FROM PUNISHMENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH: EMBRACING EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO END THE OVERDOSE CRISIS

September 27 - 28, 2018

Thursday, September 27 | 11:30 AM - 6:15 PM
Friday, September 28 | 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Saxbe Auditorium, Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University

Conference hosts

Conference partners
This conference aims to explore the impact of criminal justice laws and policies in compounding drug use harms, including overdose deaths, and offer an alternative framework for addressing problematic drug use and drug-related fatalities that is rooted in evidence, compassion, and the principles of harm reduction.

The country is in the middle of a tragic increase in drug overdose deaths and Ohio is at the epicenter of the overdose crisis. According to new preliminary estimates for 2017 from the Center for Disease Control, the country has suffered a record 72,000 overdose deaths, with Ohio’s rate of overdose deaths increasing by more than 17%. In 2016, Ohio ranked second in the nation in drug overdose death rates (at 39.1 per 100,000) and third in the nation in total number of deaths (4,329). Ohio is losing nearly 12 citizens each day to a drug overdose.

Responses to the overdose crisis across the nation and within the state have been mixed. There has been a renewed emphasis on treatment, expanded access to the overdose antidote naloxone, and the passage of Good Samaritan laws that offer protection to those calling for help during an overdose. Health officials in Ohio are even engaging in serious discussions of previously-taboo harm reduction interventions, such as drug checking strips. Nonetheless, use of the criminal justice system continues to dominate local, state, and federal responses to increasing rates of opioid use and overdose. Ohio, for instance, charges more people with manslaughter for delivery of a controlled substance resulting in death than any other state except one. Local and state elected officials have proposed legislation that would increase penalties for fentanyl, create a specific drug-induced homicide offense, and refuse medical assistance after a third overdose. Resources for supply side interventions are dwarfing those dedicated to evidence-based interventions like community-based naloxone or syringe exchange.

In this conference hosted by the Drug Policy Alliance, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Drug Enforcement and Policy Center, Harm Reduction Ohio, and ACLU-Ohio along with partners Harm Reduction Coalition, The Ohio Alliance for Innovation in Population Health and the Ohio State College of Public Health, we will explore why a public health approach to problematic drug use and overdose is critical to reducing needless deaths and other harms and why punitive measures can be counterproductive and destructive. Local, national, and international expert panelists will articulate why and how we can reverse course in our response to the overdose crisis by embracing and applying evidence and the principles of harm reduction rather than principles of punishment. In so doing, panelists will also dispel common myths about what is effective and what is not based on research, science, and experience.
Thursday, September 27

11:30 - 12:00  Registration

12:00 - 12:15  Welcome and Framing
   LINDSAY LASALLE, JD, Director of Public Health Law and Policy, Drug Policy Alliance

12:15 - 1:00  KEYNOTE: A War on People: History and Implications of the Drug War
   Dr. Roberts will provide an overview of the history of the drug war and its racist origins and
   the impact of drug war policies, including mass criminalization, devastation of communities
   of color, and divestment in a public health and social safety infrastructure that could better
   address the harms of addiction.
   SAMUEL ROBERTS, PhD, Associate Professor of History and of Sociomedical Sciences,
   Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

1:00 - 2:15  Panel 1: Doubling Down on Punishment: A Knee Jerk Response to Increasing Deaths
   As overdose fatalities continue to rise, so does the punitive response to people who use
   and sell drugs. Elected officials and law enforcement are doubling down on ineffective
   policies that not only have no impact on reducing overdose deaths, but actually compound
   the problem. This panel will explore the use of drug-induced homicide charges, increased
   penalties for people who use and sell fentanyl, and the false dichotomy between “user”
   and “seller” often underlying these policies.
   ALEX KREIT, JD, Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law; visiting professor at OSU
   Moritz College of Law (moderator)
   LEO BELETSKY, JD, Associate Professor of Law and Health Sciences, Northeastern
   University School of Law
   WILLIAM EBBEN, JD, Father of overdose victim; a lawyer, businessman and former special
   education teacher
   LINDSAY LASALLE, JD, Director of Public Health Law and Policy, Drug Policy Alliance
   CARTER STEWART, JD, Managing Director, Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation

