

re **form**

# International Drug Policy Reform Conference Program & Agenda

Hosted by the Drug Policy Alliance  
November 6–9, 2019  
Union Station Hotel, St. Louis

[reformconference.org](http://reformconference.org)  
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#Reform19  
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We are  
the Drug  
Policy  
Alliance.

## Co-Hosts



INNOCENCE  
PROJECT

idpc  
International Drug Policy Consortium



OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS



ssdp

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# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

of advancing drug policy reform in a dynamic and responsible manner

2010

Played a key role in drafting and campaigning for Colorado's adult-use legalization law

Laid groundwork for the nation's first state-regulated medical cannabis market

2012

Helped Uruguay's government develop the world's first national legalization law

2013

Contributed to drafting and passage of Massachusetts' adult-use legalization law

**Vicente Sederberg LLP** is rooted in the movement to end cannabis prohibition.

That's why we do more than just help marijuana and hemp businesses navigate laws and regulations - we help shape those policies to create an industry we can all be proud of.

**There's more work to be done.  
Let's do it together.**

2014

Played a key role in drafting and passing the Denver initiative to permit social cannabis consumption

2016

2019

Drafted language for groundbreaking Denver psilocybin initiative

# Welcome



Greetings!

Welcome to St. Louis and the 2019 International Drug Policy Reform Conference!

Over the next few days, you'll have a chance to interact with people from many different countries, regions, backgrounds, disciplines and fields of work. We may not all share the same views, but we are united by our conviction that we need to transform the way our society handles drugs and drug use. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn from each other and to build a new approach to drugs together – one that moves away from stigma and punishment, while reducing the harms of both drug use and drug prohibition.

It's particularly meaningful that we're meeting in St. Louis this year, which marks the fifth anniversary of the killing of Michael Brown in neighboring Ferguson. The large-scale protests that followed his killing shone a bright light on the high numbers of police killings of Black people in the United States, helping open up a critically important conversation – one that is closely connected to the war on drugs, which has too often served as an excuse for the over-policing of Black and Brown communities.

Our agenda over the next few days will allow us to explore these and many other issues in great depth, at a local, national and international level. We have panels discussing the many harms of prohibition, including harsh enforcement in countries like the Philippines, Brazil and the United States; punitive drug war tactics as a response to the rise of fentanyl; and the weaponization of the overdose crisis to demonize immigrants and people of color. At the same time, we'll have many opportunities to discuss the systems we want to build in prohibition's place, with panels on decriminalizing possession of all drugs for personal use, marijuana regulation in the U.S. and abroad, and health-centered approaches to drug use that have proven effective.

Beyond the panels, there are so many other inspiring and instructive activities – from a screening of Fab 5 Freddy's *Grass is Greener* (featuring DPA's own Cassandra Frederique), to more than two dozen community sessions, and an awards reception where we'll honor trailblazing leaders in drug policy reform.

We've come an incredibly long way in the last twenty years, with marijuana regulation now a mainstream issue, and increased attention and openness to harm reduction and the need for criminal justice reform. But our work is far from done.

More than 660,000 people were arrested in the United States for marijuana last year, and nearly 1.5 million people arrested for drug possession, with Black and Brown people disproportionately targeted. In Mexico, the Philippines, Afghanistan and beyond, people are getting killed by the thousands due to the drug war. Elsewhere, people arrested for drug offenses are sentenced to the death penalty. Policymakers in the U.S. stigmatize immigrants and others as drug dealers, to justify deporting or punishing them. And tens of thousands are dying every year from accidental overdose in the U.S., largely due to the poisoned illegal drug supply, with little access to treatment or harm reduction services.

The only way to end these harms is by working together to build a world in which drug policies are grounded in science, compassion, health and human rights.

Thank you for joining us this week and for being our partner in this struggle.

Sincerely yours,

  
Maria McFarland Sánchez-Moreno  
Executive Director

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212.613.8020 voice | 212.613.8022 fax | [www.drugpolicy.org](http://www.drugpolicy.org)

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# General Information



## Getting Around

### St. Louis Union Station Hotel

A map of the St. Louis Union Station Hotel is on page 49 of this program book as well as on the conference app. This will show all meeting room locations. Here's a quick reference:

**Conference Registration:** Midway West

**Plenary Sessions:** Grand Ballroom

**Breakouts:** Regency A, Regency B, Regency C,  
Midway 5, Midway 6

**Achievement Awards Ceremony & Reception:** Pegram  
(located directly off Midway West)

The St. Louis Union Station Hotel is a smoke free hotel. Please smoke outside the hotel in areas that are clearly designated.

Water is provided in all meeting rooms and public spaces.

## At the Conference

### Registration/Information

Our registration staff will be on-site to answer any questions you may have throughout the conference.

The registration desk is located in Midway West.

Registration desk hours are:

Wednesday, November 6	12:00pm – 8:00pm
Thursday, November 7	8:30am – 5:00pm
Friday, November 8	8:30am – 4:30pm
Saturday, November 9	9:00am – 12:00pm

### Exhibitors

Please visit our exhibitors, which are located in Midway West, just beyond the registration area. See page 48 for our full list of exhibitors.

Wednesday, November 6	Set up from 12pm – 4pm
Thursday, November 7	9:00am – 4:30pm
Friday, November 8	8:30am – 4:00pm
Saturday, November 9	9:30am – 3:00pm

### Bookstore

Please visit our Bookstore, located in Midway West just beyond the registration area, for a wide array of publications focused on drug policy reform.

Bookstore hours are:

Wednesday, November 6	12:00pm – 8:00pm
Thursday, November 7	8:30am – 5:00pm
Friday, November 8	8:30am – 4:30pm
Saturday, November 9	9:30am – 12:00pm

Bookstore is run and managed by Left Bank Books.

### Mobile App

Want to organize your schedule, receive updates and reminders, or find a place to eat nearby? Then download the 2019 International Drug Policy Reform Conference app! You should have already received an email inviting you to register and enjoy the full functionality of the app, but if you didn't get to it just yet, here are the directions\*:

1. Search for **Reform19** on your device's app store, scan the QR code seen above, or visit <https://crowd.cc/s/3uExu>.
2. Download and open the app.
3. Open the event: 2019 International Drug Policy Reform Conference. Click open to load the event information. Once the event is loaded, it will give you an option to log in.
4. Click Log in and enter your first and last name. A verification code will be emailed to the address you used to register.
5. Enter the 6 digit verification code you receive. Once you enter the code, you will be successfully logged in.

*\* If you're using a Blackberry or Windows phone, you'll need to use the web version of the app found here: <https://crowd.cc/reform19>. Follow steps 4 and 5.*

### Thisten

We will use Thisten, a text transcription app, at our three plenary sessions to make our talks more accessible to attendees who require or prefer live captioning. If you require live captioning, or simply want a transcript of the plenary sessions to reference after the conference, download Thisten in your device's app store. Once downloaded, search for Reform 2019 to access transcripts of the plenaries.

### Nametags

Please wear your nametag at all times when entering conference sessions. This is proof that you have paid registration and are eligible to attend the sessions. There is a \$3 charge to reprint lost badges. (However, remember to take your badge off when you leave the hotel.)

### Room Hosts

All of the breakout sessions will have room hosts to assist the speakers, hand out evaluations, and help with any issues that may arise. Please note that to comply with fire code, the room hosts have been instructed to close the door once all seats are taken. We request that you please respect room host requests if you are asked to select another session. Also, if your room is full, please be sure to place your personal items on the floor and not on the chair next to you.

### Evaluations

Please complete the individual breakout session evaluations and the general conference evaluation in your conference app. These evaluations are anonymous. Your valuable feedback will be helpful to the presenters and in our future planning.

### Receipts

If you need a receipt for your registration, you can easily print a receipt for yourself by going to the online registration site, entering your email address, and following the directions.

### **Lost and Found**

Any items found during the conference will be taken to the registration desk or hotel security.

### **Cell Phones and Electronics**

When entering session rooms, please silence your cell phones and electronics.

### **Charging Stations**

Two charging units will be located in Midway for your use.

## Conference Policies and Services

### **Emergencies**

If you or another conference attendee experiences a life-threatening medical emergency, including drug overdose, please call 911 from your cell first and then alert hotel staff by calling 314-802-3455 or by finding the nearest staff member, as they will be able to help direct EMS. If you know or suspect this is an opioid-involved overdose, please visit the “Live4Lali” exhibit booth located in Midway, as they will have naloxone on hand. For non-life-threatening medical emergencies, please first alert the hotel to facilitate an emergency response.

#### *Closest Hospital:*

Barnes Jewish Hospital  
1 Barnes Jewish Hospital Plaza  
St. Louis, MO 63110

#### *Closest Pharmacy:*

CVS Pharmacy  
909 Chestnut Street  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
(314) 588-0356  
Mon-Fri: 9:00am – 5:30pm  
Sat-Sun: Closed

### **Substance Use**

We recognize that everyone at the conference is working to change drug-related policies and may oppose many of the laws currently in place. However, please remember that while this conference is a forum for discussion about the widest possible range of reform efforts, when it comes to your substance use choices, the event still takes place within the context of the current legal system. Please also keep in mind that the Reform Conference draws attendees with all manner of different personal relationships to drug use, including people in various types of recovery. Attendees also have varied experiences with and relationships to the criminal justice system. Please be mindful of others’ comfort and safety as you participate in the conference.

### **Harm Reduction and Recovery Services for Attendees**

The Reform Conference provides information and services to support the health and safety of conference attendees – those who use drugs and those who do not. Please refer to our harm reduction booklet or the app for more information.

### **Code of Conduct**

We are committed to providing a conference experience where everyone is treated with respect, free from discrimination or harassment based on gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disabilities, physical appearance, ethnicity, nationality, race, age, religion, or other protected category. Discrimination or harassment of conference participants, including exhibitors, will not be tolerated in any form. Conference participants violating this rule may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference without a refund at the discretion of the conference organizers. If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of conference staff immediately.

### **All Gender Restrooms**

In our continued effort to make the Reform Conference as inclusive as possible for those individuals who do not identify as cisgender, several of the restrooms within the conference space have been labeled as “All Gender Restrooms”. These restrooms can be used by all attendees, regardless of their gender identity or expression.

### **Child Care**

Professional on-site child care will be offered free of charge in the “Jeffersonian/Knickerbocker” room located on the 2nd level of the convention space. Child care services are provided by TLC and will be provided on the following days and times:

Thursday, November 7: 8:30am – 6:00pm

Friday, November 8: 8:30am – 6:00pm

Saturday, November 9: 9:00am – 5:00pm

### **Lactation Room**

The Zephyr Rocket Room (located on the 2nd floor of the convention space) is available for any attendees who would like a private space to breastfeed or pump. However, you are free to breastfeed wherever you choose on the hotel premises.

### **Fragrance-Free Policy**

To be respectful of those with allergies and environmental sensitivities, we ask that you please refrain from wearing strong fragrances.

### **Relaxation Lounge**

Feel free to head over to Pegram (off of Midway West) to take a load off, check your e-mail or just chill out for a moment!

### **Host Committee**

We are thrilled to have worked with three extraordinary St. Louis based individuals/organizations to not only strategically engage the community in and around St. Louis with the Reform Conference, but to also further the impact of our work at a local and regional level.

Big thanks to Stephanie Regagnon with Ava’s Grace Scholarship Program, T-Dubb-O with HandsUp United and Chad Sabora with the Missouri Network for Opiate Reform & Recovery for serving on our official 2019 Reform Conference Host Committee.

## Special Events



### St. Louis Day Tour

Join this comprehensive 3 hour tour of St. Louis, taking in the cultural landscape and exploring areas old and new. Locations visited will include Ferguson, the North City, West City, Delmar divide and the Old Court House, where the pivotal Dred Scott case took place.

November 7th and 8th: 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Ground transportation will be provided for this tour. If you are registered for a tour, please meet at the 20th Street entrance for departures.



### Self-Guided Tours of the Old Courthouse

Get outside the conference hotel for some fresh air and take a complimentary, self-guided tour of a St. Louis landmark. Located at 11 N. Fourth Street (just a quick 15 minute walk from the Union Station Hotel), the Old Courthouse is the site of the first two trials of the pivotal Dred Scott case and is also where Virginia Minor fought for a woman's right to vote. The Old Courthouse houses four exhibit galleries providing a rich history of early St. Louis.

Open daily from 8:00am – 5:00pm



### Discounted Admission to the National Blues Museum

Whether it's jazz or folk, country or pop, rock or rap, the Blues has exerted a deep, profound influence that resonates to this day. With distinct roots in centuries-old African-American culture, the Blues has always been about those feelings the word itself conjures up: feelings of sadness and solitude, and of being impacted by forces outside of one's control.

We have partnered with the National Blues Museum to provide all attendees of the Reform Conference access to the museum and tickets to see a concert for the reduced fee of \$10 per person. This discount will be valid over the dates of November 6–10 and individuals will need to identify themselves as part of the "Drug Policy Alliance" group at the museum entrance to obtain the discount.

The museum is located a mile from the Union Station Hotel at 615 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63101.

The museum also offers free music every Thursday from 6:00pm – 9:00pm, Friday from 7:00pm – 10:00pm and Sunday from 4:00pm – 7:00pm.



### Achievement Awards Reception

Come out and celebrate the work of our 2019 Achievement Award honorees at a special reception on Thursday, November 7th from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the Pegram Room (located directly off Midway West). There will be food provided, and a cash bar. No separate registration necessary but space is limited. **First come, first serve!**



### Hands Up United & DPA present Friday Freedom Flix

Join us in the Grand Ballroom on Friday, November 8th, from 7:00pm – 9:00pm as we host a special screening of the Netflix documentary, *Grass is Greener*. This will be followed by a discussion and Q&A featuring T-Dubb-O and Fab 5 Freddy.

*Grass is Greener* follows hip hop legend Fab Five Freddy as he uncovers the history of illegal cannabis in the United States. He interviews many other popular artists, like Snoop Dogg and B-Real from Cypress Hill, as well as attorneys, influencers, and people harmed by the drug war. The timeline starts in the 1920s jazz era where Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Billie Holiday were all targets under racist policies, and moves into the modern era where cannabis is a booming industry with an uncertain future.



### Official Reform Conference Party!

Latin America and the United States join together once again to celebrate advances in drug policy reform with an unforgettable party! Acción Técnica Social (Colombia), Instituto RIA (Mexico), and DPA are hosting the official party for the 2019 Reform Conference, including international and local DJs and all your favorite reformers tearing up the dance floor! Organizations that promote harm reduction in nightlife will be showcasing their work and providing information on risk and harm reduction. The party will take place at Europe Night Club at 710 N 15th St, St. Louis, MO 63103. Doors open at 10pm on Saturday, November 9. Cover charge is \$5 for 21+, \$10 for 18+, and prices go up after midnight, so get there early. Check your conference bag for more details and come by for a fun night of dancing!

## Schedule At-a-Glance

# Wednesday November 6

12:00 – 8:00pm	<b>Registration</b>	Midway
6:30 – 8:30pm	<b>Welcome Reception</b>	Midway

# Thursday November 7

8:30 – 9:30am	<b>Continental Breakfast &amp; Registration</b>	Midway
9:30 – 11:00am	<b>Welcome and Opening Plenary</b>	Grand Ballroom
11:00 – 11:30am	<b>Morning Break</b>	
11:30 – 1:00pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Advocacy for Researchers and Academics</li> <li>• Does Harm Reduction-Based Drug Education Work for Teens? Evaluation Results from DPA's Safety First Curriculum</li> <li>• Marijuana Legalization and Public Health: What Have We Learned So Far?</li> <li>• Expanding the Reach: Harm Reduction Services on the US/Mexico Border and in Migrant Communities</li> <li>• War on Women/War on Drugs: Power, Bodies and Autonomy?</li> </ul>	<p>Regency A</p> <p>Regency B</p> <p>Regency C</p> <p>Midway 5</p> <p>Midway 6</p>
1:00 – 2:30pm	<b>Lunch (On your own – refer to lunch options insert in your tote bag)</b>	
2:30 – 4:00pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing the Workhouse: A Movement to Close St. Louis' Infamous Jail Gains Momentum</li> <li>• From Tough Love to Reducing Harm: What Role Can Family Advocacy Play in Ending the Drug War?</li> <li>• Frontline Enforcers of the Drug War: Can We Count on Police To Do Anything But Damage?</li> <li>• Sex Workers Who Use Drugs: Living At the Nexus of Two Wars</li> <li>• Taking Drug Policy Reform Local: A Municipal Drug Strategy Approach</li> </ul>	<p>Regency A</p> <p>Regency B</p> <p>Regency C</p> <p>Midway 5</p> <p>Midway 6</p>
4:00 – 4:30pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	
4:30 – 6:00pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health and Medicalization: Promise or Peril?</li> <li>• Growing the Drugs We Use: Sustainability and Inclusion in the Cultivation of Crops for Psychoactive Purposes</li> <li>• Criminal Justice Reform 2.0</li> <li>• Supervised Consumption Sites As Drug User Liberation</li> <li>• Drug War <i>Déjà Vu</i>: Pushing Back Against Harsh Penalties for Fentanyl</li> </ul>	<p>Regency A</p> <p>Regency B</p> <p>Regency C</p> <p>Midway 5</p> <p>Midway 6</p>
6:30 – 8:00pm	<b>Achievement Awards Reception</b>	Pegram



## Schedule At-a-Glance

# Friday November 8

8:30 – 9:30am	<b>Continental Breakfast &amp; Registration</b>	Midway
9:30 – 11:00am	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Commitment and Forced Treatment: The “Compassionate” Evolution of the Drug War</li> <li>• Mutual Aid Among Queer and Trans People Who Use Drugs: Creating a Framework for Liberation</li> <li>• Can Prosecutors End the Drug War?</li> <li>• Drug Courts: How Do They Relate to Decriminalization and Health-Centered Drug Policy?</li> <li>• Beyond Marijuana Legalization: The Legalization Conundrum and the War on Immigrants</li> </ul>	Regency A Regency B Regency C Midway 5 Midway 6
11:00 – 11:30am	<b>Morning Break</b>	
11:30 – 1:00pm	<b>Feature Plenary</b> Learning from the Local Landscape: Reality, Reform & Regeneration in St. Louis	Grand Ballroom
1:00 – 2:30pm	<b>Lunch (On your own – refer to lunch options insert in your tote bag)</b>	
2:30 – 4:00pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missouri’s Approach to the Overdose Crisis: Medication First as a Parallel to Housing First</li> <li>• Drugs and Consent: How Sexual Assault Prevention and Harm Reduction Advocacy Come Together in Nightlife Work</li> <li>• What Are the New Politics of Marijuana in Congress?</li> <li>• Better Have My Money: Fundraising Best Practices from the Field</li> <li>• Getting Real About Structural Issues: How Can We Best Address Social Determinants?</li> </ul>	Regency A Regency B Regency C Midway 5 Midway 6
4:00 – 4:30pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	
4:30 – 6:00pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A St. Louis Story: The Drug War, Racism and Police Violence</li> <li>• Is Housing the Answer to the Overdose Crisis?</li> <li>• Last Day Podcast: Live Taping and Town Hall</li> <li>• What’s Next for Psychedelic Policy?</li> <li>• The Overdose Crisis in Our Backyards: Can We Stop Calling It a White Overdose Crisis?</li> </ul>	Regency A Regency B Regency C Midway 5 Midway 6
7:00 – 9:00pm	<b>Film Screening:</b> Hands Up United & DPA present <i>Grass is Greener</i>	Grand Ballroom



# Saturday November 9

9:00 – 10:00am	<b>Breakfast &amp; Registration</b>	Midway
10:00 – 11:30am	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	• What Are the Challenges and Opportunities for Rural and Small Town Harm Reduction?	Regency A
	• Self Care for Activists	Regency B
	• Repairing the Harms of Marijuana Prohibition	Regency C
	• Decriminalization Done Right: Working Toward a Model Policy for Drug Use and Possession	Midway 5
	• The Moral Hazards of Drug Policy Research: How Do We Overcome Systemic Bias?	Midway 6
11:30 – 12:00pm	<b>Morning Break</b>	
12:00 – 1:30pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	• Harm Reduction: The Start of the Continuum of Care	Regency A
	• Safety First Curriculum Training: A Hands-On Tour of DPA's New Drug Education Program for High School Educators	Regency B
	• Legalize ALL Drugs?! Exploring Options for Legal Regulation in a Post-Prohibition World	Regency C
	• Are Tobacco and Vaping the Next Frontier of Drug Prohibition?	Midway 5
	• Lobbying 101	Midway 6
1:30 – 3:00pm	<b>Lunch (On your own – refer to lunch options insert in your tote bag)</b>	
3:00 – 4:30pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	• Missouri's New Medical Marijuana Law	Regency A
	• The Power to Heal: Psychedelics and Healing Justice	Regency B
	• Having Faith in Harm Reduction	Regency C
	• Activating People Who Sell Drugs as Harm Reductionists	Midway 5
	• The Fourth Wave: What's Next for Stimulant Harm Reduction Policy?	Midway 6
4:30 – 5:00pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	
5:00 – 6:00pm	<b>Closing Plenary</b>	Grand Ballroom

# Conference Agenda



## Continental Breakfast & Registration

8:30am – 9:30am | Midway



## Welcome & Opening Plenary

9:30am – 11:00am | Grand Ballroom



## Morning Break

11:00am – 11:30am



## Breakout Sessions

11:30am – 1:00pm

### Policy Advocacy for Researchers and Academics

Regency A

As researchers and academics, we want our work to have real-world impact but often lack the skills and training to do so effectively. This training will provide an overview of how drug policy actually gets made, the role of scholarship in advancing drug policy, and how scholars can engage effectively in reforming drug policies. This training will share a wide range of practical advice on how to maximize the potential policy impact of your work.

