grant proposal/report writing. She is the Program Director for ReConnect, a leadership training program for formerly incarcerated women that is part of the Women in Prison Project at the Correctional Association of New York where she manages all aspects of the program including curriculum development, training, recruitment, and community outreach. Prior to joining the Correctional Association of New York, she was the Public Policy Coordinator at the HIV Law Project where she managed the advocacy training program for women living with HIV and AIDS. Andrea is a lawyer who has worked as a staff attorney at NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (now Legal Momentum) and Bergen County Legal Services in New Jersey. She has worked as a consultant for the Teachers Union Reform Network, the Legal Action Center's Women's Initiative to Stop HIV/AIDS (WISH), the New York AIDS Coalition, the ECQ Group and Community Impact Consulting (now Strategies for Social Change) and taught as an adjunct at the Columbia University School of Social Work and William Paterson University. She has a J.D. from the Rutgers School of Law in Newark, New Jersey.

## ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

**The Theater for Social Change (TSC) Ensemble** uses theater to raise awareness about the importance of increased access to education and the broader issues of reentry and criminal justice reform. When they perform in correctional facilities, the goal is to empower the audience through the stories of the TSC members, who have successfully attained higher education. They also use these performances to transcend personal and social obstacles connected to their status as formerly incarcerated women. Each TSC member is a fellow or alumnae of CCF. Some TSC members are currently students, and/or have full-time jobs and careers in addition to their work with TSC. They compose original performances based on their own life stories and experiences with the criminal justice system and reentry. They meet frequently to write and rehearse. In recent years they have been performing at a variety of venues including correctional facilities, churches, academic conferences, and reentry events. In the 2011/12 season, they performed for audiences at the women's jail on Rikers Island, The Imagining America Conference held at The New School for Social Research, the Women in Reentry Conference held at Riverside Church, Fortune Society's Castle Gardens, and The Interchurch Center. TSC is available to perform at community venues for the purposes of entertainment and enhancing awareness about social issues. There is typically a nominal fee that covers stipends for the performers and travel. If you would like to invite TSC to perform at your event, please visit <http://www.collegeandcommunity.org/artistic-expression.html> or call 646-380-7777 and ask for Maria.

## ABOUT THE HOSTS

**Women On the Rise Telling HerStory (WORTH)** is an advocacy/consultant group comprised of currently and formerly incarcerated women, who have the expertise and understanding to engage, navigate and challenge policy and perceptions concerning incarcerated women. As a well-organized and sustainable group, WORTH is a visible and powerful voice for Women of this population in public conversations and policy debates. WORTH members are confident and effective communicators. We are sought after as experts who speak on issues of critical importance to incarcerated women and their families. For more information on WORTH's programs, please visit [womenontherise-worth.org](http://womenontherise-worth.org).

**The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM)** advances the health of people in cities. An independent organization since 1847, NYAM addresses the health challenges facing the world's urban populations through interdisciplinary approaches to policy leadership, innovative research, evaluation, education, and community engagement. Drawing on the expertise of diverse partners worldwide and more than 2,000 elected Fellows from across the professions, our current priorities are to create environments in cities that support healthy aging; to strengthen systems that prevent disease and promote the public's health; and to eliminate health disparities. For more information on NYAM, please visit [nyam.org](http://nyam.org).



## CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Lynn Paltrow  
Tracy Pugh  
Tina Reynolds  
Marsha Weissman  
Laura Whitehorn  
Andrea Williams

## A WORD OF THANKS

Many thanks to the sponsors, hosts, partners and planners of this event. But most of all, thank you all for attending this conference. Great conferences aren't created by staff or planning committees—they're created by the active participation of the people who attend. This was a great conference because you were here!

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