2:15 - 3:30  Panel 2: “Treatment Instead of Incarceration”: A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing
   Even as we move slowly away from criminalization and embrace “treatment instead of
   incarceration” in light of the overdose crisis, the myth of the needed “stick” looms large.
   This panel will evaluate the ways in which the criminal justice system has co-opted the
   treatment system, with particular emphasis on drug courts. Panelists will review the
   risks and lack of evidence associated with mandatory treatment and discuss the many
   drawbacks of drug courts and other forms of mandated treatment, including inherent
   coercion, lack of standardization, net widening, unequal application, punitive sanctions,
   and limitations of abstinence-only programs. The panel will also analyze how access to
   treatment in the community, which could decrease rates of overdose, has been impacted
   by the overreach of the criminal justice system.
   DENISE TOMASINI-JOSHI, JD, Division Director for Health Law and Equality, Open Society
   Public Health Program, Open Society Foundations (moderator)
3:30 - 3:45  Break

3:45 - 4:00  Speaker 2: Policy and Punishment: How Drug Law Enforcement Has Impacted Public Health and Overdose

The massive enforcement of laws criminalizing personal drug use and possession in the United States causes devastating harm. Dr. Susan Sherman will examine the emerging scientific evidence on public health issues, including overdose, arising from drug control policy and explore how the war on drugs interrupts systems of social support that could help us address the overdose crisis.

SUSAN SHERMAN, PhD, Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health, John Hopkins University

4:00 - 5:15  Panel 3: Law Enforcement to the Rescue?: The Role of Police and Prosecutors in Addressing the Overdose Crisis

If personal drug use and possession is fundamentally a public health issue, what, if any, role should law enforcement play in trying to address the harms of drug use, including overdose? This panel will explore potential law enforcement reforms that help move the ball away from criminalization and toward public health, including Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), police and prosecutor lowest level enforcement and diversion efforts, and others. Panelists will also examine why a law enforcement framework, even one based in harm reduction, should be questioned and can be problematic.

NEILL FRANKLIN, Executive Director, Law Enforcement Action Partnership (moderator)
RON MARTIN, Harm Reduction Policing Consultant, North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
BAXTER WORTH PASCHAL, JD, Assistant District Attorney, Cumberland County District Attorney's Office, North Carolina
JEROME SANCHEZ, Training and Technical Assistance, LEAD Santa Fe
TOM SYNAN, Chief of Police, Newton Police Department, Ohio

5:15 - 6:15  Panel 4: Reducing the Role of Criminalization: The Ohio Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment, and Rehabilitation Amendment

The Ohio Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment, and Rehabilitation Amendment is a ballot initiative that aims to reform Ohio’s criminal justice system and reinvest millions of dollars into drug treatment and community-based recovery programs, which have the potential to reduce drug-related harms, including overdose. But, what is needed to leverage this criminal justice reform into broader support for a public health and social safety infrastructure that can best support people who use drugs? Panelists will discuss how government entities and interested stakeholders can plan for the ballot’s possible passing as well as the potential pitfalls of this initiative and how to best ensure effective implementation in both the criminal justice reform and public health realms.

JOCELYN ROSNICK, JD, Policy Director, ACLU of Ohio (moderator)
DOUGLAS A. BERMAN, JD, Newton D. Baker-Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law, Moritz College of Law; Director, The Ohio State University Drug Enforcement and Policy Center
SHAKYRA DIAZ, Managing Director, Crime Survivors for Safety, Alliance for Safety and Justice
STEPHEN JOHNSONGROVE, JD, Deputy Director for Policy, Ohio Justice & Policy Center

6:15   Closing
DOUGLAS A. BERSMAN, JD, Newton D. Baker-Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law, Moritz College of Law; Director, The Ohio State University Drug Enforcement and Policy Center

6:30 - 7:30  Networking Reception

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Friday, September 28

8:30 - 9:00   Light breakfast and registration

9:00 - 9:15   Welcome and Framing
DENNIS CAUCHON, President, Harm Reduction Ohio

9:15 - 9:30   Speaker 3: Emerging Research: Ohio Drug Markets and Related Overdoses
Dan Rosenblum will present new data from Ohio’s state crime labs that sheds light on the recent rapid change in the illicit opioid market and how this relates to trends in opioid overdose deaths in Ohio.

DAN ROSENBLUM, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Dalhousie University

9:30 - 9:45  Speaker 4: Overdose in Ohio: Social Consequences
Rick Hodges will provide an overview of the social consequences of the overdose crisis in Ohio.

RICK HODGES, MPA, Executive in Residence, College of Health Sciences and Professions, Ohio University; Director, Ohio Alliance for Innovation in Population Health

9:45 - 10:00  Speaker 5: Race and the Overdose Crisis
Kassandra Frederique will discuss the racial dynamics of the overdose crisis and explore how the perception of those most affected by the crisis has engendered a different rhetorical response.