#### Trainer:

Jules Netherland, Managing Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

### Does Harm Reduction-Based Drug Education Work for Teens? Evaluation Results from DPA's Safety First Curriculum

Regency B

DPA's Safety First curriculum – a rigorous attempt to create an evidence-based, harm reduction-based drug education program for high school students – has now been piloted and evaluated in New York City and San Francisco schools, with promising results. Learn more about this first-of-its-kind curriculum from a teacher, administrator and evaluator who have helped implement Safety First in the classroom.

# Thursday November 7

#### Moderator:

Sasha Simon, Safety First Program Manager, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Nina Rose Fischer, Safety First Principal Investigator, John Jay School of Criminal Justice, New York, NY
- Cheryl Nelson, Health Teacher on Special Assignment, School Health Programs, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco, CA
- Marsha Rosenbaum, Director Emerita and Safety First Founder, Drug Policy Alliance, San Francisco, CA
- Joseph Rubin, Health Teacher, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco, CA

### Marijuana Legalization and Public Health: What Have We Learned So Far?

Regency C

As jurisdictions around the world move to legally regulate marijuana, questions about the public health impacts remain. Panelists from the U.S., Canada and Uruguay will come together to share lessons learned and areas for future research. Which policy proposals are best suited to maximize benefits while minimizing public health harms?

#### Moderator:

Melissa Moore, Deputy State Director, New York, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Rebecca Haines-Saah, Assistant Professor, University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada
- Silvia Martins, Associate Professor, Columbia University, New York, NY
- David Nathan, Founder and Board President, Doctors for Cannabis Regulation, Princeton, NJ
- Sheila Vakharia, Deputy Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

### Expanding the Reach: Harm Reduction Services on the US/Mexico Border and in Migrant Communities

Midway 5

Despite the current administration's attempts to weaponize the overdose crisis to stigmatize immigrants and other vulnerable groups, vast swaths of the public – in the U.S. and in countries around the globe – support ending the drug war policies that gave rise to this crisis.

*Continued on next page*

Yet health and harm reduction services that reduce the harms of drug use remain stubbornly inaccessible in many areas like the US/Mexico border. What is happening on the US/Mexico border? How do we build bridges where others want to build walls? This panel brings together those fighting “the other war on drugs” at the border region where migrants, refugees and those most marginalized converge.

*Moderator:*

Armando Gudiño, Policy Manager, Drug Policy Alliance, Los Angeles, CA

- Lourdes Angulo, Integración Social Verter A. C., Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico
- Stephany Campos, Executive Administrator, Homeless Health Care Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- Rebecca Cazares, Physician/Clinic Coordinator, Prevensa A.C., Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico
- Lilia Pacheco, Mtra. L.N., Prevensa AC, Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico
- Said Slim, Physical Anthropologist, Integración Social Verter A. C., Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico

### War on Women/War on Drugs: Power, Bodies and Autonomy?

Midway 6

Is there anything about the drug war more insidious than its traumatic role in the lives of women? From childbirth to simply walking in the street, the drug war is a constant threat to women who use drugs – and even those who don't. Despite the pervasive ways in which the drug war harms women, conversation around this intersectional issue has often been deemed as too “niche” for both drug policy spaces and within the women's rights movement. In a time of increased killings of Black trans women, women being assaulted in social service offices, and women facing the death penalty or mandatory minimums for using drugs while pregnant, we have to ask: What are the reforms our movement needs to prioritize? How can we elevate awareness that the war on drugs is a continuation of the war on women? What other movements do we need to invite to the table?

*Moderator:*

Dr. Kim Sue, Medical Director, Harm Reduction Coalition, Brooklyn, NY

- Kate D'Adamo, Partner, Reframe Health and Justice, Baltimore, MD
- Justine Moore, Director of Training, National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, Brooklyn, NY
- Lynn Paltrow, Executive Director/Founder, National Advocates for Pregnant Women, New York, NY
- Tamika Spellman, Advocacy Associate, HIPS, Washington, D.C.
- Andrea Ritchie, Author and Researcher-in-Residence, Barnard Center for Research on Women, New York, NY
- Jess Tilley, Executive Director, New England Users Union/HRH413, Florence, MA



### Lunch (on your own)

1:00pm – 2:30pm



### Breakout Sessions

2:30pm – 4:00pm

### Closing the Workhouse: A Movement to Close St. Louis' Infamous Jail Gains Momentum

Regency A

For years the hellish conditions at St. Louis City's medium security facility, known as “The Workhouse”, have been known to city residents, public officials and the media. Local activist organizations have been calling for its closure for years. But a new grassroots campaign called Close the Workhouse is seeing real momentum. What has changed? What tactics have worked to influence and pressure local officials? Led by directly impacted people and more than two dozen local, regional and national partners, this campaign has gained political support and captured the public's imagination. Learn more about the players, the process, and the politics of closing the Workhouse.

*Moderator:*

Stephanie Regagnon, Founder, Ava's Grace Scholarship, St. Louis, MO

- Inez Bordeaux, Manager of Community Collaborations, Arch City Defenders, St. Louis, MO
- Jae Shepherd, Close the Workhouse Organizer, Action St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- Hattie Svoboda-Stel, Bail Disruptor, The Bail Project, St. Louis, MO

## Conference Agenda

# Thursday November 7

### **From Tough Love to Reducing Harm: What Role Can Family Advocacy Play in Ending the Drug War?**

Regency B

The drug war's impact on families is especially pernicious. "Tough love" narratives confuse love with enabling, mass criminalization prides children from parents, and predatory marketing from bad actors in the treatment industry preys on scared parents. Historically, family advocacy groups have helped fuel draconian drug war policies. Yet family advocates can also be a force for equity and transformative justice. What does powerful family organizing look like? What can harm reduction look like within families? What does it look like in policy spaces for families' voices to be heard, while also ensuring that the voices of people who use drugs are centered?

*Moderator:*

Alexis Pleus, Executive Director, Truth Pharm, Binghamton, NY

- Dinah Adames, Family Defense Supervisor, Bronx Defenders, Bronx, NY
- Sera Davidow, Director, Western Mass RLC, Holyoke, MA
- Joy Fishman, Board Member, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY
- Lugard Okello, Campaign Manager, Anyone's Child Kenya, Mesa, AZ

### **Frontline Enforcers of the Drug War: Can We Count on Police To Do Anything But Damage?**

Regency C

Police work on the front lines of the drug war, carrying out stops, searches and arrests, often committing acts of violence and brutality in the process. Across the world, a rise in right-wing populism has given police a mandate to expand drug war tactics, including surges in violence perpetrated on people who use or sell drugs and their communities. How do activists in Brazil, Colombia, the Philippines and the U.S. fight for their rights in this context? Can we imagine police being helpful, rather than harmful? What would an alternative vision of policing look like?

*Moderator:*

Kassandra Frederique, Managing Director, Policy Advocacy and Campaigns, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Thiago Amparo, Research Coordinator, Iniciativa Negra, São Paulo, Brazil
- Daniel Gomez, Researcher, Ilex, Colombia

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- Kristine Mendoza, Lawyer, Streetlaw PH, Quezon City, Philippines
- Andrea Ritchie, Author and Researcher-in-Residence, Barnard Center for Research on Women, New York, NY

### **Sex Workers Who Use Drugs: Living At the Nexus of Two Wars**

Midway 5

Sex workers who use drugs live at the nexus of two wars – the war on drugs and the war on trafficking. Although both wars claim to promote public health and safety, in reality forcing both economies underground has increased and compounded potential harms. Panelists will discuss the unique challenges faced by sex workers who use drugs, particularly the most marginalized, whose drug use and involvement in the sex trade expose them to violence, surveillance and policing. The panel discussion will focus on the ways in which the drug policy reform movement can expand its advocacy agenda to consider the ways in which existing drug policies uniquely impact sex workers who use drugs.

*Moderator:*

Sheila Vakharia, Deputy Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Bella Bathory, Director, SWOPLA, Northridge, CA
- Justice Rivera, Partner, Reframe Health and Justice, Seattle, WA
- Susan Sherman, Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD
- Tamika Spellman, Advocacy Associate, HIPS, Washington, D.C.

### **Taking Drug Policy Reform Local: A Municipal Drug Strategy Approach**

Midway 6

Staggering under the weight of half a century of failed federal and state drug policies, cities are joining together to find humane ways to resist criminalization. Cities are successfully demonstrating that when solutions and interventions are designed at the local level, they reflect the unique character of a community and its people – and thus the impact of such interventions are more effective and felt more immediately. Is local government best positioned to craft and lead on meaningful drug policy reforms? What can we learn from municipalities in Europe, Canada and the U.S.

*Continued on next page*

that have successfully engaged in a municipal drug strategy approach?

*Moderator:*

Emily Kaltenbach, State Director, New Mexico, Drug Policy Alliance, Santa Fe, NM

- Katharine Celentano, Policy Coordinator, Drug Policy Alliance, Ithaca, NY
- Tarsi Dunlop, Policy and Program Manager, Local Progress, Arlington, VA
- Andres Mercado, Battalion Chief, City of Santa Fe Fire Department, Santa Fe, NM
- Chris Van Veen, Director, Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



## Afternoon Break

4:00pm – 4:30pm



## Breakout Sessions

4:30pm – 6:00pm

### Public Health and Medicalization: Promise or Peril?

Regency A

Public health and medicine are often portrayed as benign alternatives to criminalization, but they are not without their own problems. In what ways can medicine and public health be used to coerce or control people who use drugs? What is gained and lost when drugs, such as psychedelics, or treatments for addiction are exclusively controlled by medical professionals? This panel will outline both the advantages and disadvantages of framing drug use as a public health and medical issue, while exploring alternatives that rely on neither criminalization nor medicalization.

*Moderator:*

Jules Netherland, Managing Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Ricky Bluthenthal, Professor and Associate Dean for Social Justice, Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA
- Kate D'Adamo, Partner, Reframe Health and Justice, Baltimore, MD
- David Showalter, Doctoral Candidate in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, CA
- Rebecca Tiger, Associate Professor of Sociology, Middlebury College, Weybridge, VT
- Ingrid Walker, Associate Professor of US Studies, University of Washington, Tacoma, WA

### Growing the Drugs We Use: Sustainability and Inclusion in the Cultivation of Crops for Psychoactive Purposes

Regency B

People have been cultivating crops for psychoactive purposes for millennia for traditional, cultural, religious, recreational and economic reasons. People who cultivate these crops outside of legal, recognized markets have faced criminalization, forced eradication, cultural intolerance, loss of livelihoods, and destruction of the environment, as governments have engaged in costly efforts to eradicate the drug supply. What have eradication policies meant for people who cultivate crops for psychoactive purposes? With the legalization of certain drugs, what are the implications for people who have cultivated outside the legal system? How can new legalized systems be inclusive of people who cultivated before legalization? How can cultivation be done in an environmentally sustainable way? What does the future look like for people who cultivate plants for psychoactive purposes?

*Moderator:*

Zara Snapp, Co-Founder, Instituto RIA, Mexico City, Mexico

- Martin Jelsma, Director, Drugs & Democracy Programme, Transnational Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Hai Thanh Luong, Criminology Researcher, RMIT University, Australia
- David Restrepo, Research Director, Center for the Study of Drugs and Security, University of the Andes, Colombia
- San Wai, Programme Coordinator, Metta Development Foundation, Yangon, Myanmar
- Greekson Zweni, Chairperson and Speaker, Umzimvubu Farmers Support Network (UFSN), Lusikisiki, South Africa

### Criminal Justice Reform 2.0

Regency C

What's next for criminal justice reform? What innovative approaches to reform are out there that merit more discussion? This panel will take an expansive look at criminal justice reform, examining issues such as e-incarceration and surveillance, confidential informants, and prison abolition.

*Moderator:*

Neill Franklin, Executive Director, Law Enforcement Action Partnership, Medford, MA

*Continued on next page*

## Conference Agenda

# Thursday November 7

- Rebecca Brown, Director of Policy, Innocence Project, New York, NY
- Kara Gotsch, Director of Strategic Initiatives, The Sentencing Project, Washington, D.C.
- Justine Moore, Director of Training, National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, Brooklyn, NY
- Evonne Silva, Senior Program Director, Criminal Justice, Code for America, San Francisco, CA

### Supervised Consumption Sites As Drug User Liberation

Midway 5

Supervised consumption sites (SCS) are more than just sterile, clinical places for people to use drugs under medical supervision. They are spaces for people who use drugs to connect, to organize, and to create their own liberation from the war on drugs and other societal harms and stigmas. How have SCS been used around the world to support the rights and self-determination of people who use drugs? What is the potential for SCS in the U.S. to expand a liberatory framework for people who use drugs? What does drug user liberation look like in the U.S.?

*Moderator:*

Laura Thomas, Director, Harm Reduction Policy, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, San Francisco, CA

- Miss Ian Callaghan, Executive Director, San Francisco Drug Users Union, Oakland, CA
- Zoe Dodd, Toronto Overdose Prevention Society/South Riverdale Community Health Centre, Toronto, Canada
- Cassandra Frederique, Managing Director, Policy Advocacy and Campaigns, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY
- Aura Roig, Director, Metzineres (ICEERS), Barcelona, Spain
- Monique Tula, Executive Director, Harm Reduction Coalition, Oakland, CA

### Drug War Déjà Vu: Pushing Back Against Harsh Penalties for Fentanyl

Midway 6

Recent years have seen a sharp increase in overdose deaths related to fentanyl and its synthetic equivalents. The surge in fatalities has led lawmakers to dust off the drug war playbook. At a time when sentencing reform has such a high level of support from across the political spectrum, and there is supposedly a more compassionate approach to the “opioid epidemic”, at least 30 states have

increased sentences for fentanyl-related crimes, ranging from simple possession to trafficking and distribution. What explains this contradiction? Why is more not being done to push back against harsh fentanyl penalties? What should harm reductionists be doing?

*Moderator:*

Abraham Gutman, Opinion Writer, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Philadelphia, PA

- Faustino Fuentes, Harm Reduction Consultant, New York, NY
- Raichelle Johnson, Community Coordinator and Outreach Worker, B'more Power, Baltimore, MD
- Susan Sherman, Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD
- Grant Smith, Deputy Director, Office of National Affairs, Drug Policy Alliance, Washington, D.C.
- Benjamin Westhoff, Author, Grove Atlantic, St. Louis, MO



### Achievement Awards Reception

6:30pm – 8:00pm  
Pegram

# Conference Agenda

## Friday November 8



### Continental Breakfast & Registration

8:30am – 9:30am | Midway



### Breakout Sessions

9:30am – 11:00am

#### **Civil Commitment and Forced Treatment: The “Compassionate” Evolution of the Drug War**

Regency A

This panel will illustrate and strategize against a primary risk associated with a move away from criminalization: the expansion of coerced treatment. When the criminal justice system is removed as a tool to police the behaviors of marginalized people, other systems will step in – in many cases, the medical system. Panelists will touch on the history of deinstitutionalization, and in particular, the pendulum swing between forced care and incarceration. Experts will speak to current trends, including expansion of civil commitment, treatment courts, and the risks of coercion associated with force-friendly preparations of injectable medications, such as Vivitrol and injectable buprenorphine.

*Moderator:*

Dionna King, Policy Manager, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Erin Kerrison, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
- Bethany Medley, Assistant Research Scientist, NYU College of Global Public Health, New York, NY
- Julio Salazar Ramírez, Senior Lawyer, Mexico Unido Contra La Delincuencia, Mexico
- Robert Riley II, Co-Founder, Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery, Des Peres, MO

#### **Mutual Aid Among Queer and Trans People Who Use Drugs: Creating a Framework for Liberation**

Regency B

Many queer and trans people, people who use drugs, and those living at the intersection of both groups live in precarity and do not have a reliable social safety net when it comes to healthcare, housing and income. Both groups have practiced mutual aid as a way to meet individual and communal needs that have been neglected by the government. What could drug policy reform look like if we adopted mutual aid as a strategy to end the drug war? How

can we share knowledge and expertise and participate fully in decision-making and care in our communities? How can the drug policy reform movement better address the needs of queer and trans people who use drugs? How can we better connect the queer and trans liberation movements and the movement to end the drug war?

*Moderator:*

Aliza Cohen, Research Associate, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Rajani Gudlavalleti, Community Organizing Manager, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, Baltimore, MD
- Emily K. Hobson, Associate Professor, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV
- Rebecca Keel, Policy Director, Marijuana Justice Virginia, Richmond, VA
- Jawanza Williams, Director of Organizing, VOCAL-NY, Brooklyn, NY

#### **Can Prosecutors End the Drug War?**

Regency C

District attorneys' offices have long served as champions of mass incarceration, but there is a growing movement to elect progressive candidates. These electoral races are now serving as a litmus test for the success of our ideas and messaging for public safety and community justice. How does this trend impact our work to end the drug war? What should drug policy reformers demand from a progressive prosecutor? What are the third-rail issues for progressive prosecutors when it comes to drug policy? What safeguards should we put in place to make sure we are not just increasing their power? What does accountability look like for prosecutors when we help build their campaign platforms?

*Moderator:*

Kassandra Frederique, Managing Director, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- David Angel, Assistant District Attorney, County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara, CA
- Monica Ault, Criminal Defense Attorney, Santa Fe, NM
- Michael Collins, Strategic Policy and Planning Director, Baltimore City State's Attorney Office, Baltimore, MD
- Akhi Johnson, Senior Program Associate, Reshaping Prosecution Program, Vera Institute of Justice, Washington, DC
- David Menschel, Director, Vital Projects Fund, Portland, OR
- Najja Morris, Director, LEAD National Support Bureau, Public Defender Association, Seattle, WA



## Conference Agenda

### Drug Courts: How Do They Relate to Decriminalization and Health-Centered Drug Policy?

Midway 5

In the three decades since treatment courts were first introduced, the drug court model has rapidly proliferated, while continuing to evolve alongside drug policy reform efforts. Have treatment courts adopted harm reduction principles? What does harm reduction programming look like in treatment courts today, such as the use of medication-assisted treatment? How has the treatment court system worked together with pre-booking diversion programs, specifically with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) model, and how are treatment courts working with populations ineligible for most other programs? And, what role could drug courts serve as we move toward decriminalization of drug use and possession?

*Moderator:*

Emily Kaltenbach, State Director, New Mexico, Drug Policy Alliance, Santa Fe, NM

- Courtney Allen, Lead Field Researcher, Colby College, Augusta, ME
- Wesley Bell, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney, St. Louis, MO
- William Delaney, Veteran Mentor, Rhode Island Veterans Treatment Court, Warwick, RI
- Jason Lidyard, District Court Judge, First Judicial District of New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM
- Terrence Walton, Chief Operating Officer, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, Alexandria, VA

### Beyond Marijuana Legalization: The Legalization Conundrum and the War on Immigrants

Midway 6


From the inception of marijuana prohibition, it has been used to subjugate immigrants. Marijuana arrests have long been one of the leading causes of deportation for noncitizens. Even in states that have fully legalized marijuana, noncitizens remain vulnerable to harsh drug-related penalties. How do we correct existing marijuana legalization laws to address the harms faced by noncitizens? How do we ensure that future marijuana policy reform efforts include provisions that account for these harms?