KASSANDRA FREDERIQUE, MS, New York State Director, Drug Policy Alliance

10:00 - 10:15   Speaker 6: Harm Reduction: A Philosophy
Harm reduction often refers to a set of practical strategies aimed at reducing the negative consequences associated with drug use. But, Daniel Raymond will take us beyond those particular strategies and examine the values underlying harm reduction and the broader social justice movement to respect and protect the rights of people who use drugs.

DANIEL RAYMOND, Policy Director, Harm Reduction Coalition

Drug policy reform must be informed by the knowledge of those directly impacted, but far too often people who use drugs are silenced or discredited. In envisioning a public health framework for addressing drug use, this panel will center, value, and take direction from the voices, needs, and experiences of those most harmed, including drug users and their families.
Panel 6: Not All Treatment is Created Equal: The Case for Methadone and Buprenorphine

A robust community treatment infrastructure must be a central component to a public health approach to addiction and overdose, but most current treatment options are not evidence-based. Moreover, the most effective treatment for opioid use disorder is also the most stigmatized and misunderstood—opioid agonist treatment (OAT) with the medications methadone and buprenorphine. This panel will highlight the evidence in support of OAT compared to other treatments, identify barriers to access, explore innovative service delivery models, and evaluate OAT's efficacy as an overdose prevention tool. The panel will also examine the emergence and embrace of the medication Vivitrol in contrast to methadone and buprenorphine, and the importance of access to all approved treatment medications.

LIPI ROY, MD, MPH, Clinical Assistant Professor, NYU School of Medicine; former Chief of Addiction Medicine, Rikers Island (moderator)
JOHN BROOKLYN, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Family Medicine and Psychiatry, University of Vermont College of Medicine
RICHARD MASSATI, PhD, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
JOSIAH RICH, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Professor of Epidemiology, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University; Co-Director, Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights
SHAWN RYAN, MD, President and Chief Medical Officer, BrightView; Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Cincinnati

Panel 7: The Science Says So: Effectiveness of Harm Reduction Interventions

Given the potential harms associated with the use of opioids and other drugs, services to reduce health risks are paramount to ensuring the safety of those who use them. On this panel, expert researchers and service providers will explore harm reduction strategies in the US and abroad and their proven efficacy with regard to decreasing overdose deaths, including access to naloxone, syringe exchange, drug checking, and supervised consumption. Panelists will also review best practices and cutting edge on-the-ground strategies.

MELISSA GREEN, Harm Reduction Program Manager, Alcohol & Drug Services, Columbus Public Health (moderator)
ALICE BELL, LCSW, Overdose Prevention Project Coordinator, Prevention Point Pittsburgh
TRACI GREEN, PhD, Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, Boston University; Deputy Director, Boston Medical Center Injury Prevention Center; Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine and Epidemiology, Warren Alpert School of Medicine, Brown University
RUSS MAYNARD, Community Engagement, Research and Policy, PHS Community Services Society
KIEFER PATERTON, Government Relations Manager, Harm Reduction Coalition

Panel 8: Beyond the Evidence: How to Sway Hearts and Minds to Embrace Harm Reduction

Despite a robust body of evidence attesting to the effectiveness of a various harm reduction interventions, efforts to bring these interventions to communities is often met
with public skepticism or outright opposition. Overcoming these challenges often depends on the ability to manage public opinion by developing well-crafted public relations messages and advocacy campaigns. Researchers, advocates, and others will share their experiences with developing messages that resonate with the public and can help build support for harm reduction efforts.

ROBERT CHILDS, MPH, Harm Reduction and Drug Policy Consultant (moderator)  
PETER BRUUN, MFA, Founder, The New Day Campaign; artist, educator, curator, and community activist  
TESSIE CASTILLO, Advocacy and Communications Consultant, North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition  
ERICKA ELION, MA, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc.  
TALEED EL-SABAWI, JD, Doctoral Candidate, College of Public Health, The Ohio State University

4:15 - 4:30 Break

4:30 - 4:45 Speaker 7: Beyond Overdose Prevention: Addressing Root Causes of the Overdose Crisis  
Robert Carlson will move us beyond tertiary prevention to a discussion of the social and structural determinants of drug addiction and the underlying causes of the overdose crisis.

ROBERT CARLSON, PhD, Professor, Population & Public Health Director, Center for Interventions, Treatment, and Addictions Research, Wright State University

4:45 - 6:00 Panel 9: Shoring Up the Social Safety Net: What is Needed?  
This panel will address how improvements and advances in social systems like housing, employment, and health care are critical to addressing the overdose crisis and must be incorporated into a robust drug policy response grounded in harm reduction and public health. Panelists will also explore structural inequalities and barriers to access.

RYAN MCNEIL, PhD, Research Scientist, British Columbia Centre on Substance Use; Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia; Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar (moderator)  
MICHAEL BETZ, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Sciences, The Ohio State University  
ABRAHAM GUTMAN, MA, Opinion Writer, Philadelphia Inquirer  
DAYNA FAST, PhD, Research Scientist, British Columbia Centre on Substance Use; Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar  
NICOLAS P. TERRY, JD, Hall Render Professor of Law & Executive Director, Hall Center for Law and Health, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law

6:00 Thank You and Goodbye
LEO BELETSKY, JD
Associate Professor of Law and Health Sciences; Director, Health in Justice Action Lab; School of Law & Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University

Leo Beletsky holds a joint appointment with the School of Law and Bouvé College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University, which also houses the Health in Justice Action Lab he directs. Beletsky’s expertise is in the public health impact of laws and their enforcement, with special focus on drug overdose, infectious disease transmission, and the role of the criminal justice system as a structural determinant of health. Throughout his career, Professor Beletsky has applied his skills and expertise in service to governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations, including the United Nations, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and the City of New York.

Policy priorities:
- Expand access to low-threshold treatment, overdose prevention and other services for people who use drugs.
- Pursue meaningful criminal justice reform that reframes substance use as a health issue.
- Address social and economic root causes of problematic substance use.

ALICE BELL, LCSW
Overdose Prevention Project Coordinator, Prevention Point Pittsburgh

Alice Bell, L.C.S.W., is the Project Coordinator for Prevention Point Pittsburgh’s Overdose Prevention Project. She collaborated with co-conspirators to implement Overdose Prevention training in the Allegheny County Jail in 2002, naloxone prescription at PPP’s syringe exchange in 2005 and physician/pharmacist co-prescribing of naloxone. She is co-facilitator for the Opiate Safety with Naloxone Network (OSNN) and is an advocate on a state and national level to promote harm reduction-based policy. She received a Master’s in Social Welfare from the University of California – Berkeley in 1987 and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She has provided outpatient psychotherapy in a community mental health setting for over 15 years, taught as a Visiting Professor at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Social Work on Treating Addiction, and Clinical Supervision for Master’s Level Social Workers supporting patients with HIV and Hepatitis C in the harm reduction-based Positive Health Clinic of Allegheny Health Network.

Policy priorities
- Increase access to opioid agonist treatment (methadone and buprenorphine) by removing barriers to community treatment and increasing access in correctional settings.
- Provide authorization and funding for harm reduction interventions like community-based naloxone, drug checking, syringe access, safe consumption sites, and accurate and evidence-based education about drug use and related-risks.
- Decriminalize drug use and reallocate resources previously spent on enforcement and incarceration to shoring up the social safety net, including housing, health care, employment, and other social services.

TAYLOR BENNETT, MS
Director of Advocacy, Harm Reduction Ohio

Bennett earned a Master of Science degree in Human Development and Family sciences from the University of Wyoming in 2011. While there, her studies focused on stress, coping, and resiliency through the lens of the developmental ecosystem. Her research and thesis examined the positive impact a child with a disability may have on their family, a continuation and extension of her undergraduate work in education and disability studies at Morehead State University in her home state of Kentucky, where she graduated with her BA in 2007. As a PWUD, she provides a valuable perspective that is unique to her specific academic background and lived experience. Currently, she is dedicated to identifying the immediate harm reduction service needs of communities of PWUD in rural areas and populations experiencing increased rates of overdose in the state of Ohio. She’s presently working to increase access to naloxone across the state and especially within these communities. In addition to identifying these needs, she is also focused on the drug policies and greater community concerns that prevent access to those services, such as removing the barriers to community distribution of naloxone.
DOUGLAS A. BERMAN, JD
Newton D. Baker-Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law, Director of Drug Enforcement and Policy Center, Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University

Professor Berman's principal teaching and research focus is in the area of criminal law and criminal sentencing and rapidly-evolving drug laws and regulations, with a special emphasis on the intersection of these issues. In addition to authoring numerous publications on topics ranging from capital punishment to the federal sentencing guidelines, Professor Berman has served as an editor of the Federal Sentencing Reporter for more than a decade, and is the sole creator and author of two widely-read and widely-cited blogs: Sentencing Law and Policy and Marijuana Law, Policy & Reform. Professor Berman is frequently consulted by national and state policymakers, sentencing commissioners, and public policy groups concerning sentencing law and policy reforms. He has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and before numerous sentencing commissions. Professor Berman has appeared on national television and radio news programs and has been extensively quoted in major newspaper articles, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Legal Times, and in pieces from the Associated Press, Reuters, and Knight-Ridder news services. He attended Princeton University and Harvard Law School.