*Moderator:*


Armando Gudiño, Policy Manager, Drug Policy Alliance, Los Angeles, CA


## Friday November 8

- Kathy Brady, Senior Staff Attorney, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, San Francisco, CA
- Alejandra Pablos, Community Organizer and Storyteller, #KeepAleFree Deportation Defense Campaign, Tucson, AZ
- Jeannette Zanipatin, State Director, California, Drug Policy Alliance, Los Angeles, CA

 **Morning Break**  
11:00am – 11:30am

 **Feature Plenary**  
11:30am – 1:00pm | Grand Ballroom  
**Learning from the Local Landscape:  
Reality, Reform & Regeneration in St. Louis**

 **Lunch (on your own)**  
1:00pm – 2:30pm

 **Breakout Sessions**  
2:30pm – 4:00pm

### Missouri's Approach to the Overdose Crisis: Medication First as a Parallel to Housing First

Regency A

What should states do with the billions of dollars from federal funding agencies to address the crisis of opioid-involved overdose deaths? In Missouri, advocates have prioritized the strategies we know save lives and help people find meaningful recovery – community naloxone distribution, complemented by a “Medication First” treatment approach aimed at reducing barriers to buprenorphine and methadone. How have they successfully activated recovery communities, provided safe housing, and tackled racial disparities through faith-based partnerships and street outreach? Come hear Missourians speak authentically about their rich experiences navigating government systems to change minds and save lives in the Heartland.

*Moderator:*

Rachel Winograd, Associate Research Professor, University of Missouri, Missouri Institute of Mental Health, St. Louis, MO

- Ned Presnall, Clinical Social Worker, Clayton Behavioral, St. Louis, MO
- Robert Riley II, Co-Founder, Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery, Des Peres, MO
- Chad Sabora, Executive Director, Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery, Ballwin, MO
- Kanika Turner, Physician, Family Care Health Center/Missouri State Opioid Response, Florissant, MO

### **Drugs and Consent: How Sexual Assault Prevention and Harm Reduction Advocacy Come Together in Nightlife Work**

Regency B

The #MeToo movement has elevated the discussion in nightlife communities about sexual assault prevention and building a culture of consent. This work is aligned with harm reduction advocacy – what can the two movements learn from each other? How can we bring these conversations together, especially when it comes to the very tricky territory of consent and substance use?

*Moderator:*

Stefanie Jones, Interim Managing Director, Communications, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Sloane Ferenchak, #WeLoveConsent Intern, Volunteer, DanceSafe, Philadelphia, PA
- Stacey Forrester, Education Coordinator, Good Night Out/ Bass Coast Festival, Vancouver, Canada
- Eric McGriff, Prevention Program Coordinator, Crime Victims Treatment Center, New York, NY
- Jeremy Prillwitz, Counselor, The Stonewall Project, San Francisco, CA
- Will Stolarski, Prevention Specialist, OutSmart NYC, Brooklyn, NY
- Cristiana Vale Pires, Postdoctoral Researcher, Kosmicare Association, Porto, Portugal

### **What Are the New Politics of Marijuana in Congress?**

Regency C

The question in Congress is no longer should we legalize marijuana, but how do we do it the right way? This session of Congress has seen myriad proposals to reform marijuana laws, but questions remain about how to prioritize them. What are the issues advocates must wrestle with in Congress as they push for reform? Should we let the states decide, or get the feds involved in supporting equity and industry access? Should we pass incremental measures on

banking and taxes first, or hold out for more comprehensive reforms? Do we start with Republicans in the Senate or work with Dems in the House to push the envelope? Is it in the best interests of justice and public health for the private industry model to proliferate, or should we also be pursuing other options like state-run models?

*Moderator:*

Michael Collins, Strategic Policy and Planning Director, Baltimore City State's Attorney Office, Baltimore, MD

- Queen Adesuyi, Policy Manager, Office of National Affairs, Drug Policy Alliance, Washington, D.C.
- Kathy Brady, Senior Staff Attorney, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, San Francisco, CA
- Amber Littlejohn, Senior Policy Advisor, Minority Cannabis Business Association, Washington, D.C.
- Dan Riffle, Senior Policy Counsel, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Washington, D.C.
- Justin Strekal, Political Director, NORML, Washington, D.C.

### **Better Have My Money: Fundraising Best Practices from the Field**

Midway 5

You have brilliant ideas, your organization does amazing work, but it won't pay for itself. You need money, money, and more money. So, what motivates people to donate? What's up with giving circles, philanthropic networks, and donor-advised funds? What are foundations looking for these days? What should you prioritize as a fundraiser? Hear the answers from people on both sides of the coin – and come with questions for an extended Q-and-A session.

*Moderator:*

Alexis Martin, Development Coordinator, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Andrea Bichan, Communications and Development Director, VOCAL-NY, Brooklyn, NY
- Khary Lazarre-White, Executive Director, The Brotherhood/ Sister Sol, New York, NY
- Jane Lerner, Donor Organizer, Movement Voter Project, Brooklyn, NY
- Julie Wiegandt, Public Health Manager, Arnold Ventures, Washington, D.C.

# Conference Agenda

## Friday November 8

### Getting Real About Structural Issues: How Can We Best Address Social Determinants?

Midway 6

Much of our energy in combating overdose and other drug problems focuses on intervening at the level of the individual, without ever addressing the upstream causes of problematic drug use and the criminalization of people who use drugs. This panel will explore how drug policy reformers can meaningfully engage in movements working to address social determinants, such as the fight for universal healthcare, basic income, affordable housing, and many others.

*Moderator:*

Emily Kaltenbach, State Director, New Mexico, Drug Policy Alliance, Santa Fe, NM

- Lesly-Marie Buer, Research Director, Choice Health Network, Knoxville, TN
- Erin Kerrison, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
- Danielle Ompad, Associate Professor, NYU College of Global Public Health, New York, NY
- Matthew Tice, Director of Clinical Services, Pathways to Housing PA, Philadelphia, PA



### Afternoon Break

4:00pm – 4:30pm



### Breakout Sessions

4:30pm – 6:00pm

### A St. Louis Story: The Drug War, Racism and Police Violence

Regency A

The FBI ranks St. Louis as the most dangerous city in the U.S. and Missouri's gun death rate is almost double the national average. For Black people, St. Louis can feel like a death trap. A Black man in St. Louis is almost ten times more likely to be murdered by a police officer than anyone around the nation being murdered by anyone else. Misguided drug policies, mis-education, racism, predatory policing, and systemic oppression have wreaked vast inter-generational harms on our communities. How is the war on drugs a catalyst for police killings? How did racist enforcement of the drug war light the sparks that ignited the Ferguson uprising?

*Moderator:*

T-Dubb-O, Director, Hands Up United, St. Louis, MO

- Tef Poe, Co-Founder, Hands Up United, Arlington, MA
- Rika Tyler, Lead Organizer, Missouri Faith Voices, St. Louis, MO

### Is Housing the Answer to the Overdose Crisis?

Regency B

Solutions to problematic drug use are often couched as “treatment”. But, can treatment really be effective if the structural conditions underlying problematic use, such as poverty and homelessness, remain? This panel will push the conversation beyond “treatment” as we traditionally understand it and explore how investments in housing could have a far greater impact when it comes to preventing, reducing and ameliorating the harms of problematic drug use.

*Moderator:*

Lindsay LaSalle, Managing Director, Office of Law and Policy, Health, Drug Policy Alliance, Oakland, CA

- Geoff Bardwell, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dept. of Medicine, University of British Columbia; British Columbia Centre on Substance Use, Vancouver, Canada
- Kristin Colangelo, Director, RHD Camden Supportive Housing, Collingswood, NJ
- Abraham Gutman, Opinion Writer, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Philadelphia, PA
- Valery Shuman, Senior Director, Heartland Alliance Health, Midwest Harm Reduction Institute, Chicago, IL
- Matthew Tice, Director of Clinical Services, Pathways to Housing PA, Philadelphia, PA

### Last Day Podcast: Live Taping and Town Hall

Regency C

Let's talk about the opioid crisis, an issue that dominates news cycles and gets worse every day. Join Lemonada Media co-founder Stephanie Wittels Wachs, host of the Last Day podcast, in conversation with notable community and policy leaders for a live, audience-driven town hall. Stephanie lost her brother to opioid overdose, and is committed to engaging in open dialogue and a search for solutions.

*Moderator:*

Stephanie Wittels Wachs, Host, Last Day Podcast

- Dinah Adames, Family Defense Supervisor, Bronx Defenders, Bronx, NY
- Miss Ian Callaghan, Executive Director, San Francisco Drug Users' Union, San Francisco, CA
- Tracey Helton, Author, "The Big Fix: Hope After Heroin," Daly City, CA
- Hansel Tookes, Assistant Professor, University of Miami, Miami, FL
- Dionna King, Policy Manager, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY
- Rachel Winograd, Associate Research Professor, University of Missouri, Missouri Institute of Mental Health, St. Louis, MO

### What's Next for Psychedelic Policy?

Midway 5

How do efforts to medicalize and decriminalize psychedelics fit within the broader context of drug policy reform, especially current campaigns to implement Portugal-style drug decriminalization? How can we best maximize the effectiveness of emerging psychedelics-specific policy reform efforts that are sprouting up all over the U.S.? What can advocates for psychedelic policy reform learn from cannabis legalization and other recent criminal justice reforms? How do we account for the multi-generational, ongoing harms of psychedelic criminalization – and how do we begin to repair those harms?

#### Moderators:

Stefanie Jones, Interim Managing Director, Communications, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Ismail Ali, Policy & Advocacy Counsel, MAPS, Oakland, CA
- Mohawk Greene, Regional Coordinator/President, DanceSafe, New York, NY
- Kufikiri Imara, Decriminalize Nature Oakland, Oakland, CA
- Allie Willens, Community Organizer, Decriminalize Health, Larchmont, NY

### The Overdose Crisis in Our Backyards: Can We Stop Calling It a White Overdose Crisis?

Midway 6

Media representations of the current overdose crisis have been overwhelmingly white and rural/suburban, leading the public and policy makers to allocate resources accordingly. Meanwhile, Black Americans have been dying at an alarming rate in many parts of the country – in fact, in Missouri, the Black opioid overdose death rate is twice as high as the white opioid overdose death rate. What do we know about the prevalence of overdose in Black communities across the U.S.? What factors have contributed to their rising overdose deaths and, in some cases, their higher rates of overdose? Where should the drug policy reform movement focus its attention to address these inequities?

#### Moderator:

Kathie Kane-Willis, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Chicago Urban League, Chicago, IL

- Tracie Gardner, Vice President of Policy Advocacy, Legal Action Center, New York, NY
- Samantha Kerr, Outreach Organizer, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, Baltimore, MD
- Reverend Kenneth E. McKoy, Founder & Director of NightLIFE Ministries, St. Louis, MO
- Devin Reaves, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition, Barrington, NJ
- Kanika Turner, Physician, Family Care Health Center/Missouri State Opioid Response, Florissant, MO



### Film Screening

Hands Up United & DPA present *Grass is Greener*  
7:00pm – 9:00pm  
Grand Ballroom

# Conference Agenda

# Saturday November 9



## Continental Breakfast & Registration

9:00am – 10:00am | Midway



## Breakout Sessions

10:00am – 11:30am

### What Are the Challenges and Opportunities for Rural and Small Town Harm Reduction?

Regency A

Overdose rates in rural counties remain high and rural communities have distinct challenges and opportunities that are often overlooked in conversations about harm reduction and drug policy. What are innovative models for harm reduction provision in rural communities, particularly where stimulant and fentanyl-involved overdoses are increasing? How can the drug policy reform movement ensure that the rural experience is included in its work and discussions?

*Moderator:*

Monica Ault, Criminal Defense Attorney, Santa Fe, NM

- Alexandra Barcenas, Case Manager, Intercambios Puerto Rico, Fajardo, PR
- Robert Childs, Technical Expert Lead, JBS International, Chattanooga, TN
- Maya Doe-Simkins, Director of Communications, Chicago Recovery Alliance, Maple City, MI
- Christopher Thomas, Overdose Prevention Coordinator, Sonoran Prevention Works, Tuscon, AZ
- Jess Tilley, Executive Director, New England Users Union/HRH413, Florence, MA
- Sarah Ziegenhorn, Executive Director, Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition, Iowa City, IA

### Self Care for Activists

Regency B

As racial and social justice advocates, we strive to draw strength from intersectional movements past and present, while affirming one another in the face of hate and oppression. How do we manage stress, build community, and stay healthy while fighting the good fight? How can we acknowledge and reduce the harm that doing this work can cause, especially to those directly impacted? And how

can we do it intentionally, in a way that heals ourselves and our communities? This workshop aims to provide advocates with concrete self-care skills to sustain activism over the long haul.

*Trainer:*

Victoria Albina, Life Coach, Breathwork Facilitator, Nurse Practitioner, Victoria Albina Wellness, New York, NY

### Repairing the Harms of Marijuana Prohibition

Regency C

The momentum to responsibly and equitably legalize marijuana has gained once-unthinkable public and political support. It is now a top priority for many advocates and legislators to repair the harms of prohibition through the creation of equity programs, job training, community reinvestment, and other measures. Judging from efforts already underway across the hemisphere, are the most ravaged communities being given the resources they need? Or is reparative justice just another talking point? What more can be done to ensure that impacted individuals benefit from legalization? In what ways has legalization failed to reduce harms and what can be done to improve on current models?

*Moderator:*

Queen Adesuyi, Policy Manager, Office of National Affairs, Drug Policy Alliance, Washington, D.C.

- Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, Professor, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- Lanese Martin, Co-Founder, The Hood Incubator, Oakland, CA
- Cat Packer, Executive Director, Department of Cannabis Regulation, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- Emily Ramos, Founder, Worker-owner, ¡High Mi Madre!, New York, NY
- Shaleen Title, Commissioner, Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, Boston, MA

### Decriminalization Done Right: Working Toward a Model Policy for Drug Use and Possession

Midway 5

Criminalization of drug use and possession has led to the arrest, prosecution and incarceration of millions of people across the world. Faced with the social, health and economic costs of criminalization, over 30 countries have enacted decriminalization policies, with Portugal being the most

well-known. As we move toward decriminalization in the U.S., it's important to learn from the models already in effect and start envisioning an ideal policy. What's the best way to decriminalize drugs? What can we learn from what's worked and what hasn't in countries that have decriminalized? What would a model policy look like?

*Moderator:*

Maria McFarland Sánchez-Moreno, Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Niamh Eastwood, Executive Director, Release, London, UK
- Maria-Goretti Ane, African Consultant, IDPC, Accra, Ghana
- Alejandro Madrazo, Professor/Researcher, CIDE, Aguascalientes, Mexico
- Marcus Keane, Head of Policy, Ana Liffey Drug Project, Dublin, Ireland

### **The Moral Hazards of Drug Policy Research: How Do We Overcome Systemic Bias?**

Midway 6

Drug policy research is used to justify both progressive and regressive drug policies. Recently, two high profile studies of dubious quality entered the debates over naloxone access and supervised consumption sites. A highly-publicized book, meanwhile, misrepresented the existing body of marijuana and mental health research. Concerns continue about the “diversion” of medications, particularly buprenorphine, that are then used to justify limiting access – despite research demonstrating diversion is not the “hazard” that many assume it is. This panel will explore the systemic constraints and biases in drug policy research, how shoddy research can get politicized by the media and policymakers, and what can be done to overcome these challenges.

*Moderator:*

Sheila Vakharia, Deputy Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Alex Kral, Distinguished Fellow, RTI International, San Francisco, CA
- Maia Szalavitz, Journalist and Author, New York, NY
- Hansel Tookes, Assistant Professor, University of Miami, Miami, FL

- Karla Wagner, Associate Professor, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV
- Rachel Winograd, Associate Research Professor, University of Missouri, Missouri Institute of Mental Health, St. Louis, MO



### **Morning Break**

11:30am – 12:00pm



### **Breakout Sessions**

12:00pm – 1:30pm

#### **Harm Reduction: The Start of the Continuum of Care**

Regency A

This session will focus on how we change the continuum of care for those with substance use disorder, using a recovery community center as the point of engagement. This hybrid model combines harm reduction and recovery services, so that the continuum of care begins whether someone is interested in recovery or not. We will examine the data showing the lives saved when people have safe access to naloxone and clean injection supplies. And we'll describe how this model functions as an effective access point for many people to multiple pathways to recovery.

*Moderator:*

Chad Sabora, Executive Director, Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery, Ballwin, MO

- Lauren Green, Overdose Prevention Coordinator, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Institute of Mental Health, St. Louis, MO
- Miles Hoffman, Street Outreach Coordinator, Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery, St. Louis, MO
- Aaron Laxton, Therapist, Assisted Recovery Center of Americas, St. Louis, MO
- Lesley Weinstein, Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery, St. Louis, MO

## Conference Agenda

# Saturday November 9

### **Safety First Curriculum Training: A Hands-On Tour of DPA's New Drug Education Program for High School Educators**

Regency B

This dynamic and interactive workshop will provide educators, school administrators, counselors, and student wellness professionals with the information and skills to effectively implement DPA's groundbreaking curriculum, "Safety First: Real Drug Education for Teens", in their school or district. Safety First is an evidence-based, harm reduction-based drug education program for high school students that has now been piloted and evaluated in New York City and San Francisco schools. Participants will learn about the principles of harm reduction and key harm reduction strategies to teach high schoolers about substance use in a knowledgeable and compassionate way.

#### *Trainers:*

- Cheryl Nelson, Health Teacher on Special Assignment, School Health Programs, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco, CA
- Joseph Rubin, Health Teacher, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco, CA
- Sasha Simon, Safety First Curriculum Manager, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

### **Legalize ALL Drugs?! Exploring Options for Legal Regulation in a Post-Prohibition World**

Regency C

The harms of prohibition are numerous and far-reaching: mass criminalization, significant levels of violence stemming from drug trafficking organizations and militarized state responses, and increased risk of negative health impacts and overdose associated with an unregulated, adulterated drug supply. How can we solve the problems of prohibition? Do we need to look beyond just drug decriminalization and cannabis regulation? Is legalizing drugs the answer? What regulatory tools would we have at our disposal in a legalized system that could help us better address the potential harms of both drug use and drug policies? What are the risks of legalizing drugs? Can we envision a truly post-prohibition world?

#### *Moderator:*

Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, Professor, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

- Scott Bernstein, Director of Policy, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, Vancouver, Canada
- Zoe Dodd, Toronto Overdose Prevention Society/South Riverdale Community Health Centre, Toronto, Canada
- Steve Rolles, Senior Policy Analyst, Transform, London, United Kingdom
- Zara Snapp, Co-Founder, Instituto RIA, Mexico City, Mexico

### **Are Tobacco and Vaping the Next Frontier of Drug Prohibition?**

Midway 5

Overblown panic about a teen vaping "epidemic" has increased restrictions for products in many jurisdictions, even though e-cigarettes are a known harm reduction tool to curb adult cigarette smoking. Although public health arguments are often used to justify combustible smoking bans in settings such as public housing and in substance use treatment centers, the enforcement of such policies actually places the most vulnerable people – especially poor people and people of color – at even more risk for being homeless or getting discharged from treatment. Menthol bans, portrayed as a way to protect communities of color from the most harmful forms of cigarettes, instead prohibit an already-legal substance. Even though it is a legal market, the tobacco market is not one without violent and racist enforcement, as demonstrated by the police killing of Eric Garner for allegedly selling 'loosies.' The panelists will discuss the complex ways in which cigarettes and e-cigarettes are the frontier for a new prohibition with all the old trappings.

#### *Moderator:*

Sheila Vakharia, Deputy Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Queen Adesuyi, Policy Manager, Office of National Affairs, Drug Policy Alliance, Washington, D.C.
- Brooke Feldman, Philadelphia Center Manager, CleanSlate Outpatient Addiction Medicine, Glenside, PA
- Kevin Garcia, Bilingual Medical Case Manager, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Aurora, CO
- Ethan Nadelmann, Founding Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY
- Helen Redmond, Journalist and Filmmaker, *Filter*, New York, NY



## Lobbying 101

Midway 6

How does an idea become a law? This workshop will walk you through the legislative process and provide insights on how a bill becomes a law. We will hear directly from people who craft and grapple with state and federal legislation on how to be effective advocates for policy reform.

### Trainers:

- Michael Collins, Strategic Policy and Planning Director, Baltimore City State's Attorney Office, Baltimore, MD
- Mike Liszewski, Senior Regulatory Affairs Counsel, 4Front Ventures, Washington, D.C.
- Dionna King, Policy Manager, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY
- Dan Riffle, Senior Policy Counsel, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Washington, D.C.



## Lunch (on your own)

1:30pm – 3:00pm



## Breakout Sessions

3:00pm – 4:30pm

## Missouri's New Medical Marijuana Law

Regency A

Missouri voters overwhelmingly endorsed medical marijuana in November of 2018, passing Amendment 2, now Article XIV of the Missouri Constitution, with 66% of the vote. There were an unprecedented two additional medical marijuana initiatives on the same ballot, but voters endorsed the measure that was in the best interest of patients and the creation of a stable industry to serve those patients. This panel features board members of New Approach Missouri, which drafted Article XIV and led the successful campaign for its passage, as well as others with important perspectives on the challenges Missouri faces in implementing and expanding this new law.