MICHAEL BETZ, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Human Sciences, The Ohio State University

Dr. Michael Betz is an assistant professor in the Department of Human Sciences at The Ohio State University. Professor Betz's research focus is on how local economic conditions impact a wide range of individual, family, and community wellbeing indicators and is particularly interested in the differences between rural and urban areas. He has published in journals such as Energy Economics, Rural Studies, Papers in Regional Science, and International Regional Science Review. He has received funding for his research from The United States Department of Agriculture, the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, and The Appalachian Research Initiative for Environmental Science. He is currently the president for the USDA multi-state research project NE1749: Enhancing Rural Economic Opportunities, Community Resilience, and Entrepreneurship.

Policy priorities
- Large investments in pre-K and early childhood/maternal health
- Better support of working families through the Earned Income Tax Credit and expanded maternity and paternity leave
- More thoughtful (slower) approach to trade and other disruptive economic decisions
- Reduce prescription opioid rates back to 1995 levels and increase access to alternative pain medications

JOHN BROOKLYN, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor of Family Medicine and Psychiatry, University of Vermont College of Medicine

Dr. John Brooklyn graduated from Brown University Program in Medicine in 1989 and is Board Certified in Family Medicine and Addiction Medicine. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor on the UVMC Family Medicine and Psychiatry faculty and has been involved with research of heroin, tobacco and cocaine use treatments at UVMC since 1992, including multiple studies that led to the approval of buprenorphine for opioid users. He is the Medical Director of the Howard Center Chittenden Clinic Hub and the Baymark St. Albans Hub. He continues as a Family Physician at Community Health Centers of Burlington. He has been a strong advocate for people with substance use disorders to be integrated into medical homes and conceived of the nationally recognized VT.Hub and Spoke Model to seamlessly treat opioid use disorders. He helped create CHARM, an integrated nationally recognized model to treat pregnant opioid users and their children. He is a national mentor for substance use disorder treatment and a trainer for students, residents and faculty members throughout the US.

Policy priorities:
- Opioid Agonist Treatment is the mainstay of treatment of Opioid Use disorder and there should be no limitation on time in treatment.
- Leverage resources to provide prescribers of buprenorphine the help they need to manage their patients-it takes a team to make this work.
- Reduce barriers through innovative technologies to deliver treatment via telemonitoring, secure dispensing devices and telemedicine and telecounseling.
PETER BRUUN, MFA
Founder, The New Day Campaign, a program of Brunn Studios; artist, educator, curator, and community activist
Peter Bruun is an artist, educator, curator, and community activist in the arts. Bruun was the Exhibitions Educator for The Park School of Baltimore from 2000 to 2005. Bruun founded Art on Purpose in 2005, which uses art to bring people together around issues and ideas, where he stayed on as founding director until 2010. Since 2012, Bruun has operated under the aegis of Bruun Studios. Bruun founded the New Day Campaign in early 2014, following the death of his daughter Elisif from heroin addiction. The New Day Campaign uses art-based programming and public engagement to challenge stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness and substance use, making the world a more healing place. The Campaign's vision is a world where those affected by mental illness and substance use are met with compassion and understanding rather than fear and judgment.

Policy priorities
• Safe consumption facilities - those with substance use disorder will use, and it’s better to have them use safely and at a point of contact where they stand the chance of finding not only safety and compassion, but access to resources to help them pursue their wish to seek treatment.
• Treatment on demand, 24/7 - the window of openness for entering a treatment program opens and shuts within someone with substance use disorder in a nano-second; if treatment is not available immediately at that moment of openness, the opening passes and the person with the addiction does not get the help he or she needs (and wants).
• Increased access to drug treatment options in jail and prison/re-direction to treatment from the criminal justice system - this is a grand, sweeping need with multiple potential specific policy reforms to get there. But here is the underlying driver to this priority: when those with addiction are incarcerated, more often than not their addictive thinking is interrupted... there is a fresh openness and readiness for change, and treatment.

ROBERT G. CARLSON, PhD
Director of the Center for Interventions, Treatment and Addictions Research; Professor in the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences, Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine
Robert G. Carlson received his Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1989 for field research on the production and use of banana beer among the Haya of Northwest Tanzania. Since 1989, Dr. Carlson has conducted ethnographic and mixed-methods research on HIV risk behaviors, epidemiologic trends, and health services use among injection drug and other non-medical drug users in Ohio. Funded by the state of Ohio, he directed the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network from 2005 -2009. He has been Principal Investigator on multiple NIH R01s focusing on stimulant users in rural Ohio, MDMA/ecstasy users in Columbus, and trajectories of pharmaceutical opioid use. Recently, he was Principal Investigator on a Recovery Challenge award to conduct a clinical trial comparing a chronic disease model of addiction treatment and outpatient treatment as usual. He also was Principal Investigator of an R56 NIH award to construct a national emerging drug surveillance network combining data streams from a network of medical toxicologists who work in emergency departments and analysis of social media data on substance abuse. His research interests include ethnographic methods, the epidemiology of non-medical drug use, natural history research, HIV prevention, social media research, health services research, and the political economy of substance use.

LAURA CASH, MA
Board Member, Broken No More/GRASP, Harm Reduction Ohio, and OhioCan
Laura Cash holds a M.A. degree in Elementary Education and Educational Administration. During Laura’s 20 year teaching career, she was active in her local professional organization holding various positions including Co-President. In 2014, Laura’s son, Mark died of a heroin overdose. Being an educator, she sought out information, facts, people and organizations that could help her understand her son’s addiction and his death. During her search she found GRASP, an international grief support group for those who have lost a loved one to substance use, and Broken No More, an advocacy organization working to end the stigma and change the harmful policies affecting those who use drugs. Today, Laura continues to advocate for the rights of people who use drugs and to eliminate the shame and stigma that society places on this group of individuals. In her role as the coordinator of GRASP’s face to face chapters, she has the privilege of talking to families who have lost a loved one to substance use. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Broken No More/GRASP, Harm Reduction Ohio and OhioCan.

Policy priorities:
• Fund and implement harm reduction strategies starting with providing low cost easy access to both naloxone
and to opioid substitution therapy (specifically methadone and buprenorphine) for those who use drugs.

- Implement policies to end the mass incarceration of those that use drugs.
- Ultimately, we need to decriminalize all drugs and move towards a public health approach. As long as certain drugs and drug use are criminalized, there will be stigma and deaths related to this drug use.

TESSIE CASTILLO
Advocacy and Communications Consultant, North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
From 2010 to 2018, Tessie Castillo served as Advocacy and Communication Coordinator for NCHRC. She is the agency’s only registered lobbyist and has successfully advocated for several new laws pertaining to overdose prevention, naloxone access, law enforcement needle-stick injury prevention, and the legalization of syringe exchange programs. Tessie recently transitioned into a career as a freelance writer on criminal justice and drug policy reform topics. Her articles are featured in Slate, Salon, The Fix, The Progressive, AlterNet and The Huffington Post.

Policy priorities:
- Legalize drugs and allocate new funding streams to housing, health care, employment and other social services.
- Expand access to medication assisted treatment, including heroin maintenance, for opioid users.
- Fund harm reduction interventions such as community-based naloxone, syringe exchange programs, supervised consumption sites, and evidence-based education about drugs.

DENNIS CAUCHON
President, Harm Reduction Ohio
Dennis Cauchon is the founder and president of Harm Reduction Ohio, a non-profit organization that promotes drug policy based on health, science, compassion and human rights. Harm Reduction Ohio has been active in expanding access for Ohioans to syringe programs, naloxone and other health-based responses to problematic drug use. Cauchon has published in-depth research on the chemical composition of Ohio’s illegal drug supply, overdose death trends in the state and historical imprisonment rates. Cauchon was a national reporter for 27 years at USA TODAY, covering the World Trade Center attacks, the drug war and other subjects. He was a Knight Journalism Fellow at the University of Michigan Medical School where he studied “The History of False Ideas.”