### Moderator:

Dan Viets, Lawyer, New Approach Missouri/NORML, Columbia, MO

- Jamie Kacz, Board Secretary, New Approach Missouri, Kansas City, MO
- Beverly Moran, Professor, Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville, TN

- John Payne, Campaign Manager, New Approach Missouri, St. Louis, MO
- Megan Wilson, Attorney, Wilson Compliance Consulting, St. Louis, MO

## The Power to Heal: Psychedelics and Healing Justice

Regency B

Healing justice is a term that comes from Black & Brown queer disability justice communities. How do we connect the work of queer, disabled, Black and indigenous people to the privileged spaces of psychedelics? As psychedelics begin to gain more attention in mainstream discourse and among scientists and researchers, questions of accessibility arise.

Who has access to psychedelics and who stands to gain from the potential medicalization, decriminalization and legalization of psychedelics? Can there be a healing justice paradigm within the psychedelics movement? How do we combat ableism among advocates for psychedelic reform? How can we utilize psychedelics as a tool of collective care, as opposed to just self-care?

### Moderator:

Oriana Mayorga, Director of Community Engagement, Psymposia, New York, NY

- Camille Barton, Director, RE: GENERATE, Berlin, Germany
- Micah Hobbs Frazier, Facilitator/Somatic Healer, Trinitywolf Network, View Park, CA
- Paula Kahn, Transnational Movement Building Strategist, Cosmovisiones Ancestrales, Reseda, CA
- Omolewa (Jennifer) Thedford, Birth Doula and Entheogenic Midwife, Sweet Serenity Co., Mount Clemens, MI

## Having Faith in Harm Reduction

Regency C

Organizing to address the harms of the war on people who use drugs requires the work of many communities, building power together. Faith communities are inherently well organized, have strong community ties, and are natural harm reduction advocates given the overlap in values between harm reduction and religious philosophies. This panel will share how faith communities have organized to drive change and contribute to criminal justice and drug policy reform.

### Moderator:

Hiawatha Collins, Harm Reduction Community Mobilization Coordinator, Harm Reduction Coalition, New York, NY

*Continued on next page*

## Conference Agenda

- Blyth Barnow, Harm Reduction Faith Manager, Faith in Public Life, Pickerington, OH
- Christina Dent, Founder, End It For Good, Ridgeland, MS
- Reverend Kenneth E. McKoy, Founder & Director of NightLIFE Ministries, St. Louis, MO
- Erica Poellot, Director of Faith and Community Partnerships, Harm Reduction Coalition, Bronx, NY

### Activating People Who Sell Drugs as Harm Reductionists

Midway 5

Many people who sell drugs are already involved in harm reduction – for example, by carrying naloxone – but stigma, harsh criminal punishment, and lack of education get in the way of their full participation in harm reduction initiatives. What harm reduction practices are people who sell drugs already engaging in? In what ways could their participation be broadened or deepened? What barriers are currently limiting people who sell drugs from participating in harm reduction in a systemic way? And how can these barriers be removed?

*Moderator:*

Dionna King, Policy Manager, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- Mitchell Gomez, Executive Director, DanceSafe, Lakewood, CO
- Steven Pacheco, Policy Coordinator, From Punishment to Public Health (P2PH), John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY
- Chad Sabora, Executive Director, Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery, Ballwin, MO
- Louise Vincent, Director, Urban Survivors Union, Greensboro, NC

### The Fourth Wave: What's Next for Stimulant Harm Reduction Policy

Midway 6

The latest national data show that cocaine-involved overdoses have more than doubled and methamphetamine-involved overdoses have increased by over 80% in the past several years. And in some parts of the country, stimulant drugs are now actually driving the majority of overdose deaths. How does the ongoing framing of the crisis as an 'opioid crisis' ignore the distinct reality of polysubstance use and stimulant use on the ground? Which policies do we need to advocate for to capture this important nuance?

## Saturday November 9

*Moderator:*

Michael Collins, Strategic Policy and Planning Director, Baltimore City State's Attorney Office, Baltimore, MD

- Allison Barker, Research Assistant / Support Worker, BC Centre of Substance Use / Raincity Housing, Vancouver, Canada
- Alex Locust, Counselor and Coordinator, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, San Francisco, CA
- Rafaela Rigoni, Researcher, Utrecht University/Mainline, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Steve Rolles, Senior Policy Analyst, Transform, London, United Kingdom



### Afternoon Break

4:30pm – 5:00pm



### Closing Plenary

5:00pm – 6:00pm | Grand Ballroom



### Official Reform Conference Party

10:00pm | Europe Night Club

## Community Sessions

Community Sessions are a space for conference attendees to organize a group of people to action or provide a concrete training on a specific issue.



Thursday, November 7

### **Identity Development of Adolescents With Substance Use Disorders**

11:30am – 1:00pm | Midway Suites 1

The meeting will describe current research around how youth who struggle with substance dependence develop identity and navigate self. It will describe the meso and macro forces that reinforce the conditions around the identity of the “bad kid.” It will also be a place to discuss implications of policy and leadership on sense-making of self for these youth.

### **Building a Movement to End the Drug War**

11:30am – 1:00pm | Station Master Room

We’re bringing together organizations, coalitions, activists and communities from across the country to have an open discussion about how we can collectively support a movement to end the drug war. What does it mean to build a movement? How can individuals and groups support it or be a part of it? What can we learn from other movements past and present?

### **Visions of Liberation: When We End the Drug War**

1:00pm – 2:30pm | Regency A

During this meeting, members of Students for Sensible Drug Policy will hold space for young people and other members of the drug policy reform movement to come together, share, discuss, and develop a collective vision of their ideal, post-prohibitionist world. Participants of this youth-led exercise will explore a variety of topics, from honest drug education to decolonization, as we co-create our vision.

### **Harm Reduction Works**

1:00pm – 2:30pm | Regency B

Harm Reduction Works (HRW) is a harm reduction based self-replicating self-help group. It is a fully scripted meeting. HRW is a low/no threshold means of support, a conduit for HR relevant material to reach broader audiences, and a low/no threshold means of organizing. Originally conceived as simply an alternative to abstinence based groups, it has become clear HRW can serve a vital role in expanding harm reduction

as a movement. One of its foundational principles is that of clear and self-conscious collaboration. This community session is to discuss what is needed for using this model as a means to organize and in particular what’s needed for collaboration to be successful in expanding the reach of harm reduction messaging.

### **When You Need Law Enforcement Support: Communication Strategies That Work**

1:00pm – 2:30pm | Midway Suites 5

Historical trauma, misguided policies, and militaristic police culture make communicating with law enforcement challenging, both practically and emotionally. But, gaining support from your local sheriff or police chief may be necessary to further your drug policy and harm reduction goals. How can advocates overcome this impasse? This session, guided by a communications professional and a member of law enforcement, will explore strategies for persuading law enforcement to stand behind your policies, programs and services. We’ll cover specific word choices, talking points, and persuasive methods tailored to reach law enforcement professionals and other conservative stakeholders.

### **Red State: A Conservative Movement in Mississippi**

1:00pm – 2:30pm | Regency C

I’m a Republican who changed my mind on criminalizing drugs. (And I’m still a Republican.) I founded and lead a conservative nonprofit advocating for the legalization and regulation of all drugs, as the best way to reduce harm as well as uphold conservative values of employed citizens, strong families, and safe communities. Over the last two years of inviting more conservative people to consider changing their minds, I’ve learned a lot about what messages resonate and which ones push them further away. I want to offer a place to share what I’ve learned about successfully reaching Republican people like me, and invite others to share their challenges or successes so we can learn from each other and better understand how to reach the voting bloc that tends to be the most resistant to legalization and harm reduction.

### **Successful Campaigns to End the Drug War**

2:30pm – 4:00pm | Conductor Room

Across the country organizations, coalitions, activists and communities are waging campaigns to pass or block laws and policies with the goal of ending the drug war. Come to a skills-sharing workshop where you will hear from others what’s working and where they have questions about winning campaigns in their communities. Bring your own questions, examples and stories so we can share and learn together how to build successful campaigns to end the drug war.

## Community Sessions

### Thursday, November 7 (continued)

#### **Building a Care Web of Community Clinics and Healing Gatherings**

4:30pm – 6:00pm | Station Master Room

We will meet to conduct an assessment of needed health services in our communities. Some possibilities include: syringe exchanges, affordable trauma therapy, mental health crisis response, peer support groups, nutritional meals, and hospice care. We will problem-solve the needed infrastructure together and walk away with the beginnings of an action plan. Depending on the number of attendees, we will break into smaller groups and then convene to share points that might be useful for others.

#### **Grassroots Fundraising to End the Drug War**

4:30pm – 6:00pm | Conductor Room

Learn how to start a grassroots fundraising canvass knocking on doors or in the streets building monthly sustainers. With the help of Center for Popular Democracy, VOCAL-NY has started a street money canvass, often employing people from our own community.

#### **Harm Reduction and Recovery Conversation**

6:30pm – 8:00pm | Midway Suites 2

We're bringing harm reduction and recovery communities together to build a better relationship between these communities because we are doing much of the same great work.

#### **Doctors for Cannabis Regulation (DFCR) Outreach**

6:30pm – 8:00pm | Midway Suites 4

DFCR members will be meeting, greeting and educating health care professionals on the mission and goals of DFCR.

#### **Harm Reduction Therapy As a Pillar of Drug Policy Reform**

7:00pm – 9:00pm | Midway Suites 3

This will be a townhall-style meeting of mental health, addiction and harm reduction professionals to explore why harm reduction therapy (HRT) is an essential part of drug policy reform. HRT "legalizes" drugs in the therapy context, supports individuals in determining their ideal relationship to drugs, and is a model for how substance use treatment can look under decriminalization and legalization. The meeting will describe HRT, share about the status of HRT globally from participants, and consider how to get HRT out to the world more broadly.

### Friday, November 8

#### **Drug War Journalism: Narcotica, The Crackdown, and Changing The Narrative on De-stigmatizing the Media**

7:30am – 9:00am | Midway Suites 1

This meeting is about our efforts to change the media landscape and journalistic coverage of drug use and addiction. Narcotica and The Crackdown are some of the only drug user-led, harm reduction-centric podcasts on the market. And Changing The Narrative is a first of its kind collective of researchers, advocates and reporters who are demanding higher standards for news coverage and communications in the field. Join us in discussing how to change the narrative.

#### **Strategic Litigation For the Recognition of Rights of Drug Users Who Are Criminalized or Deprived of Liberty**

7:30am – 9:00am | Regency B

Andean Action's Bolivia and Libertas Program has developed a strategy in Bolivia to use the justice system to decriminalize drug users and release them from prison. We are working with people (mostly young people struggling with problematic drug use) who are prosecuted and incarcerated not only for drug crimes but also for petty crimes such as minor theft. In Bolivia, services for treatment and recovery are almost nonexistent, which is why young people who use drugs are subjected to arbitrary detention, torture, prison and death inside prisons. In this context, we are successfully using strategic litigation to provide drug users with real justice and recognition of their right to health. This session will include a young man who was released from prison and now in recovery, thanks to our strategic litigation. We would like to not only share our experiences but to also learn about other experiences from other countries and the strategies they use to decriminalize drug users.

#### **Support. Don't Punish: Local Campaigning, Cross-Border Solidarity**

9:30am – 11:00am | Midway Suites 1

Support. Don't Punish is a global grassroots-centered initiative to end the war on drugs and promote public health, development and human rights instead. Since 2013, the campaign has provided resources for communities worldwide to mobilize under a collective banner and put reform on the political agenda. Every year on June 26, the campaign's Global Day of Action sees thousands of participants from all over the world organize engaging activities to shift norms and narratives away from repression and towards empowerment and solidarity. This meeting will allow us to connect with existing and potential local partners, brainstorm about plans for the 2020 Support. Don't Punish Global Day of Action, ask for input towards a consolidated campaign guide to be launched in January, and think creatively about synergies with other social justice movements.

**Alternatives to Arrest:****What Comes Next and Where Are We Headed?**

1:00pm – 2:30pm | Frisco/Burlington

This will be an open discussion on where harm reduction and diversion is headed, with a focus on divestment, decriminalization, community organizing, and inclusion. Now that diversion and alternatives to arrest are part of the public discourse, what comes next? What does the movement look like? How can we strategize across difference? How can we support each other?

**Working High:****Advancing United Sex Work and Drug Policy Reform**

1:00pm – 2:30pm | Midway Suites 6

This Community Session will build on previous conversations shaping strong intersectional drug and sex work policy reform. We'll focus on how to create the greatest protections for sex workers who use drugs and marginalized populations, what the sex work policy reform movement has to learn from the drug policy reform movement, and what partnerships can support policy wins.

**Improving & Expanding Online and Mail-Based Harm Reduction**

1:00pm – 2:30pm | Midway Suites 5

NEXT Harm Reduction runs two online and mail-based platforms focused on expanding access to harm reduction supplies for low-access and no-access communities. Through our partnerships with syringe exchange programs and progressive health departments across the country, thousands of households have received harm reduction materials through the mail. This meeting will be an opportunity for current and interested affiliates to celebrate our successes and brainstorm goals for expanding and strengthening our work.

**Drug Researchers Who Use Drugs**

4:30pm – 6:00pm | Station Master Room

Drug researchers who use drugs or have a history of dependence are a hidden population, with a few notable exceptions. Disclosing as a drug user in any context but especially in academic settings involves navigating complex personal and social politics, including:

- Privilege and risk
- Objectivity vs. participatory experience
- Silence vs. voice and agency
- Stigma and drug exceptionalism
- Legal, professional, and social consequences, among many potential issues

Experience with drug use also shapes the kinds of research questions we ask, how we engage people who use drugs in research, how we understand research outcomes, and how those outcomes are likely to be accepted by the academic community as well as the public and policymakers. The ability to employ this knowledge may vary across disciplines, and understanding that is useful in itself. Experience with drug use can give a researcher deeper insight into why people use drugs, the role of pleasure in drug use, but also what it's like to be in withdrawal or engage in "drug-seeking" behavior with healthcare professionals. In addition, researchers speaking out about their drug use can contribute to "normalizing" substance use and encourage others to do the same, and may help reduce stigma. Depending on the number of attendees, we will break into smaller groups and then convene to share points that might be useful for others.

**We Are Sacred**

4:30pm – 6:00pm | Midway Suites 1

People who use drugs are sacred. People who do sex work are sacred. Harm reductionists are sacred. Faith and spirituality are important to many of us, but finding a spiritual home or community of care that doesn't require us to check our dignity, reality, or work at the door is hard to come by. We deserve better. We deserve to show up with our whole selves. We deserve access to any tool that helps us to survive, including spirituality and religion. Join us as we make sacred space on our own terms. Hosts: Blyth Barnow, Erica Poellot, Urban Survivors Union, Peer Network of NY, and Unharming Ohio.

**Harm Reduction Listening Session**

6:30pm – 8:00pm | Station Master Room

A listening session with the national Harm Reduction Coalition for harm reduction advocates and allies to share information and strategize around advocacy and movement building.

**Moms United to End the War on Drugs**

6:30pm – 8:00pm | Midway Suites 6

All are welcome to join us as we build a global movement of mothers & parents dedicated to ending punitive prohibitionist drug policies and adopting harm reduction strategies. This discussion will examine the important role that mothers and families can play in demanding an end to the war on drugs. We welcome your insight and passion. This session is hosted by Moms United to End the War on Drugs, a campaign of A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing), in partnership with a growing number of organizations and individuals in a massive collaborative effort.

# Community Sessions

Saturday, November 9

## **Growing the International Indigenous Drug Policy Network**

7:30am – 9:00am | Conductor Room

In 2018, the New Zealand Drug Foundation, along with colleagues from First Nation groups in Australia and Canada, launched the International Indigenous Drug Policy Network. We recognize that, despite progress in drug policy, indigenous people carry the burden of social and economic inequality and are most impacted by the punitive war on drugs. This network is still in its growing phase. We want to bring First Nations people attending the Reform Conference together to help grow the network, discuss priorities, and build and strengthen global solidarity between indigenous peoples advocating for drug policy reform.

## **Organizing to End the Drug War**

10:00am – 11:30am | Conductor Room

Across the country people are organizing to end the drug war. Some groups organize people who use drugs, some organize families who've lost loved ones, and others organize faith groups or disproportionately impacted communities. Participate in a skills-sharing workshop on how to do effective community organizing to end the drug war. Hear from organizations doing this work, and join in the conversation with your questions, successes and even your mistakes. The goal is for us all to learn together how to organize to end the drug war!

## **International Human Rights Advocacy**

10:00am – 11:30am | Station Master Room

This is a gathering for reformers interested in the intersection of drug policy and international human rights efforts. Topics to be discussed include the extrajudicial drug war killings still taking place in the Philippines and now in other countries; the recently-published UN International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy; the death penalty for drug offenses; UN drug policy and human rights processes; and funding streams for this type of work. Emphasis will be on organizing and other advocacy efforts.

## **Breathwork/Meditation**

12:00pm – 1:30pm | Station Master Room

Join us for a 90-minute community group session. It is nothing short of life-changing, and I can't wait to share this practice with you. This workshop is for humans of all genders. All you need to bring is your perfect, magnificent self, a wee notebook or journal and something to write with, cozy clothes and I highly recommend an eye mask/cover or pillow.

Please note: Breathwork is work. It can be equal parts exhausting and liberating. It can also bring up a lot of old stuff (from this lifetime and others!) and that be a lot to hold space for. Bring a friend, tell a friend what you're up to, and go gently into the night after our time together, my love. You'll get instruction from me in person and in writing about aftercare best practices to help guide you as you integrate everything you'll experience during this magnificent journey into yourself and the universe.

Contraindications: pregnancy, cardiovascular problems, significantly high blood pressure, major psychiatric conditions\*, recent surgery, acute infectious illness or epilepsy. Asthma is not generally considered a contraindication, and folks with asthma must have their inhaler available.

\*If you're wondering if breathwork is right for you, please consult with your healthcare providers BEFORE engaging in this practice.

## **International Drug Checking Coordination Meeting**

1:30pm – 3:00pm | Midway Suites 5

DPA is bringing together people and organizations engaged in high-level drug checking, particularly in North and South America but with at least one or two representatives from Europe, to share best practices relating to technology, coordinate about sharing results, and discuss ways to raise the profile of this vital harm reduction intervention.

**Critical Drug Pedagogy: Education Strategies  
Across Disciplinary and Institutional Lines**

1:30pm – 3:00pm | Midway Suites 6

Since the Reform Conference is the preeminent international event that brings together a diversity of people from across disciplinary and institutional lines to discuss, debate and decide on a range of issues related to drugs and drug policy around the world, it is necessary to provide attendees some tools for teaching others about what they learn. This will be an opportunity for educators of all kinds to discuss critical pedagogical strategies, as well as to share and develop syllabi, course materials, presentation outlines, and other educational tools. This workshop will be guided by experienced presenters and will utilize small group collaborative discussions.

**Databases to Build Power to End the Drug War**

1:30pm – 3:00pm | Regency A

Do you struggle with building and managing an email list? Do you wish you could quickly call, text or email your closest members or allies? Are you a great organizer or powerful organization, but struggle keeping in touch with everyone? Learn about database options and how to use them and acquire them so you can help build and expand your organizations' ability to mobilize, get your message out and fundraise.

**Liquid Handcuffs: A Documentary to Free Methadone**

1:30pm – 3:00pm | Regency B

Directors Helen Redmond and Marilena Marchetti shine a spotlight on the closed world of methadone clinics. The film explores the intersection of methadone with race, class, social control, and stigma. An international cast of methadone users, activists, and healthcare providers explain the benefits and the barriers to getting the medication. Drug policy expert Deborah Small provides commentary on the politics of methadone. Liquid Handcuffs is the first feature-length documentary that uses the lens of harm reduction to examine the methadone clinic system. The film was shot in Afghanistan, Britain, India, Portugal, Russia and the United States. Please join the directors for a talk-back after the film.

**Moms Hug In: Embrace True Love, Not Tough Love**

1:45pm – 2:45pm

Gateway Arch National Park, St. Louis, Missouri

Arch Center: In the grassy area under the Arch

Join Moms United for a hands on demonstration of the healing power of love. Our families are casualties of the drug war. Moms demand drug decriminalization. Open to all Reform Conference attendees! Come join us!

**Planning the Nationwide Trail of Truth Memorial March  
for International Overdose Awareness Day**

3:00pm – 4:30pm | Regency C

We are hosting a meeting to see if others might be interested in adopting our Trail of Truth Memorial March format and then converging together at Washington DC for a nationwide memorial march. It's time.