Policy priorities:
- Ohio crime labs should release publicly, in as close to real time as possible, the results of all lab tests done on confiscated drugs. Ohio crime labs complete hundreds of thousands of gas chromatography–mass spectrometry tests on drug confiscated every year. This information has enormous public health value during an overdose epidemic. This dataset is wasted when left unused and unanalyzed in government computers.
- Legalize marijuana. No single policy action would do more to reduce overdose death than easing regulatory barriers on the third most popular recreational drug (after caffeine and alcohol). The reduction in overdose deaths would be driven primarily by an economic substitution effect, not the medicinal value of marijuana.
- End occupational drug testing unrelated to safety. Employment restrictions have created an economic underclass of people funneled into food service, landscaping and jobs with limited advancement opportunities. The best drug treatment is a job at 8 a.m. that you like with co-workers who you like. People who use drugs should be judged by their work performance, not the content of their urine.

ROBERT CHILDS
Independent Harm Reduction and Drug Policy Consultant
Robert Childs, MPH is an independent harm reduction and drug policy reform consultant. He worked as North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition’s (NCHRC) Executive Director from 2009-2018 and oversaw the agency’s operations, program implementation and innovation. Robert 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 and drug overdose response. At NCHRC, Robert helped develop the largest syringe exchange network, as well as community and law enforcement based naloxone distribution programs in the US South. He has been invited to speak at the United Nations, the US Congress, the FDA and multiple state legislatures on his work. Childs’ work has been featured in the New York Times, the Lancet, People, the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the Daily Beast, Kaiser Health News, Fox News, NBC News, ABC News, Human Rights Watch, MMWR, NPR & the Huffington Post.
Policy priorities:

- Universal free access to methadone and buprenorphine in fixed and mobile site settings and as well as settings of incarceration.
- Provide authorization and extensive funding for harm reduction interventions like community-based naloxone, drug checking, syringe access, pipe access, straw access, safe consumption sites, and accurate and evidence-based education about drug use and related-risks.
- Decriminalize drug use and reallocate resources previously spent on enforcement and incarceration to shoring up the social safety net, including short and long term evidenced based drug treatment, wet housing, health care, employment opportunities and training, mental health care, and other social services as needed.

JAY CLARK, JD
Attorney
Jay is a 1989 graduate of the University of Cincinnati, College of Law. His concentrates on criminal trial and appellate representation. Jay has attended the National Criminal Defense College in Macon as well as the NCDC Advanced Cross Examination Program. In the past several years Jay has been successful in obtaining acquittals for clients in cases with apparently very damning evidence. He has recently won acquittals in cases with clients charged with creating and possession of child pornography, an internet traveler case typical of those shown on “Dateline” and his client, a police officer, was acquitted of stalking another officer. He most recently obtained a not guilty verdict in a murder case where police knew about, but ignored, the actual shooter. Jay has previously lectured on numerous issues including defending child pornography cases, obtaining public records, effective closing arguments, cross examining police officers, and professionalism. Jay served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He serves NACDL on the Counsel of Affiliates and the Problem Solving Court Task Force. Jay also serves OACDL as a co-chair of the Strike Force committee. He is a past president of the Greater Cincinnati Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Jay is an adjunct faculty member of the University of Cincinnati College of Law where he teaches Criminal Defense and Investigation, Forensic Science, and Trial Practice: Criminal Defense.

SKAKYRA DIAZ
Managing Director, Crime Survivors for Safety, Alliance for Safety and Justice
Shakyra is a strategist with extensive public policy and organizing experience grounded in authentic coalition building. Shakyra plays a crucial leadership role in building the national membership of Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ), leading the effort to develop online and offline platforms for organizing and community building and coordinating efforts with Alliance for Safety and Justice's campaigns. Shakyra joined ASJ in 2016 as the Regional Director for the Midwest region, where she provided leadership for advocacy campaigns in the Midwest, resulting in criminal justice reforms and the establishment of trauma recovery centers to help underserved crime survivors heal. Prior to joining ASJ, Shakyra worked as an educator and led policy reform campaigns. In these different capacities, Shakyra enhanced educational outcomes for students and led successful policy, legislative, and judicial rules campaigns to improve justice systems. Her efforts have led to the elimination of unfair drug law policies, enhanced protections for sexual assault victims during interviews, expanded access to counsel, supported voting rights access for currently and formerly incarcerated people, and ended routine juvenile shackling in courts. Shakyra is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University.