**Annual SISAN Meeting**

3:00pm – 4:30pm | Midway Suites 3

Annual gathering of the national network of advocates working on supervised consumption services/overdose prevention services.



## Author Book Signings

All book signings will take place directly outside the bookstore in Midway West.



Thursday, November 7

**There Are No Dead Here:**

**A Story of Murder and Denial in Colombia**

11:00am – 11:30am

*Maria McFarland Sánchez-Moreno*

**City of Omens:**

**A Search for the Missing Women of the Borderlands**

1:00pm – 1:30pm

*Dan Werb*

**Getting Wrecked: Women, Incarceration,  
and the American Opioid Crisis**

1:00pm – 1:30pm

*Kimberly Sue*

**Narkomania: Drugs, HIV, and Citizenship in Ukraine**

2:00pm – 2:30pm

*Jen Carroll*

**War on Us: How The War On Drugs and Myths  
About Addiction Have Created a War On All Of Us**

4:00pm – 4:30pm

*Colleen Cowles*

Friday, November 8

**Grey Area**

11:00am – 11:30am

*Scott Thomas Jacques*

**Fentanyl, Inc.**

1:30pm – 2:00pm

*Ben Westhoff*

Saturday, November 9

**Outgrowing Addiction:**

**With Common Sense Instead of “Disease” Therapy**

11:00am – 11:30am

*Zach Rhoads*

**Migrating for Medical Marijuana:**

**Pioneers in a New Frontier of Treatment**

11:00am – 11:30am

*Tracy Ferrell*

The logo for the reform conference, featuring the word "reform" in a sans-serif font. The "re" is in a light blue color, and "form" is in white. The "form" part is set against a dark blue, irregularly shaped background that resembles a drop or a splash.

**Save the Date.**

**International Drug Policy  
Reform Conference**

**November 10–12, 2021**

**Seattle, Washington**

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## About the Presenters

**Dinah Adames** is the Parent Advocate Supervisor with the Family Defense Practice at The Bronx Defenders. For over seven years, she has been advocating for vulnerable women, specifically women of color, in a variety of contexts from substance use to incarceration. Dinah has appeared on dozens of panels nationwide to discuss harm reduction strategies and the unique challenges facing parents involved with the child welfare system who happen to use illicit substances. Dinah served as a member of several not-for-profit organizations focusing on educating doctors, lawyers, and social workers – specifically those in the child welfare arena – with the necessary tools to better service women and mothers battling addiction.

**Queen Adesuyi** is a policy manager at the Drug Policy Alliance's Office of National Affairs in Washington, D.C., where she works to advance DPA's federal and local District of Columbia legislative agenda. Her areas of focus include marijuana legalization with a racial justice focus, collateral consequences, housing, and overdose prevention. Adesuyi hails from the Morris Heights section of the Bronx and is an alumna of Georgetown University, where she majored in American Studies and minored in Women's and Gender Studies. Her undergraduate research examined competing models of racial and social justice in the District of Columbia's pro- and anti-marijuana legalization campaigns, one of the nation's first legalization campaigns where racial justice was intimately a part of the messaging on both sides. Prior to joining DPA, Adesuyi worked with the Georgetown University Prisons and Justice Initiative, the National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens, Office of Congressman Jose E. Serrano (D-NY), Mic.com and the New York Times.

**Ismail Lourido Ali** is Policy & Advocacy Counsel for the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), where he supports the development and implementation of strategies to create legal access to psychedelic substances in medical, sacramental, and personal contexts. Ismail is licensed to practice law in the state of California, and presently sits on the Advisory Committee of the Ayahuasca Defense Fund. Ismail has previously served as Chair of the Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) Board of Directors, and has worked for the ACLU of Northern California's Criminal Justice & Drug Policy Project, as well as for the International Human Rights Law Clinic at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, where he received his J.D. Ismail believes that entheogenic consciousness is a crucial piece for challenging oppression in all of its forms.

**Maria-Goretti Ane** is the African Consultant for International Drug Policy Consortium. She represents IDPC at regional events, and also serves as a focal point for IDPC networking and advocacy work in West Africa. Maria-Goretti Ane is a lawyer with special interests in human rights and drug policy reforms. She has previously worked as a Research Assistant and later became a Project Coordinator with the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Maria-Goretti has done human rights volunteer work with former problematic drug users and human rights groups, including representing drug users who are in conflict with the law.

**María de Lourdes Angulo Corral** has a degree in Public Administration and Political Science from Universidad Autónoma de Baja California and has a Multidisciplinary Diploma of HIV/AIDS from Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública. She is the founder of the civil society organization Integración Social Verter A. C. and she is Executive Secretary of

Red Mexicana de Reducción de Daños. She has been a speaker at international and national conferences on HIV and harm reduction and has more than 10 years of experience working as a promoter of human rights and harm reduction.

**Alexandra Barcenás** is a Caribbean woman and master's student in Community Social Work at the University of Puerto Rico. She has been a case manager for Intercambios Puerto Rico since 2016.

**Dr. Geoff Bardwell** is a community-based qualitative health researcher who explores the effects of social, structural, and physical environments on the health and well-being of marginalized communities, including gender and sexual minorities, people who use drugs, and those experiencing homelessness. His current research program focuses primarily on drug use and housing and the ways in which the housing and overdose crises shape public health interventions as well as the experiences of people who use drugs.

**Allison Barker** studied film, video & integrated media, but like most Art School kids ended up working in other areas, including rape crisis centres, on projects providing resources to incarcerated members of the LGBTQ2 community, and non-profits for children's rights and safe injection sites. Landed in the world of drug policy after oversharing about meth use on Twitter. Currently passionate about disability politics, opening up the Pandora's Box that is stimulant substitution programs, and eventually moving out of my Mom's basement.

**Blyth Barnow** serves as the Harm Reduction Faith Manager for Faith In Public Life Ohio. She is a preacher, harm reductionist, writer, and community organizer. She is the founder of Femminary, an online ministry focused on reclaiming dignity

by finding divinity in the profane. She is currently working to establish harm reduction resources for faith based communities and has already brought her worship service, Naloxone Saves, to several states. Naloxone Saves celebrates the power of resurrection by training people to recognize and respond to an opiate overdose. Blyth graduated from Pacific School Of Religion where she received a Master of Divinity and the Paul Wesley Yinger preaching award.

**Bella Bathory** is a sex worker advocate, powerhouse, and scholar. Finishing up a BBS, she works closely with FSC, UCLA, USC, and CHLA on various projects working towards racial, HIV, and sex work equity while also directing SWOPLA and LASWAG 5050x2020.

**Scott Bernstein** is Director of Policy with Canadian Drug Policy Coalition based in Vancouver, where he leads the organization's work on legal regulation of drugs. Through his own legal practice and with Vancouver-based Pivot Legal Society, Scott litigated cases advancing human rights of people who use drugs, including fighting for access to prescription heroin treatment, and defending Insite, North America's first sanctioned injection site. Previously, Scott was a program officer with the Global Drug Policy Program of Open Society Foundations in New York, where he supported a global collection of organizations advocating for drug policy reform.

**Andrea Bichan** oversees all of the communications and development activities and strategy for VOCAL-NY, including the party of the year—the organization's annual gala. Since joining the organization in 2016, VOCAL-NY's budget has grown by over 50% and its email list and earned media have doubled. From New Jersey, she is passionate about responsibly resourcing organizations at the grassroots.

**Ricky N. Bluthenthal, PhD**, is the Associate Dean for Social Justice and Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California. His research has established the effectiveness of syringe exchange programs, tested novel interventions to reduce HIV risk and improve HIV testing among people who inject drugs and men who have sex with men, documented how community conditions contribute to health disparities, and examined health policy implementation. At present, he is conducting studies on preventing injection initiation and examining substitution of cannabis for opioids among people who inject drugs.

**Inez Bordeaux** is an organizer with the Close the Workhouse campaign and Manager of Community Collaborations at ArchCity Defenders in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Kathy Brady** is Senior Staff Attorney at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, a national center based in San Francisco, where she has worked since 1987. She is a national expert on the intersection of immigration and criminal law. She helped to draft and pass several California laws that ensure fairer treatment for noncitizen defendants, and has worked on federal "crim/imm" legislation. She is a long-time collaborator with DPA and a member of the Marijuana Justice Coalition that helped to draft the MORE Act. She frequently speaks and writes about defending noncitizens in criminal and immigration proceedings.

**Rebecca Brown** joined the Innocence Project in 2005 and directs its federal and state policy agenda, which seeks to prevent & reveal wrongful convictions and assure compensation for the wrongfully convicted upon release from prison. Rebecca and her team have successfully lobbied for the passage of 200 laws at the state & federal level. Rebecca has presented at judicial

conferences, state bar associations, and diverse criminal justice & academic conferences, and has been sought out as a subject matter expert by high-profile media outlets such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, VICE, Slate, BBC, CBS News and the American Bar Association Journal.

**Lesly-Marie (L-M) Buer, PhD, MPH**, is the Research Director at Choice Health Network in Knoxville, Tennessee. She currently guides research on the implementation of harm reduction and hepatitis C and HIV screening programs. Dr. Buer has published articles, conference proceedings, and film reviews in such journals as Substance Use and Misuse, Journal of Appalachian Studies, and Boston Review. A forthcoming book based on her dissertation fieldwork, entitled Rx Appalachia, focuses on women's encounters with substance abuse treatment in Central Appalachia.

**Miss Ian Callaghan** is the Director of the San Francisco Drug Users' Union. Her current efforts with her organization are to assist people who use drugs and experience homelessness to learn the skills necessary to work at syringe access programs and at the up-and-coming overdose prevention sites. SFDDU remains dedicated to ending the war on drugs and the war on the people it harms directly and indirectly, while also bolstering a strong community in the Tenderloin, adding to the neighborhood's rich history.

## About the Presenters

**Stephany Campos** has been with Homeless Health Care Los Angeles (HHCLA) for the last four years, after receiving her Master's Degree in Public Administration. Stephany serves as part of the Executive Management team, where she helps oversee programming, implement new projects, is involved with various community and advocacy groups, and is the media contact for the agency. Stephany oversees the ReFresh Spot – a hygiene center and pilot program out of Mayor Garcetti's office in the heart of Skid Row. Stephany holds over ten years of experience in the public and/or nonprofit sector.

**Dr. Rebeca Cazares** is from Tijuana, Mexico and is a Medical Doctor with a Master's in Public Health from Universidad Autonoma de Baja California. She is a staff physician and clinic coordinator at Prevencasa A.C, where she has worked since 2014 providing care to underserved populations in Tijuana's red-light district. Her clinical and research experience primarily involves tuberculosis, HIV and harm reduction in the US-Mexico border region.

**Katharine Celentano** is a Policy Coordinator with the New York Policy Office of the Drug Policy Alliance. Based in Ithaca, Katharine helps manage the development and implementation of municipal efforts to address drug use throughout Central and Western New York as well as statewide efforts regarding opiate overdose. Katharine brings almost a decade of experience in political communication and campaigns, government and grassroots organizing. A coalition builder at heart, she has worked in diverse contexts—from neuroscience lab to Capitol Hill, lived in rural, suburban and urban areas of

New York, Vermont and the Midwest and helped forge partnerships across party lines and life experience. Prior to DPA, Katharine worked for the Law Enforcement Action Partnership, the New York State Psychiatric Institute, a governor's office, the U.S. Senate and a presidential campaign, and she has led and advised national, local and campus campaigns regarding drug policy as well as mental health, veterans and academic pipeline issues. In 2013, Katharine was appointed to the Vermont Children and Family Council on Prevention Programs, and she was one of 125 leaders invited by SAMHSA to the National Leadership Summit on Youth Recovery. Katharine has also served on the board of Students for Sensible Drug Policy and the Young Professionals Board of the Washington Heights CORNER Project, and she has been invited to speak at conferences across the country. A graduate of Columbia University, Katharine serves on the board of the Columbia Alumni Association. Katharine's experiences as a former client of a residential psychiatric facility and losing loved ones to overdose, incarceration and trauma motivate her work.

**Robert Childs, MPH**, is currently a Technical Expert Lead at JBS International, focusing on providing technical assistance on rural overdose prevention projects across the U.S. He previously served as North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition's (NCHRC) Executive Director from 2009-2018. Childs specializes in harm reduction practice, overdose prevention and response initiatives, drug policy advocacy and reform, law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD), and law enforcement occupational safety & drug overdose response. At NCHRC, Robert helped develop the largest syringe service program network, LEAD site programs, as well as community and law enforcement-based naloxone distribution programs in the U.S. South.

**Aliza Cohen** is the Research Associate for the Drug Policy Alliance's Department of Research and Academic Engagement. In this role, she helps to field research requests, coordinate roundtables and briefings of drug researchers and public health officials, draft newsletters, and maintain a database of drug scholars. Aliza has organized around prison divestment, helped plan a conference on feminist responses to the carceral state, and conducted research on the lasting power of criminal photographs and mug shots. With roots in Chattanooga, TN, she is especially interested in the nexus of the drug war, movement building, and Southern Appalachia. Aliza graduated with a B.A. in sociology from Middlebury College.

**Kristin Colangelo LCSW, LCADC, CCS**, is the Director of RHD Camden Supportive Housing, serving those facing co-occurring mental health and opioid abuse disorders, referred by the county MAT program. Kristin has extensive experience implementing, managing, and strengthening programs as well as in academia teaching Social Work graduate and undergraduate courses. Kristin is a political organizer/educator, working to build local leadership in areas most directly affected by poverty. She is also a Poverty Scholar, Kairos Center Education Committee member, Coordinator of the University of the Poor's Homeless Union History Project, and National Committee to Re-Establish the National Union of the Homeless member & Interim Union Secretary.

**Michael Collins** is the Strategic Policy and Planning Director for the Office of the State's Attorney in Baltimore City. He was previously Director of National Affairs at the Drug Policy Alliance, where he worked on marijuana, criminal justice reform, and overdose policy.

**Hiawatha Collins** is Harm Reduction Coalition's Harm Reduction Community Mobilization Coordinator. He coordinates the Harm Reduction Peer Workers Foundational Training Program and works with the Peer Network of New York and the Hepatitis C Peer Navigator. He has over a decade of harm reduction experience in capacities starting from the outreach worker/syringe exchanger to assisting in the implementation of the Expanded Syringe Access Programs (ESAP). Along the way he has been an HIV/HCV tester, Harm Reduction Case Manager, and a community organizer working with diverse populations including people who use drugs, sex workers, the homeless, the formerly incarcerated, individuals with a mental health diagnosis, and LGBTQI people. Hiawatha has been the leader of the Peer Network of New York from its inception and he is an active Board Member of VOCAL NY. Hiawatha was previously a consultant for the City of New York's Health Department for six years, where he worked on overdose prevention and access to buprenorphine. He also worked for three years as a Harm Reduction Specialist at Community Access.

**Kate D'Adamo** is a partner at Reframe Health and Justice, a QTPOC collective working at the intersections of anti-oppression, harm reduction, healing justice and upending the criminal-legal system. Kate draws on a background of community organizing, policy advocacy, training, capacity building, and re-writing narratives under the broad umbrella of sex worker rights. Kate uses She/They pronouns, believes in decriminalization and divestment, and locates the power of change in local communities determining their own future.

**Christina Dent** is the Founder of End It For Good, a new conservative nonprofit in Mississippi inviting people to change their minds and end our criminal approach to drugs. After spending most of her life supporting "tough on drugs"

policies, experiences as a foster parent set her on a journey that changed her own mind to support a legal, regulated market for all drugs. She came to believe this approach is also deeply compatible with her beliefs as an evangelical Christian and values as a politically conservative person. She was honored to share the research and experiences that changed her mind in a TEDx Jackson Talk earlier this year. She also hosts the End It For Good podcast and leads monthly community discussions across Mississippi exploring legalizing all drugs, with attendance of 500 people and counting. She holds a degree in Biblical Studies from Belhaven University.

**Zoë Dodd** is a long-time harm reduction and drug user advocate that lives and works in Toronto, Canada. She is a co-organizer with the Toronto Overdose Prevention Society and helps co-coordinate the Moss Park Overdose Prevention Site which ran unsanctioned in a park for nearly a year before receiving Ministry of Health funding and moving indoors. The Moss Park OPS was successful at helping to change the overdose response in Ontario and the general public's understanding of the overdose crisis. She is a graduate student currently enrolled at York University in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, focusing on people's experiences with mandated drug treatment.

**Maya Doe-Simkins** does implementation, technical assistance, and quality assurance support on the topics of opioid overdose prevention approaches, especially syringe services programs, expanded naloxone access, adapting HIV & HCV prevention programming for people who use drugs to tribal & rural communities at high risk, and expanding access to pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder treatment. She has worked in rural Midwestern areas, Chicago and Boston, and has experience increasing access among people who have not been engaged in harm reduction

services and building power among people who use drugs.

**Tarsi Dunlop** manages policy and programming for Local Progress, the network of hundreds of progressive local elected officials across the country housed at the Center for Popular Democracy (CPD). Local Progress supports elected officials to share best practices, improving the quality of progressive policy at the local level, and helps coordinate work across cities for impact at the state and national level. Prior to joining CPD, Tarsi served as the program and operations manager for the Learning First Alliance, a national coalition of education associations. Tarsi holds a BA in Political Science from Middlebury College and a Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate from Georgetown University.

**Niamh Eastwood** is Executive Director of Release, the UK's centre of expertise on drugs and drugs law. Niamh has co-authored a number of Release's policy papers including "A Quiet Revolution: Drug Decriminalisation Across the Globe". She has presented at international and national conferences and is regularly invited to comment in the media. Niamh is a member of the Expert Steering Group for the Global Drug Survey, a visiting lecturer at the Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University and at Middlesex University, and a committee member for DrugScience. She has also been a technical advisor to the Global Commission on Drug Policy.

**Brooke M. Feldman, MSW**, is a person in recovery, social worker and activist who focuses on bringing about policy and practice change at the intersections of mental health, substance use and the many intertwined issues of social justice. Brooke works as the Philadelphia Center Manager of CleanSlate Outpatient Addiction Medicine and serves on the Board of Angels In Motion, a Philadelphia-based harm reduction and recovery support organization.



## About the Presenters

**Sloane Ferenchak** is a volunteer and intern for DanceSafe where she has been integral in the creation of the #WeLoveConsent Campaign and the #WLC Bystander Intervention Training Program. She is a Students for a Sensible Drug Policy alumni, and one of the founding board members of the Psychedelic Society of Western New York where she provided harm reduction services with the PSWNY Sanctuary. She is currently a Clinical Psychology and Human Sexuality doctoral student at Widener University whose goal is to become a sex therapist trained in psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy. Sloane is passionate about harm reduction and reducing the stigma around sexuality and substance use through anti-oppressive practice and activism that acknowledges both risks and rewards of stigmatized behavior.

**Dr. Nina Fischer** is Assistant Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Interdisciplinary Studies. Her expertise is in youth justice and mixed methods evaluation. Critical race, class and gender theory frame her analysis of social justice. She evaluated a reentry intervention for young women in the juvenile justice system. She continues to be Principal Investigator evaluating DPA's Safety First harm reduction drug education curriculum in high schools throughout the U.S. She is also Principal Investigator for a study of the Youth Police Initiative. She has a book coming out that about bridging the divide between police and youth.

**Joy Fishman** joined DPA's Board of Directors in April 2019. Joy is a committed leader and activist for harm reduction, and has a deeply personal connection to the drug war. Her late husband, Jack Fishman, invented the life-saving overdose reversal drug, naloxone, and her son, Jonathan, later died of an opioid overdose. Joy is a staunch advocate for naloxone access, so that no more mothers "experience

the same pain" that she has. She also plays a critical role in advocating for syringe access programs, including lobbying with DPA for a recently-passed bill that will allow for syringe access programs across Florida.

**Kassandra Frederique** works with communities throughout New York to address and resolve the collateral consequences of the war on drugs and state violence. Alongside statewide partners, Kassandra cultivates and mobilizes powerful coalitions in communities devastated by drug misuse and drug criminalization to develop municipal strategies to foster healthier and safer communities. Her work covers a broad range of issues, including campaigns to eliminate marijuana arrests in NY, efforts to increase access to services for people who use drugs, and movements to dismantle the administrative policies that use drugs as a way to oppress and surveil communities. Ultimately, Kassandra believes that addressing the war on drugs is an effective strategy to advance racial and social justice while affirming personal autonomy. Kassandra's professional focus includes building a reparative justice framework that centers Black and Latinx leaders to create solutions that both end and repair the harms of the drug war, while creating accountability structures between policymakers and people who use drugs. A native New Yorker by way of Ayiti, Kassandra holds a M.S. in Social Work from Columbia University and earned a B.S. in Industrial Labor Relations at Cornell University.

**Stacey Forrester** is a nurse living on the unceded Coast Salish lands of British Columbia. She is the Harm Reduction Manager for Bass Coast music festival, and one half of Good Night Out. Good Night Out is an organization that believes in the safety and celebration of women (as in anyone who identifies as one), femme, and non-binary folks in nightlife culture, and helps the music

industry build its capacity to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

**Micah Hobbes Frazier** is a Black queer mixed-gendered facilitator, somatic coach/healer, and magic maker; living, loving, laughing, and building in Tulum, Mexico. In June 2012 he created The Living Room Project, an accessible healing justice & community space serving Queer/Trans People of Color (QTPOC). Micah facilitates spaces for individuals and organizations engaged in transformative work to address conflict and harm/violence, work through trauma and grief/loss, and create sustainable culture and practices that are aligned with their principles, mission, and vision.

**Faustino Fuentes** was born and raised in NYC, was a drug dealer, user, felon, etc. He has been working in harm reduction for 15-20 years. For the last four years, he has been concentrating on drug checking and overdose prevention/reversal.

**Kevin Garcia** is a Bilingual Medical Case Manager for the Colorado Health Network. Prior to joining CHN, he was a Health Educator for the Aurora Syringe Access Program with the Tri-County Health Department. As an undergraduate, he re-founded the Florida International University chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, became an SSDP peer educator, and served on the SSDP board of directors. He has a BA in psychology from FIU and is currently pursuing a BS in biology from Metropolitan State University of Denver.

**Kim Gardner** was elected Circuit Attorney in 2016 and assumed office on January 1, 2017. Gardner leads an office of 140 committed professionals who seek justice on the behalf of the residents of the City of St. Louis. Gardner is a life-long resident of the City of St. Louis. Growing up in a high crime area of North St. Louis and her family's 70-year funeral home business has exposed her to the devastation that violent crime has on far too many families. Her desire



to strengthen the relationship between the community and law enforcement was an important motivator for her dedicating herself to becoming the city's top prosecutor. She is committed to engaging citizens throughout the community in a criminal justice system that promotes trust, accountability and transparency. She is also committed to finding opportunities to help at-risk young people become productive members of our community and avoid being drawn into the life of crime.

**Tracie M. Gardner** is Legal Action Center's Vice President of Policy Advocacy, where she spearheads major initiatives and fosters strategic partnerships that support LAC's mission. From 2015-2017, Tracie served as the Assistant Secretary of Health for New York State, where she oversaw the state's addiction, mental health and developmental disabilities agencies. Tracie has worked for almost 30 years in the health and social services policy arena as a policy advocate, trainer and lobbyist. Tracie received a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College.

**Daniel Gomez Mazo** is an Afro-Colombian lawyer. He has a law degree from EAFIT University, an LL.M. from UCLA school of law and is a SJD candidate at Fordham University School of Law. Daniel's work focuses on issues of race, sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination. He is a founding member and researcher at Ilex Acción Jurídica, a Colombian NGO that promotes the rights of Afro descendants.

**Mitchell Gomez** is a graduate of New College of Florida, and has his Masters from CU Denver. Although his research interests are extremely diverse, he is particularly interested in program evaluation and policy analysis as it pertains to the non-profit sector and drug prohibition policy. He has volunteered with the Burning Man Organization, SSDP, Psymposia, the Multidisciplinary

Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) and other small harm reduction projects for many years, and is a passionate advocate for reality-based drug policy and harm reduction.

**Kara Gotsch** is Director of Strategic Initiatives, where she oversees The Sentencing Project's federal advocacy work and develops special projects and partnerships to advance the organizational mission of reducing mass incarceration. Gotsch returned to The Sentencing Project in 2016 after serving as its Director of Advocacy from 2005-2012, when she helped lead the multi-year effort to reform the notorious 100-to-1 crack cocaine sentencing disparity that resulted in the 2010 passage of the Fair Sentencing Act. Her sentencing reform advocacy was honored in 2011 by Congresswoman Maxine Waters. Prior to her return, Gotsch led the Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition, a project of the United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society, comprised of 50 national faith-based organizations. The coalition organized faith leaders and clergy to advance federal criminal justice reforms, particularly around issues of sentencing, reentry, and collateral consequences of incarceration.

**Lauren Green** is the Overdose Prevention Coordinator on the State Opioid Response grant and the Missouri Opioid-Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education project at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri Institute of Mental Health. She has experience working collaboratively with community partners on initiatives to reduce overdose mortality. Currently, she works to expand access to overdose education and naloxone as well as disseminate information on the availability of services. Lauren's passion and focus is centered on reducing harm for people who use drugs and addressing stigma and social inequalities related to drug use, incarceration, and access to care.

**Armando Gudiño** is California Policy Manager at the Drug Policy Alliance's Los Angeles office, where he focuses on Latino outreach strategies and legislation. His portfolio includes issues of mass incarceration, taxation and regulation of marijuana, transnational criminal organizations, immigration and drug laws, and drug policy in the Latino community throughout the U.S. and Latin America. Armando is a political scientist who started his professional career as a human rights observer working in Latin America documenting human rights violations in armed conflict zones. For more than 20 years, he has worked in journalism and public policy, in places such as Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. In 2001 he joined the Pacifica Radio Network, where he rose to the position of Program Director at the Los Angeles station KPFK, becoming the first Latino Program Director in its 50-year history. Over the last several years Armando has worked on key California legislation including the historic marijuana legalization initiative Proposition 64, civil asset forfeiture reform, retroactive equalization of penalties for crack and powder cocaine, Proposition 47, and the state's 911 Good Samaritan Law.

**Rajani Gudlavalleti** is a second-generation Asian Indian-American queer woman. Her work focuses on advancing social justice at the intersections of public health and the legal system. She is community organizing manager for Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, advocating to end drug war and anti-sex work policies. In this role, she coordinates the BRIDGES Coalition for Overdose Prevention Sites. Rajani is also a consultant with Baltimore Racial Justice Action and co-organizer with Baltimore Asian Resistance in Solidarity. In Fall 2018, Rajani was a Gardarev Center Fellow, working on her book of essays and poetry exploring identity through personal stories and intersectional social analysis.

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**Abraham Gutman** is an opinion and editorial writer at The Philadelphia Inquirer. His work focuses on drug policy, harm reduction, and criminal justice. Abraham strongly believes that every overdose death is a policy failure. He has a MA in economics from Hunter College in the City University of New York.

**Rebecca Haines-Saah** is a Health Sociologist and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, and the O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary. Rebecca's research focuses on adolescent and young adult substance use, harm reduction, and drug policy reform. Since joining the University of Calgary as Faculty in 2016, the research program has shifted to focus on youth cannabis use and the public health policy implications of cannabis legalization in Canada. Rebecca's current projects also include qualitative and knowledge translation research related to parents' advocacy on the opioid overdose crisis in Canada and youth policy engagement training as a mental health promotion intervention.

**Emily K. Hobson** is a historian of radical movements, LGBTQ politics, and HIV/AIDS in the United States. She is the author of *Lavender and Red: Liberation and Solidarity in the Gay and Lesbian Left* (University of California Press, 2016) and co-editor of *Remaking Radicalism: A Grassroots Documentary Reader of the United States, 1973-2001* (University of Georgia Press, forthcoming 2020). Hobson serves as Associate Professor of History and Gender, Race, and Identity at the University of Nevada, Reno, and as Co-Chair of the Committee on LGBT History. Her current research addresses activism against HIV/AIDS in prisons in the 1980s and 1990s.

**Kufikiri Imara** was born and raised in Oakland, California. He grew up in a home and a community environment

that strongly emphasized thinking for oneself and social awareness. Play that forward to an older, wiser individual who unfolded his path through a love of the arts, and the course of his own personal healing/spiritual journey, came to have an experience with truly sacred plants, which helped him gain a sacred level of awareness. He saw his own life profoundly transformed by the experience as he was willing and able to do the work of integrating the lessons received. Kufikiri believes in broad access to these sacred plants, and the opportunity they offer to heal and better ones life, and the lives of others. He wants to see access for all when it comes to the opportunity to profoundly change one's life for the better working with sacred plants. Kufikiri is involved in Decriminalize Nature Oakland Initiative, and was a speaker at the CIIS/Chacruna symposium on Cultural and Political Perspectives on Psychedelic Science, last August in San Francisco.

**Martin Jelsma** is director of the Drugs & Democracy programme at the Transnational Institute (TNI) in Amsterdam and Senior Research Associate at the Global Drug Policy Observatory at Swansea University. He is an expert on the UN drug control system and links between drugs policy, conflict, human rights and development; works closely with small farmers of cannabis, coca and opium poppy in the Global South; regularly advises governments on drug law reform options, including cannabis regulation; and recently co-authored the report "Fair(er) Trade Options for the Cannabis Market".

**Stefanie Jones** is Interim Managing Director, Communications at the Drug Policy Alliance, a national advocacy nonprofit working to end the drug war and promote drug policies and practices centered in health and social and racial justice. She founded and runs DPA's Safer Partying program, which introduces harm reduction principles and drug policy alternatives to partygoers

as well as anyone with a role in event creation or safety. She also oversees DPA's work developing Safety First, a harm reduction-based drug education curriculum for teens. In her prior role within DPA as event manager she produced four progressively larger editions of the biennial International Drug Policy Reform Conference, as well as numerous local policy conferences, fundraisers and coalition-building meetings. Stefanie is based in New York.

**Jamie Kacz** is the founder and Executive Director of the Kansas City chapter of the National Organization of Marijuana Laws (NORML). She also serves as Missouri NORML State Affiliate Secretary and Board Secretary of New Approach Missouri. She is a frequent speaker at state conferences, monthly meetings, and was featured on the "Putting the Grassroots in Grassroots Activism" panel during NORML's national conference in Washington D.C. Since 2015, Jamie has been advocating for cannabis reform and successfully led the NORML Kansas City decriminalization campaign that won at the ballot in April of 2017 by 75% of the vote. Jamie plans to continue educating the public on cannabis reform and focus on community outreach. She is passionate about family, and is currently working with NORML KC and lawmakers on creating a Missouri Family Protection Bill.

**Paula Kahn** is a migrant justice social worker, consent and anti-oppression educator, and conflict transformation mediator. Paula supports organizations' shift to an intersectional analysis of history and approach to movement building and provides consultation to help climate justice, drug policy, psychedelic research, migrant justice, and peace organizations stay accountable to collective liberation. As a mixed-race person, Paula leverages the duality of their experience to build unity among disparate people and groups with varying relationships to oppression. Paula is inspired to innovate

demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration processes in contexts of armed conflict, processes of historical memory, accountability, reparations, reconciliation, and transformative justice.

**Emily Kaltenbach** is State Director for DPA's New Mexico Office. She is also Senior Director of DPA's Municipal Drug Strategies, co-leading an internal process to generate criminal justice reform strategies to guide DPA's efforts in the field. One of these strategies is to challenge local communities to work from a public health, racial justice and human rights framework. She is the primary author of the report, "Municipal Drug Strategy: Lessons in Taking Drug Policy Reform Local". Based in New Mexico, Kaltenbach also manages the staff of DPA's New Mexico office. As state director since 2011, she helped start the second Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program in the nation, was deeply involved in reforming New Mexico's asset forfeiture law, a model for the rest of the country, and currently serves as the chair of the City of Santa Fe, NM's Municipal Drug Strategy Task Force. Kaltenbach joined the organization following 15 years working in New Mexico implementing rural community-based health centers, helping reform the long-term care system, and setting the stage to implement federal health care reform in the state. Prior to joining DPA, she served as the director of Policy and Planning at the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department and served as the acting director for New Mexico's Office of Health Care Reform.

**Kathleen (Kathie) Kane-Willis** is an award winning public policy researcher with more than 20 years of experience successfully advancing drug policy reforms in many different spheres. Kathie's work on the opioid crisis, including "Whitewashed: The African American Opioid Crisis", has been featured in the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times, Crain's Chicago

Business, Newsweek, the Economist, the Wall Street Journal, and many other print and broadcast outlets across the United States. Currently she serves as the director of Policy and Advocacy at the Chicago Urban League.

**Rebecca Wooden Keel, MSW**, is a community organizer and social worker in Richmond, VA. Their work focuses on intersectional strategies to un-do harmful policies that impact the lives of the poor-working class, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, youth, and communities of color. Rebecca is a graduate from VCU's Social Work, Psychology, and Gender Sexuality and Women's Studies programs. Wrapping up their academic career in 2016, Rebecca then ran for the office of Richmond City Council, making them the youngest person and one of the first openly queer people in the city's history to seek this office. They have a number of affiliations with local and national movement organizations including Southerners On New Ground (SONG) and Working Families Party. Rebecca currently serves as Policy Director for Marijuana Justice Virginia.

**Sam Kerr** is a trans-racial adoptee from the Appalachian mountains of Pennsylvania. As a result of actions due to substance use disorder and parole she landed in Baltimore City. There she began her journey into multiple forms of recovery, healing and organizing work. Her journey through official harm reduction work started with B'more Power and has grown to include Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition and BRIDGES Coalition.

**Erin M. Kerrison** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley. Her work extends from a legal epidemiological framework, wherein law and legal institutions operate as social determinants of health. Specifically, through varied agency partnerships, her mixed-method

research agenda investigates the impact that compounded structural disadvantage, concentrated poverty, and state supervision has on service delivery, substance use, violence, and other health outcomes for individuals and communities marked by criminal legal system intervention. Erin has analyzed large longitudinal administrative datasets and collected ethnographic and interview data across policing, criminal court, and correctional contexts.

**James Kilgore** is a Media Justice Fellow at Media Justice. Since spending six and a half years in federal and state prisons, he has written widely on issues of mass incarceration, labor, and electronic monitoring, including *Understanding Mass Incarceration: A People's Guide to the Key Civil Rights Struggle of Our Time*, a National Book Foundation Social Justice Award winner in 2018.

**Dionna King** is a policy manager with the New York Policy Office of the Drug Policy Alliance. As policy manager, Dionna is assisting in the development of the reparative justice campaign and works to repair the harms caused by the drug war in New York State. Prior to joining DPA, Dionna worked as a community organizer for the Education from the Inside Out Coalition. There she led successful campaigns to ban the box at SUNY and increase funding for in-prison higher education programs. Coming from a family of Rattlers, Dionna is a proud alumna of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and a graduate of The New School. She hails from Atlanta and has a painfully reluctant relationship with Falcons.

**Alex H. Kral** is Distinguished Fellow at RTI International. He conducted policy-directed, community-based research on drugs, poverty, and health. His evaluation research has included syringe services, overdose education, naloxone distribution, drug checking, and safe consumption sites.

## About the Presenters

**Aaron M. Laxton** is the co-founder of the Missouri Safe Project, Missouri's send syringe service program. He is currently a therapist with Assisted Recovery Centers of America (ARCA). Aaron is interested in the intersectionality of substance use, complicated bereavement, and unresolved trauma.

**Khary Lazarre-White**, born and raised in New York City, is a social entrepreneur, novelist, educator, activist and attorney. In 1995, at the age of 21, Khary co-founded The Brotherhood/Sister Sol, a nationally renowned, Harlem-based, social justice, youth development, organizing and educational organization. Khary has extensive experience as a speaker across the country and has appeared widely on national media sites. His essays have appeared in publications that include The Huffington Post, Nation Books, MSNBC.com, and NYU Press. In 2017 Seven Stories Press published his novel, *Passage*, and the paperback edition was released in 2019.

**Jane Lerner** is a donor organizer in New York City. Raised in Chicago, she lived in the Bay Area in the '90s and moved to NYC in 2002. Now based in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, she works as a writer and editor on projects related to arts and culture, food and travel, and social justice. She was the organizer of BK Swappers, a Brooklyn food swap and community event that brought together food makers, backyard farmers, and local cooks. After the election in 2016, Jane jumped headfirst into philanthropic and political work via Solidaire, Movement Voter Project, Future Now Fund, and other progressive organizations; she is dedicated to moving money and resources and inspiring others to do the same.

**Jason Lidyard** is a state district court judge in the First Judicial District of New Mexico, which consists of Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and Rio Arriba county.

He presides over felony-level criminal cases arising in the district as well as one of the district's drug court programs. Prior to his appointment to the bench in April 2018, he served as a state prosecutor in the First Judicial District Attorney's Office for seven years. From 2013 to 2018, he worked on the development, implementation, and day-to-day operation of the Santa Fe Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program (LEAD).

**Mike Liszewski, JD**, is the Senior Regulatory Affairs Counsel for 4Front Ventures, where he is their federal lobbyist and works on state compliance and licensing issues. Prior to 4Front, Mike has lobbied for several drug policy reform organizations. He advocated on medical cannabis access issues from 2011 to 2017 at Americans for Safe Access. Later, Mike formed his own consulting company, the Enact Group, where he lobbied for organizations such as DPA and SSDP. When not working on cannabis reform, Mike advocates for the District of Columbia to become the 51st state.

**Alex Locust** is a Counselor-Coordinator for the Stonewall Project within the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. His role focuses on developing innovative and culturally responsive programming in light of the racial inequities in the HIV transmission rates in San Francisco. Alex's work is both within the Stonewall Project, creating new, low threshold services within their substance use treatment program, as well as collaborating with community stakeholders to support their existing efforts. He is grateful for the opportunity to provide counseling services rooted in harm reduction and racial justice and is committed to infusing principles of disability justice into the work as well.

**Alejandro Madrazo** is a Professor at CIDE in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Originally a constitutional lawyer, he has been working on drug policy

since 2007, in response to Mexico's senseless war on drugs launched at the close of 2006. In 2011, he started the Drug Policy Program at his university, which he headed until 2017. His work currently focuses on the militarization of public life in Mexico, which is the main legacy of our war on drugs.

**Alexis Martin** is the development coordinator at DPA, where she supports all functions of the development department. Alexis was drawn to drug policy as an undergraduate student at Columbia University, as she sought work that allowed her to combine her knowledge gained from personal experience of the drug war, as well as her commitment to social justice and liberation. This commitment was strengthened by a variety of internship, organizing, and work experiences, including working with the New York Civil Liberties Union as a Communications Intern, the War Resisters League as a Sara Bilezekian Organizing Intern, and with DPA's close ally, VOCAL-NY, as a Civil Rights Organizing Intern. She was also a Research Assistant for Professor Samuel Roberts at Columbia University, and aided his work on the history of harm reduction in New York City. During the 2016 election, she was an Election Fellow for BYP100, registering young Black New Yorkers to vote and engaging them on Election Day and beyond. Alexis is based in New York City, with roots in the Philadelphia area. She is especially indebted to the Black and Brown writers, organizers, and dreamers who have inspired her work.

**Dr. Silvia Martins** is a tenured Associate Professor of Epidemiology and the Director of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Unit in the Department of Epidemiology, Columbia University and of the Center on Policy and Health Initiatives for Opioids and Other Substances in the same department. Dr. Martins is also the co-director of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Training program at Columbia University. She has co-authored

more than 180 peer-reviewed epidemiological and substance use journal articles, served as Principal Investigator for multiple NIH-funded grants. Her current research focuses on opioids and opioid policies, marijuana and marijuana policies, and problem gambling.

**Oriana Mayorga** is a community organizer and an artist. She is currently the Director of Community Engagement at Psymposia. Oriana is dedicated to dismantling structural oppression, promoting racial justice and ending violence against womyn. She is a longtime advocate of ending the war on drugs and accessible psychedelic medicine for all, and is a founding member of the People of Color Psychedelic Society. Her most recent contribution to the field was the co-creation of Empyrean, the first POC conference on psychedelics in the Northeast. Oriana received her B.S. from Fordham University in 2014 and will receive her Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University in 2022.

**Maria McFarland Sánchez-Moreno** is DPA's Executive Director. She brings nearly thirteen years of international and domestic drug policy experience from her work at Human Rights Watch, where she served most recently as Co-Director of the U.S. Program.

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Maria's commitment to social justice and drug policy reform dates from her childhood, which she spent mostly in Peru. She was strongly influenced by her early work at Human Rights Watch researching Colombia, where drug profits fueled massacres and official corruption. During her tenure at Human Rights Watch, Maria led a team advocating against racial discrimination in policing, excessive sentencing, and unfair deportation policies that tear families apart, all issues closely intertwined with the United States' cruel and irrational approach to drugs. She also pressed the organization to more directly address the

war on drugs as a human rights issue. As a result, in 2013 Human Rights Watch became the first major international human rights organization to call for decriminalizing the personal use and possession of drugs and global drug reform more broadly.

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Maria is the author of the narrative non-fiction book *There Are No Dead Here: A Story of Murder and Denial in Colombia*, released by Nation Books in February 2018, which won the Juan E. Mendez Human Rights Book Award. Early in her career, Maria clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, taught human rights as a fellow at Fordham Law School, and participated in litigation as an associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. Maria holds a law degree, magna cum laude, from New York University School of Law, which she attended on a Dean's scholarship, and did most of her undergraduate studies in Lima, Peru, before completing her BA, summa cum laude at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a native speaker of both Spanish and English.

**Eric McGriff** is a sexual and relationship violence prevention specialist, who coordinated the prevention program at the Crime Victims Treatment Center. With a specialty for engaging men in gender equity, Eric has worked nationally and internationally on prevention efforts supported by the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women and the United Nations, and was recognized by the Obama White House multiple times for his work. His approach to prevention is one that centers cultural humility and asks for us to collaboratively build solutions for issues as complex as systemic violence. His goal is to reach a world free of violence and abuse.

**Reverend Kenneth E. McKoy** is an ordained elder in the AME Zion Church. He is Director of Social Action and Coordinator for Political and Economic Empowerment for the denomination's

Missouri Annual Conference. After pastoring congregations in North and South Carolina, as well as two other congregations in the St. Louis area, he founded Progressive AME Zion in 2010 in St. Louis, MO. Rev. McKoy served as Director of the St. Louis branch of ACORN for 13 years and in 2009 organized MOSES (Metropolitan Organizations Strengthening & Empowering Society), a nonprofit organization comprised of local churches in St. Louis and East St. Louis, Illinois. He founded NightLIFE, a violence prevention initiative in 2015. This activity involves late evening walks by clergy and laypersons through the most violent neighborhoods in St. Louis, in order to offer prayer for those encountered, to discourage young African American males from killing each other and to offer them and other community residents assistance with education, training and job opportunities. On April 26, 2019, Rev. McKoy received the Community Service Award from the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (NCADA) St. Louis Area, awarded each year to "unsung heroes" for their important work in substance misuse prevention in our region. Rev. McKoy is a native of Washington, DC and a graduate of Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he studied Philosophy and Religion.

**Bethany Medley, MSW**, is an Assistant Research Scientist at NYU College of Global Public Health. She is also an Adjunct Lecturer at Columbia School of Social Work, where she teaches a course on harm reduction and the overdose crisis. Prior to her positions at NYU and Columbia, Bethany was the Opioid Program Manager at Harm Reduction Coalition, where she was responsible for conducting drug user health initiatives such as naloxone training of trainers and promoting community-based buprenorphine access. Bethany has also served as a consultant at Open Society Foundations, working on several projects to promote the health and rights of women impacted by the war on drugs.



## About the Presenters

**Kristine Montenegro Mendoza** is a human rights activist working for the rights of people who use drugs, people living with HIV, and LGBTIQ people. She is a consultant in the Senate of the Philippines and worked for the enactment of the new HIV and AIDS Policy Act of 2018, a human rights-centered, evidence-based bill in the Philippines which shifted policies to cater to key affected populations and opened spaces for harm reduction in the country. She is a founding member of StreetLawPH, an organization of lawyers which provides access to justice services for people who use drugs in the Philippines.

**Andres Mercado** is the Battalion Chief for the Mobile Integrated Health Office in Santa Fe, NM. Through 911 data analysis and a commitment to the Santa Fe Fire Department's mission of protecting life safety through emergency response and prevention, they strive to develop programs which improve health outcomes, improve the community's experience of care, and reduce overall system costs.

**Justine Moore**, a native of Brooklyn, NY, served 16 years of a 20-year sentence with an anticipated 10 years supervised release, in the federal prison for women in Danbury, Connecticut. She was released in 2013. Upon release Ms. Moore began sharing her story and organizing formerly incarcerated women as a co-founding member of The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. Currently she serves as the Director of Training for The National Council and she continues her work to assure that her voice is included in discussions on policy about what incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women need, and to be a part of meaningful change toward ending incarceration of women and girls.

**Melissa Moore** has fifteen years of experience managing media and campaign strategy for progressive nonprofits focused on criminal justice reform, immigrant rights, poverty, community-led international development, and resource rights shape her role at the Drug Policy Alliance. Throughout her career, Melissa has worked toward social change by bridging policy analysis and targeted campaigns with direct engagement. She has trained advocates across the country and internationally on effective communications, helping activists leverage their voices to target key audiences to move campaigns and policy forward and make a lasting impact. Melissa's experiences growing up in Los Angeles and seeing firsthand the devastation wrought by the War on Drugs motivated her to join DPA. Her work at DPA centers on shifting New York's approach to drug policy and repairing the harms that the war on drugs has caused to individuals and communities, particularly through her work leading the Start SMART campaign to legalize marijuana and contributions to the EndOverdoseNY campaign.

**Ethan Nadelmann** is widely regarded as the outstanding proponent of drug policy reform both in the United States and abroad, described by Rolling Stone as "the point man" for drug policy reform efforts and "the real drug czar." He founded and directed (from 2000 to 2017) the Drug Policy Alliance.

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Ethan was born in New York City and received his BA, JD, and PhD from Harvard, and a master's degree in international relations from the London School of Economics. He then taught politics and public affairs at Princeton University from 1987 to 1994, where his speaking and writings on drug policy attracted international attention.

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He has authored two books on the internationalization of criminal law

enforcement – Cops Across Borders and (with Peter Andreas) Policing The Globe – and his writings have appeared in most major media outlets in the U.S. as well as top academic journals (e.g., Science, International Organization), policy journals (Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Washington Quarterly, Public Interest) and political publications from the right (National Review) to the left (The Nation). He is interviewed frequently by media, including The Colbert Report, The O'Reilly Factor, Real Time with Bill Maher, and news programs on all the major U.S. networks as well as dozens of networks elsewhere. His TED Talk, delivered at TEDGlobal in Rio de Janeiro in October 2014, has more than 1.5 million views, with translations into 28 languages.

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In 1994, Ethan founded the Lindesmith Center, a drug policy institute created with the philanthropic support of George Soros. A year later, he co-founded the Open Society Institute's International Harm Reduction Development (IHRD) program. In 2000, the growing Center merged with the Drug Policy Foundation to form the Drug Policy Alliance. Ethan currently serves on the advisory board of the Open Society Foundation's Global Drug Policy Project (GDPP) and as an advisor to the Global Commission on Drug Policy. He has played a key role as drug policy advisor to George Soros and other prominent philanthropists as well as elected officials ranging from mayors, governors and state and federal legislators in the U.S. to presidents and cabinet ministers outside the U.S.

**David L. Nathan, MD, DFAPA**, is a Princeton, NJ based psychiatrist, writer, speaker, educator, and consultant. He is the founder and board president of Doctors for Cannabis Regulation and one of the founding steering committee members of New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform. Dr. Nathan is a

Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He has written, spoken, and testified around the country on cannabis policy, and he has appeared in nationally syndicated broadcast, online and print media publications.

**Cheryl Nelson** is originally from Ohio and her family has been tragically affected by the opioid crisis, and she is a product of DARE and abstinence-only sex ed. These negative experiences increase her passion for scientifically-valid, inclusive, and non-shaming health education and services. For thirteen years as a high school teacher in San Francisco's public school district, she taught health education and English to thousands of students. Now in her 18th year teaching in San Francisco, she develops and supports health curriculum and classes. She especially enjoys swooping in to help nervous teachers of teens to do condom demo lessons or facilitate honest conversations about marijuana.

**Julie "Jules" Netherland, PhD**, is the Director of the Department of Research and Academic Engagement for the Drug Policy Alliance. In that role, she advances drug policy reform by supporting scholars in doing advocacy, convening experts from a range of disciplines to inform the field, and strengthening DPA's use of research and scholarship in developing and advancing its policy positions. Dr. Netherland previously served as the Deputy State Director of DPA's New York Policy Office, where she was instrumental in passing two laws to legalize the use of medical marijuana in New York and advancing a number of harm reduction and public health approaches to drug policy. Prior to DPA, she worked at the New York Academy of Medicine on a range of public health research and policy projects. Dr. Netherland is the editor

of *Critical Perspectives on Addiction*. Her work on the racialization of the opioid epidemic has appeared in the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Biosocieties*, and *Culture, Psychiatry and Medicine*. She holds a PhD in sociology from the City University of New York Graduate Center, a Masters in Social Work from Boston University, and B.A. from Bryn Mawr College.

**Danielle C. Ompad, PhD**, is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at NYU's College of Global Public Health and the Deputy Director of the Center for Drug Use and HIV Research. Danielle is an infectious disease epidemiologist whose research is underpinned by a harm reduction perspective and a long-standing interest in racial, ethnic, and economic inequalities in health. Her program of research is focused on risk and protective factors for the initiation, use, and cessation of drugs such as heroin, crack, and/or cocaine as well as risk for infectious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B and C viruses, and herpes.

**Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, PhD**, is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto and the Director of Research for the Campaign for Cannabis Amnesty. Dr. Owusu-Bempah's work examines the intersections of race, crime and criminal justice, with a particular focus in the area of policing. He has investigated the racialized nature of cannabis law enforcement in Canada and worked with major media outlets to bring this information to the general public. With an eye on social justice, he is currently exploring how cannabis legalization is being used as a means to redress the various harms caused by drug prohibition.

**Alejandra Pablos** is a nationally recognized immigrant and reproductive rights community organizer and storyteller fighting her deportation. Alejandra was recently re-detained by Immigration Customs Enforcement

for 43 days and was granted bond and brought home after communities nationwide organized to bring her home. Growing up in Arizona, one of the toughest sentencing and over-policed states, has informed her activism around immigration and mass incarceration. In both her professional and personal roles, Alejandra has centered her work in "community defense" education and challenging narratives about brown and criminalized people. Alejandra is a story-teller with We Testify where she shares her abortion story as an act of resistance and liberation. She is also a member of Mijente, a national political home for Latinx organizers, and has worked with many immigrant rights and prison abolition organizers throughout the country.

**Lilia Pacheco** holds a degree in Clinical Nutrition from the Universidad Autonoma de Durango and is a professor at Universidad Xochicalco. Currently, she is Projects Coordinator at PrevenCasa AC, where has been volunteering since 2011 on harm reduction and the telemedicine clinic for HIV. She has published research and conducted intervention projects on HIV and drugs for government agencies in Mexico like Censida and INMUJER. She is also coauthor of "Fentanyl Use on Mexico's Northern Border" and collaborated in an investigation of heroin use at the northern border for the Instituto Nacional de Psiquiatria.



## About the Presenters

**Cat Packer** is the first Executive Director & General Manager of the Department of Cannabis Regulation. Appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Packer leads the licensing & regulation of commercial cannabis activity within the City of Los Angeles and furthermore, manages the implementation of the City's cannabis related policies & programs. Prior to joining the City of Los Angeles, Packer served as California Policy Coordinator for the Drug Policy Alliance, where she worked to ensure the successful & equitable implementation of various cannabis policy reforms. Before this role, Packer served as Campaign Coordinator for Californians for Responsible Marijuana Reform, a social justice-centered campaign in support of the 2016 Adult Use of Marijuana Act. Packer is an alumna of The Ohio State University where she received a Bachelor's in Political Science, a Master's in Public Policy & Management, and a Juris Doctor.

**Lynn M. Paltrow, JD**, is Executive Director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women, which she founded in 2001. Ms. Paltrow is a graduate of Cornell University and New York University School of Law. She has worked on numerous cases challenging restrictions on the right to choose abortion, as well as cases opposing the prosecution and punishment of pregnant women seeking to continue their pregnancies to term. Ms. Paltrow has served as a senior staff attorney at the ACLU's Reproductive Freedom Project, as Director of Special Litigation at the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, and as Vice President for Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood of New York City. Ms. Paltrow is the recipient of DPA's Justice Gerald Le Dain Award for Achievement in the Field of Law and the National Women's Health Network's Barbara Seaman Award for Activism in Women's Health. She is a frequent guest lecturer and writer for popular press, law reviews, and peer-reviewed journals.

**John Payne** is the campaign manager for New Approach Missouri, where he led the campaign to pass Amendment 2 and legalize medical marijuana in the state. He remains involved in the implementation of Missouri's medical marijuana program through his role with New Approach Missouri, as a board member for the Missouri Medical Cannabis Trade Association, and his firm Amendment 2 Consultants. He has worked with stakeholders at the local, state, and federal level and testified before numerous committees on pending legislation on topics including industrial hemp, record expungement, decriminalization, and adult use legalization.

**Tef Poe** is an American born rapper, author, educator, award winning journalist, and revolutionary from St. Louis, Missouri. Poe is one of the co-founders of the Hands Up United movement which was founded in Ferguson after the killing of Michael Brown. In 2018 he served as a United States Cultural Ambassador to the country of Jordan where he lived in the city of Amman. While in Jordan he assisted the embassy in donating a \$10,000 music studio to the leaders of the Jordanian hip hop community. Tef has also travelled to Geneva and testified at the United Nations on behalf of the Ferguson protesters. In 2015 he travelled to Palestine as a member of the historic Dream Defenders delegation. He was also invited to the White House by President Barack Obama to discuss strategy pertaining to demilitarizing the police during the Ferguson unrest. In 2017, he was selected as the Nasir Jones Hip Hop Fellow via Harvard University's prestigious W. E. B. Du Bois Research Center.

**Erica Poellot** is the Senior Ministry Innovator at Judson Memorial Church in NYC. As a faith leader in long-term recovery, Erica founded Faith in Harm Reduction to co-create a justice

movement which connects people who use drugs, people who trade sex, and communities of faith through the development of harm reduction centered spiritual resources, ritual support, and spiritual care. With joint MDiv/MSW degrees from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, Erica currently works as the Director of Faith and Community Partnerships for Harm Reduction Coalition and coordinates the United church of Christ's Overdose and Drug Use Ministries.

**Ned Presnall, LCSW**, is the executive director of Clayton Behavioral treatment programs and an adjunct professor and senior data analyst at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Jeremy Prillwitz, MA, LAADC**, has worked as a counselor at The Stonewall Project in San Francisco since 2012. The Stonewall Project is a harm reduction substance use treatment program, providing individual and group counseling for gay, bi and trans men who have sex with men.

**Emily Ramos** is a Boricua womyn from NYC's Lower East Side and El Barrio. Motivated by the ways in which the racist War on Drugs has impacted her family and community, she founded ¡High Mi Madre! which is a womyn and femme of color marijuana consumer worker-owned cooperative, with six other womyn of color. Emily draws her inspiration from the Young Lords and the Black Panther Party in hopes of bringing community together to build power, love and heal. She recently graduated from Green Worker Cooperative and CoFed Summer Coop Academies. Emily comes to this work knowing that people of color have always been farmers and practitioners who have historically utilized this flower for medicinal and wellness purposes. She hopes to be a part of a movement to help build, create, and sustain a legal and equitable adult-use and comprehensive medical marijuana program in NY State.

**Devin Reaves** is a person living in recovery since 2007. He is a community organizer and grassroots advocacy leader. Devin has worked on the expansion of access to the lifesaving medication naloxone, implementation of 911 Good Samaritan policies, and the development of youth-oriented systems. He wants to build constituencies of consequence that will lead to meaningful public health policy changes around substance use disorders. Devin is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition (PAHRC). Devin received a Master's of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice with a focus on community and organizational change, and has a BA in Human Services from Lynn University. Devin also serves on the Pennsylvania Overdose Task Force and the Board of Directors for the Association of Recovery Schools.

**Helen Redmond** is a Harlem-based documentary filmmaker, a senior editor/journalist at Filter, and a licensed clinical social worker. Helen is an expert in drug addiction and tobacco harm reduction. Her feature-length documentary, *Liquid Handcuffs: A Documentary to Free Methadone*, was an official selection at the 2019 Reel Recovery Film Festival in LA and NYC. She is adjunct faculty at New York University.

**Stephanie Regagnon** is the CEO of FieldWatch, Inc., a non-profit company promoting stewardship and collaboration in agriculture. In 2010, after her family's tragic experience with the criminal justice system, she founded a non-profit organization that provides college scholarships to children of incarcerated parents. Since 2010, Ava's Grace Scholarship has given and committed \$1,000,000 in scholarships to 50 young people who are breaking the cycle of incarceration by pursuing higher education. Ava's Grace is a program of The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis. Stephanie received her BA

in political science from the University of Missouri and her MA in the same field from American University.

**David Restrepo** is the director of the new Coca & Rural Development program at the Centre for the Study of Security and Drugs in Universidad de los Andes, Colombia. The program seeks to address the acute knowledge gaps regarding coca uses and policy. Originally from Cali, Colombia, David worked in London for 10 years in strategy and innovation consulting. Alongside his research work, he advises social impact investment funds focused on the rural sector.

**Dan Riffle** is an attorney and provides policy advice to Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on a variety of issues, including criminal justice and drug policy. He was an advisor to two other members of Congress, and prior to his work on Capitol Hill lobbied for the Marijuana Policy Project and served as an assistant prosecutor in Southeast Ohio.

**Robert Riley II** was released from incarceration in a federal prison in 2008. After years of substance misuse and incarceration he was able to sustain sobriety by seeking help through a 12-step program. While on parole in two different states and under federal supervision at the same time, Robert was able to complete supervision, advance in the workplace, and maintain his sobriety; all of which he credits to actively working a 12-step program. In 2012 Robert met Chad Sabora while detoxing an opioid user at his home. They went on to form STL Heroin Help, a non-profit aimed at providing resources to opioid and other substance users. Robert and Chad have gone on to form the Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery, another nonprofit organization that provides education in local high schools, legislative advocacy and other community involvement battling the opiate epidemic. Robert has been labeled a recovery activist by addiction counselors throughout Missouri.

**Justice Rivera** (she/they) is a Partner with Reframe Health and Justice and a 2019-2020 Soros Justice Fellow. In both roles, she works to examine and address current sociopolitical paradigms related to race, gender, and bodily autonomy. Their fellowship focuses on writing a book that dismantles carceral approaches to the sex trade, including sex trafficking. Justice currently resides in Seattle, WA where they volunteer with the Safe Night Access Project Seattle.

**Steve Rolles** is the Senior Policy Analyst for Transform Drug Policy Foundation in the UK, where he has worked for over 20 years. He has authored a number of books including *After the War on Drugs: Blueprint for Regulation*, and has acted as a consultant for a number of governments in developing effective and humane alternatives to prohibition.

**Joseph Rubin** has been teaching for 37 years, starting with preschool and elementary school and then doing 25 years of middle school science and the rest in high school. No matter what I've taught, the focus has always been to teach for justice.

**Chad Sabora** is a person in long term recovery from substance use disorder and a former prosecuting attorney. Due to his unique experience as a prosecutor and former heroin user, he left the legal field to pursue drug policy reform advocacy. He helped form The Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery in 2013, which has helped to write, advocate, and pass numerous pieces of legislation in Missouri: first responder access to naran, third party and OTC access to naran, 911 Good Samaritan Immunity, and access to medication-assisted treatment in treatment, veterans, mental health, and family courts. Chad has been the focus of stand-alone episodes of the show "Drug Wars" on Fusion, he was part of an Emmy award winning episode of NBC News with Brian Williams, and he has also been an expert correspondent on CNN and MSNBC.

## About the Presenters

**Julio Salazar Ramirez** received his law degree from CIDE with a specialization in constitutional and administrative law. He has deep experience with strategic litigation, including landmark cases on consumer rights, military jurisdiction and healthcare. He is former legal coordinator of the NGO El Poder del Consumidor and has collaborated with the Mexican Supreme Court of Justice, the Telecommunications Federal Institute (IFT), the Ministry of Government, and the Mexican Consumer Rights Agency (PROFECO).

**Jae Shepherd** (they/them) is a 26-year-old flower boi passionate about abolition, staying hydrated, and Black liberation and healing. Jae is the Close the Workhouse organizer with Action St. Louis.

**David Showalter** is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. David uses qualitative methods to address issues at the intersection of health, politics, and law, particularly drug use and drug policy. Their research has appeared or is forthcoming in *International Journal of Drug Policy*, *Theory & Society*, and *Mobilization*. David also serves as President of the Board of Directors for NEED, a harm reduction organization in Berkeley, and has participated in the development and implementation of harm reduction services in several California communities.

**Valery Shuman** serves as Senior Director of Heartland Center for Systems Change, which includes the Midwest Harm Reduction Institute, providing training and technical assistance to agencies and organizations both locally and nationally. She is a board certified, registered art therapist and licensed clinical professional counselor. She has worked at Heartland Alliance Health in various capacities since 1998, primarily with formerly homeless participants with a serious mental illness and a substance use disorder. She has taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Mount Mary College in Milwaukee,

and presented at both local and national conferences. Valery's interests include applying art therapy and other creative interventions in a harm reduction setting, and working to reduce the stigma associated with having a mental illness and/or a substance use disorder.

**Evonne Silva** is the Senior Program Director of Criminal Justice and Workforce Development at Code for America, where she leads a team that develops civic technology aimed at transforming the criminal justice and workforce development systems. Most recently, Evonne held leadership positions with the ACLU of Northern California, as a legal advisor, building and leading teams, driving process improvement and systems changes, and managing complex, collaborative projects. She has successfully designed and led policy advocacy campaigns across a range of issues with cross-sector stakeholders at several nonprofit advocacy and legal organizations. Evonne is a licensed attorney who holds a Juris Doctorate from UCLA School of Law and a bachelor's degree in politics and economics from Saint Mary's College of California. She also serves as board member of CORO of Northern California and teaches legal ethics at U.C. Berkeley School of Law.

**Sasha Simon** is the Safety First Program Manager for the Drug Policy Alliance, where she manages the development and evaluation of the U.S.'s first harm reduction-based drug education curriculum for 9th and 10th grade students. Simon has an extensive career working as a health educator at a variety of institutions, including Columbia University, City University of New York (CUNY), GHMC, and Health, Education & Research Occupations (HERO) High School, a 9-14 P-TECH school in the Bronx. An avid youth development specialist, Simon delivers youth-adult capacity building trainings to clinicians, parents, and youth-serving organizations to help increase their capacity for youth participation in organizational decision-making

processes. Alongside a vast network of mentors of color, Simon volunteers her time supporting and removing financial barriers to higher learning for first-gen college students of color through the college application process.

**Said Slim** is a physical anthropologist and founder of the civil organization that promoted the first safe consumption room in Mexico and Latin America. He is currently part of the board of directors of the Mexican Network for Harm Reduction and has some qualitative publications.

**Grant Smith** is deputy director of DPA's office of national affairs, where he lobbies to reduce the harms associated with drug use and the war on drugs. Smith works to advance DPA's federal legislative agenda in Washington and helps to shape policy both at the federal level and within the District of Columbia. His areas of focus have included drug overdose prevention, emerging drugs, collateral consequences, marijuana law reform, and the intersection of immigration and drug policies. Before joining the organization, Smith served as a victim services advocate with the federal Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, completed a one-year legislative internship with the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations focused on advancing drug policy reform in Washington, and completed internships with DPA and Transform Drug Policy Foundation in the U.K. Smith completed a B.S. in political science with a concentration in criminal justice and congressional politics at American University. A native of Savannah, Georgia, where he was engaged in antiracism activism, Smith was drawn into drug policy reform after learning about the racial disparities inherent in the drug war.

**Zara Snapp** is the co-founder of Instituto RIA, board member of ReverdeSer Colectivo (both in Mexico) and international advisor for Acción Técnica Social (Colombia). Zara has a masters in public policy from Harvard University

(with a full scholarship) and a political science degree from the University of Colorado at Denver. Zara has closely accompanied the legislative process to regulate cannabis in Mexico and is the author of the *Drugs Dictionary* (in Spanish). She presents and writes on innovations in drug policy, particularly on the legal regulation of all psychoactive substances with a social justice framework and from a “producer” country perspective.

**Tamika Spellman** has been advocating since 1991 for homeless rights and shelter services. Tamika has 37 years of experience as a drug using sex worker and has been working with HIPS for the last two years. She is now serving as their Advocacy Associate working on policy and advocacy matters on behalf of sex workers, drug users and others bound by street-based economies. Tamika is also a secondary syringe exchange specialist and peer educator. Tamika works closely with the community to restore dignity and respect by changing negative policies that build stigma.

**Will Stolarski** helps run OutSmartNYC, a collective of nightlife staff, patrons, and activists who are organizing to end sexual violence in nightlife spaces.

**Hattie Svoboda-Stel** is originally from Kansas City and moved to St. Louis in 2013 where they immediately fell in love with the justice-committed communities in the city. Prior to joining The Bail Project, they have had the pleasure of collaborating with a slew of different organizing efforts including solidarity economy work, jail support throughout the Ferguson uprisings, solidarity work with communities in resistance with the Honduras Solidarity Network, and queer youth organizing. All of their experiences in justice work have deepened Hattie's analysis and commitment to liberation and supporting people by meeting them where they are at.

**Maia Szalavitz** is the author of the New York Times bestseller, *Unbroken Brain*:

*A Revolutionary New Way of Understanding Addiction*. The book received the 2018 media award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the College on Problems of Drug Dependence. An earlier book, *Help at Any Cost: How the Troubled Teen Industry Cons Parents and Hurts Kids*, was the first to expose the damage caused by the “tough love” business that dominates adolescent addiction treatment and helped guide Congressional hearings on the matter. She has written for numerous publications from *High Times* to the *New York Times*.

**T Dubb O** is a hip-hop artist born in Saint Louis, MO. He is as dedicated to the streets as he is to his art of music. T Dubb O is not just the average rapper talking about his trials and tribulations of his past street life. Dubb and his grassroots organization, Hands Up United, have been labeled America's New Black Radicals. The work he does in Black and poor communities have taken him all around the world to educate people on the harsh realities of Black people in America. Dubb was even granted the opportunity to sit with President Obama in the Oval Office to discuss racial issues and systemic problems. This meeting coined his phrase, “I shook Obama hand with the same hand I sold crack with”. T Dubb O is a lyrical and political embodiment of hard work and perseverance and his music reflects that gritty street influence combined with an increasingly mature world view.

**Omolewa Thedford** is a loving Mother, Holistic Massage Therapist, Birth Doula, Midwives Assistant, Placenta Alchemist, Urban Gardener and Sacred Psychedelic Therapist. She is also the host of *The Entheogenic Midwife Podcast*. As a Massage Therapist of 15 years she has shared her gift of healing touch and Earth Medicine with women, men, children and elders in her community and abroad. Through this healing work she has cultivated her ancestral and spiritual gifts as womb worker, keeper of ancient plant

medicine, sacred ceremonies, and women's Blood mysteries.

**Matt Tice** has worked his way through the ranks of Pathways to Housing PA, first as an Assistant Team Leader in 2012, then as a Team Leader, and then as Clinical Director in 2014. Spending face to face time with participants and staff at multiple levels everyday informs his constantly evolving practice. Matt is a passionate champion for the models of housing first, harm reduction, and holistic integrated care. Matt's ultimate goal is to join together with all the amazing partners, advocates, fighters, and survivors across the city for the eradication of homelessness in Philadelphia. From that day forward he will spend all his time reading science fiction and playing *Dungeons & Dragons* with his kids.

**Rebecca Tiger** is a sociologist who teaches and writes about drugs, punishment and social control. Rebecca's book *Judging Addicts* examined the ideology of coerced drug treatment and the historical construction of addiction. Rebecca has also written about the opiate panic in rural Vermont and drug-related surveillance technologies.

**Shaleen Title** is a drug policy activist and attorney who currently serves as one of five commissioners on the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, the agency tasked with regulating legal and medical marijuana in the commonwealth. Described as “the people's weed watchdog” in *Boston Magazine's* 2019 Power List, she has won several awards for her advocacy work and her efforts to make the cannabis industry more fair and inclusive. She has worked on state marijuana legalization campaigns from a racial and social justice perspective and led the drafting of the first model bill created to give states guidance to implement a process of reinvestment and reconciliation. She holds a business degree, law degree, and Master's degree from the University of Illinois.

## About the Presenters

**Hansel Tookes, MD, MPH**, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. He joined the faculty in the Division of Infectious Diseases after completing his residency in Internal Medicine at Jackson Memorial Hospital. He is the Principal Investigator of the UM Harm Reduction Research Group which houses the IDEA Exchange, Miami's pilot syringe access program. His research interests include behavioral interventions and innovative approaches to HIV prevention. He has received numerous honors including Starbucks Upstander, Miami Chamber of Commerce Healthcare Hero, and SAVE Champion of Equality. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Florida Medical Association. He graduated from Yale University with a B.S. in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology.

**Monique Tula** is the Executive Director of Harm Reduction Coalition, a national advocacy and capacity-building organization that promotes the health and dignity of people affected by drug use. Previously, she was the Vice President of Programs with AIDS United where she oversaw the grantmaking and technical assistance portfolios. With more than 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector, Ms. Tula has devoted her career to harm reduction advocacy and infrastructure development of community-based organizations.

**Kanika A. Turner, MD, MPH**, has served as a board-certified Family Medicine physician at Family Care Health Center since 2017 and Associate Medical Director at the Carondelet site since March 2019. She is also clinical faculty at Saint Louis University's Department of Family and Community Medicine and is a consulting physician to Missouri Opioid State Targeted Response/State Opioid Response Team. She is the creator and leader of the Faith Based Opioid Initiative working with communities of faith primarily in African American

neighborhoods in St. Louis to increase awareness for treatment and resources. Dr. Turner has a passion for serving the urban and under-served community by increasing access to primary care services and decreasing disparities and inequities for communities of color.

**Rika Tyler** is a Program Director of Hands Up United and lead organizer with Missouri Faith Voices, a collective grassroots organization of politically engaged minds building towards the liberation of Black, Brown and Oppressed people through art, education, agriculture, advocacy and civil disobedience. Rika works on ensuring programs are aligned to serving the community of the Greater St. Louis area.

**Sheila P. Vakharia** is Deputy Director in the Department of Research and Academic Engagement for the Drug Policy Alliance. In that role, she helps DPA staff and others understand a range of drug policy issues while also responding to new studies with critiques and analysis. She plans conferences and convenings on cutting edge issues in the area of drugs, drug research, and harm reduction. Additionally, she is responsible for cultivating relationships with researchers from a wide range of disciplines aligned with DPA's policy interests and working to mobilize academics in service of DPA policy campaigns. Prior to joining DPA, Dr. Vakharia was an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Long Island University, and had also worked as a clinical social worker in both abstinence-only and harm reduction settings. Her research interests include harm reduction therapy, drug policy reform, drug user stigma, overdose prevention, and social work education. She is currently on the Board of Directors of HAMS Harm Reduction Network and Filter magazine. Dr. Vakharia earned her doctorate at Florida International University's School of Social Work. She received her Master's in Social Work from Binghamton University and a Post-Master's Certificate in the Addictions from New York University.

**Cristiana Vale Pires** holds a Master's degree and PhD in Anthropology. She has relevant experience in implementing harm reduction responses targeting people who use drugs in nightlife environments and was involved in the implementation and coordination of national and EU projects related to heavy episodic drinking, new psychoactive substances, harm reduction and nightlife. Since 2014 she has been researching the intersections between sexual violence, drug use and nightlife environments. Currently, she is a member of Kosmicare Association and a Postdoc researcher in FEP-UCP. She is involved in the implementation of the pilot project Sexism Free Night.

**Chris Van Veen** is the Director of Strategy and Public Health Planning at Vancouver Coastal Health, in British Columbia, Canada, where he co-leads the regional response to the overdose crisis. Prior to joining VCH, Chris was the City of Vancouver's Urban Health Planner, responsible for implementing the Four Pillars Drug Strategy. He also previously worked as a frontline social worker at Insite, North America's first supervised injection site. Chris holds a Master of Social Work and is a PhD candidate at the Simon Fraser University Faculty of Health Sciences.

**Dan Viets** is the New Approach MO President, MO NORML Coordinator, Nat'l NORML Secretary, NORML Foundation President, and 2019 MO Lawyer of the Year. He has 33 years of experience defending marijuana defendants in state, local and federal courts and is former President of the MO Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He has been honored with the Atticus Finch Award, NORML Lifetime Achievement Award, NAACP Keeping the Dream Alive Award, M. L. King Association Trailblazer Award, and the Audiency Award from Conan O'Brien on The Tonight Show. He is also former President of the ACLU of Mid-Missouri, former President of the University of MO student body, and currently host of "Sex, Drugs and Civil Liberties" on KOPN radio.



**Dr. Karla Wagner** is an Associate Professor in the School of Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno. She conducts public health research to examine the individual, social, and environmental factors associated with opioid overdose and HIV among people who use drugs and other groups at risk. In 1999 she started working with syringe access programs to identify ways to reduce risk for HIV among people who inject drugs. Since 2006 she has studied opioid overdose, with a focus on programs to expand access to naloxone, reduce opioid overdose deaths, and increase access to effective, evidence-based treatment.

**Ingrid Walker** is Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Washington, Tacoma, where she researches and teaches about the politics of contemporary culture in the United States and critical drug studies. She is a poly-drug user whose research and activism focus on destigmatizing drugs and the people who use them. Her book, *High: Drugs, Desire, and a Nation of Users*, addresses the social construction and systemic biases of various drugs, particularly the erasure of pleasure for some users. Her TEDx Talk, "Drugs and Desire," questions U.S. cultural drug norms about using psychoactive drugs.

**Terrence D. Walton** is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). He is among the nation's leading experts in providing training and technical assistance to drug courts and other problem-solving courts. In addition to being responsible for the daily operations of NADCP, he is responsible for establishing and implementing best practice standards for treatment courts nationwide. Terrence Walton is an internationally certified alcohol and other drug abuse counselor with over twenty-five years of experience helping individuals and organizations champion positive change. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and a Master of Social Work.

**Ben Westhoff** is an award-winning investigative journalist who writes about culture, drugs, and poverty. His books are taught around the country and have been translated into languages all over the world. For his new book, *Fentanyl, Inc.: How Rogue Chemists Are Creating the Deadliest Wave of the Opioid Epidemic*, he went undercover inside Chinese drug operations and explored cutting-edge harm reduction efforts in Spain and Slovenia.

**Julie Wiegandt** oversees the opioids portfolio at Arnold Ventures, a philanthropic organization that aims to maximize opportunity and minimize injustice. Her work is focused on expanding access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder and harm reduction. She is also leading a national initiative to expand access to substance use treatment in jails and prisons.

**Allie Rose Wilens** is a Community Organizer with Decriminalize Health, a project that aims to end the criminalization of drug use, mental health crisis, homelessness, immigration, sex work, and more, while supporting health and housing-based alternatives governed by principles of harm reduction, privacy, and bodily autonomy. Formerly a member of MAPS' clinical team, Allie developed infrastructure to support research at 20 psychedelic-assisted therapy locations internationally. Allie advocates that legislative strategies for the legalization of psychedelics include support for community-led delivery of trauma therapy as well as other mental health and harm reduction services, but not as a colonial project.

**Jawanza James Williams** is a Black, radical Queer, Prison Abolitionist, Socialist. He is the Director of Organizing at VOCAL-NY. He is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America and active in the Afrosocialists and People of Color Caucus. Williams is originally from Beaumont, Texas.

**Rachel Winograd, PhD**, is an Associate Research Professor at the University of Missouri St. Louis - Missouri Institute of Mental Health. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and completed her clinical internship with the VA St. Louis Healthcare System. Her clinical, research, and program development interests revolve around alcohol and drug use disorder treatment and related policy change. Dr. Winograd is the Project Director of Missouri's State Opioid Response grant as well as other statewide initiatives aimed at expanding access to medical treatment and harm reduction strategies for those most in need of evidence-based care.

**Jeannette Zanipatin** is the California State Director for the Drug Policy Policy Alliance where she focuses on criminal justice reform, drug policy and the intersection between criminal law and immigration law. Prior to DPA, she worked as a Staff Attorney for MALDEF, (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) working on a wide range of legislation such as ICE/Police Collaboration (CA Values Act, TRUTH Act, and the TRUST Act), labor protections for non-citizens (Document Abuse, Personal Injury and Wrongful Death suits), and expanding access to higher education for undocumented students. Additionally, Ms. Zanipatin is a highly experienced immigration lawyer, a graduate of UC Berkeley and Seattle University School of Law, and licensed to practice in Washington and California.

**Greekson Zweni** is the chairperson and Speaker of Umzimvubu Farmers Support Network. Greekson also does community liaison work with traditional leaders and other community leaders. Greekson is a Gqira (Traditional Health Practitioner), regional chairperson for Traditional Healers Organization, and trainer of community development and traditional health practitioners.

## Exhibitors

A New PATH:  
Moms United to End the War on Drugs

American Kratom Association

Broken No More

Cato Institute

City of St. Louis Department of Health

Doctors for Cannabis Regulation

Harm Reduction Coalition

Intercambios Puerto Rico

Law Enforcement Action Partnership

Live4Lali

MAPS

Missouri Faith Voices

National Advocates for Pregnant Women

Open Society Foundations

Psychedelia—Research into  
the Science of Spirituality

Rights Restoration Project

StoptheDrugWar.org

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Support. Don't Punish.

The Regulation Project—  
A New Vision for Drug Policy

Truth Pharm

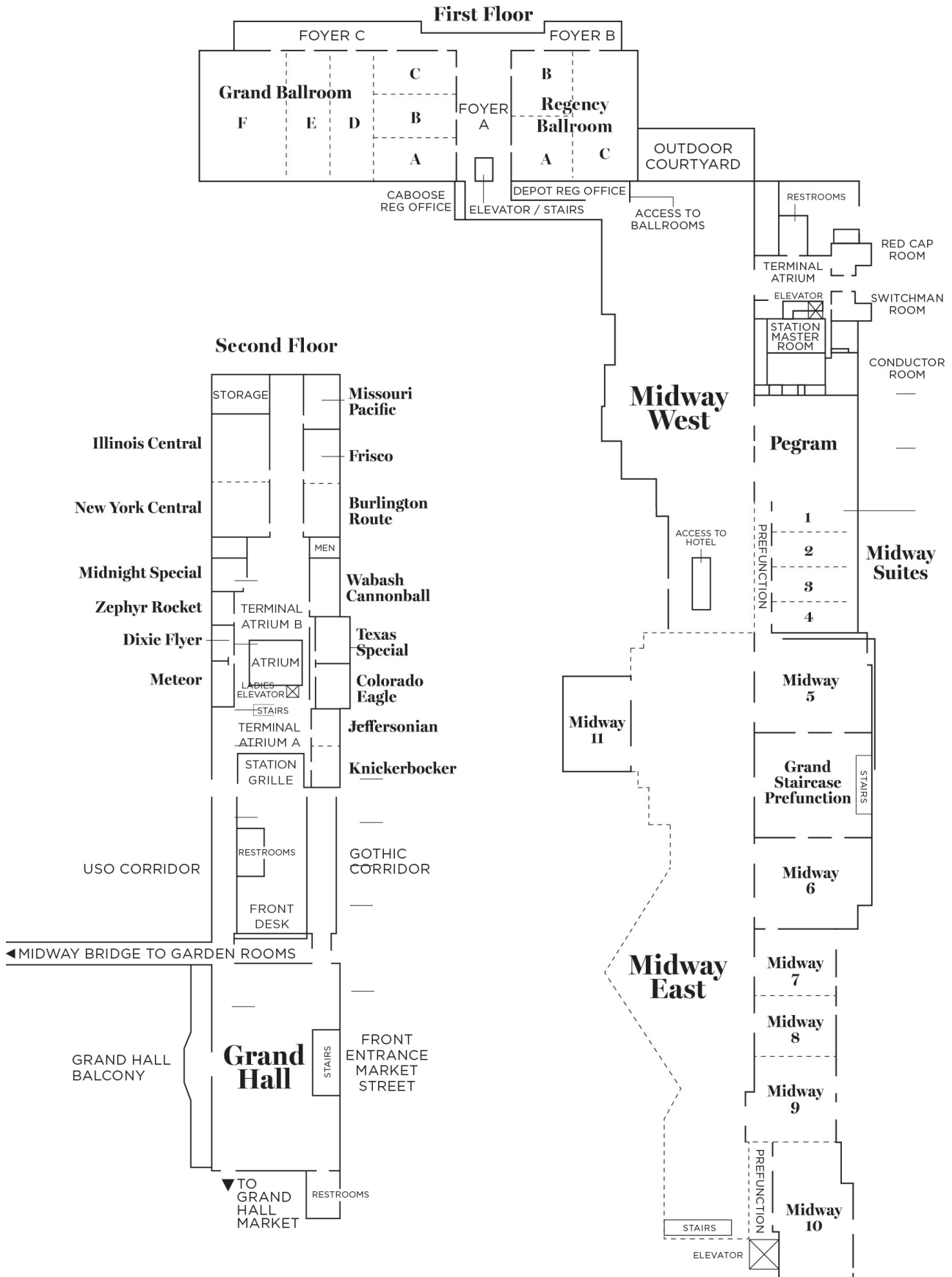
War on Us

Women's Community Justice Association's  
Beyond Rosie's Campaign

Western Mass Recovery Learning  
Community



# Conference Map





**We are  
the Drug  
Policy  
Alliance.**