BILL EBBEN, JD
Father of overdose victim, a lawyer, businessman, former special education teacher Bill Ebben is a father who lost his son to an overdose of fentanyl last year. The resident of suburban Cincinnati believes it wasn’t drugs or drug dealers that killed his son, it was “the foolish, failed War on Drugs that’s killing 175 American sons, daughters, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers and grandparents every day for nothing.” Bill is a lawyer, technology consultant, businessman and one-time special education teacher who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2018. He says, “The unintended consequences of the War on Drugs have been horrific, expensive and devastating to the lives of every American. We don’t have to live like this. We can eliminate the unintended consequences overnight and begin offering effective, evidence-based treatment to addicts immediately.” Bill publishes the web site http://endthewarondrugs.org/.

ERICKA ELION
Director of Strategic Partnerships, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc.
Elion is a candidate for a Doctor in Ministry with the focus in Community Organizing and Leadership at New York Theological Seminary. She received a Master of Divinity and Master of Non-Profit Management, along with
certificates in Justice and Intercultural Studies from North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. In the Fall of 2014, she studied policy, ethics and theology with Michael McCurry, former press secretary of President Bill Clinton, at Wesley Theological Seminary. In 2013, she was an inaugural fellow of the Black Theology and Leadership Institute at Princeton Theological Seminary. Currently, Ericka serves as Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. (SDPC) where she advocates against global injustices. She has co-established the Generation Now Network initiative of SDPC and is engaged in program development by co-building curriculum and coordinating institutes around Human Rights & Dignity, Kinship Building, Reparatory Justice for people African Descent, and community building & organizing. She also has introduced the initial research of her life’s work, on women and girls as the invisible victim, both to domestic and international audiences.

TALEED EL-SABAWI, JD
Doctoral candidate, College of Public Health, The Ohio State University
Taleed El-Sabawi received her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law and practiced law for 5 years before going back to get her Ph.D. in Public Health, Health Services Management & Policy. Her research interests are drug policy and mental health policy, with a focus on the policy and politics of healthcare. She is an interdisciplinary researcher that uses a mixed-methods approach in her research and has published both qualitative and quantitative works. She is currently entering her final year of her doctoral program and has been extensively researching the use of causal stories by interest groups and administrative agencies in defining the Opioid Crisis for Congress.

Policy priorities
• To devote resources to ascertaining the psychological, biological, sociological, and economical factors that drive demand for mind-altering substances
• To develop personalized and tailored treatment and recovery services that address these demand factors

DANYA FAST, PhD
Research Scientist, British Columbia Centre on Substance Use; Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar
Dr. Danya Fast, PhD, is a Research Scientist with the BC Centre on Substance Use and a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar. Dr. Fast works closely with the At-Risk Youth Study. Her research uses ethnographic methods to examine the embodied and situated complexity of addiction, blood borne infections (e.g. HIV, hepatitis C), and violence among young people who inhabit the social, spatial, and economic margins of Greater Vancouver.

MAJOR NEILL FRANKLIN (Ret.)
Executive director of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership
Major Neill Franklin (Ret.) is a 34-year police veteran and leading spokesperson on policing and drug policy issues. While serving as a narcotics agent with the Maryland State Police, Maj. Franklin was persuaded by then-mayor of Baltimore, Kurt Schmoke, that the War on Drugs was counterproductive and created excessive violence. This, followed by the tragic murder of his close friend, Corporal Ed Toatley, who was killed while making a drug buy as an undercover agent, cemented his resolve to change our failed drug laws. After 23 years with the Maryland State Police, the Baltimore Police Commissioner recruited him to reconstruct and command Baltimore’s Education and Training Section to become executive director for the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP), a nonprofit group of police, judges, prosecutors, and others who use their expertise to advance drug policy and public safety solutions. Franklin retired from policing in 2010.

Policy priorities
• To reduce problematic drug use and youth drug use through honest drug education focused on harm reduction and evidence-based prevention methods.
• To provide harm reduction programs such as needle exchanges, supervised consumption spaces, and medication/heroin assisted treatment.
• To restore police-community trust, refocus law enforcement resources on the most serious crimes, and improve the overall health and safety of all our communities by ending the War on Drugs.

KASSANDRA FREDERIQUE, MS
New York State Director, Drug Policy Alliance
Kassandra Frederique is New York State Director at the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA). Frederique previously ran the day-to-day operations of DPA’s statewide campaign to end New York’s racially biased marijuana arrests, which cut
the number of NYC marijuana arrests in half. Frederique also represented DPA as a member of Communities United for Police Reform, which focused on addressing Stop & Frisk and broader police reform/accountability measures bridging the gap between the War on Drugs and policing. In addition to working for policy solutions to reduce the harms associated with drug use, Frederique works with communities throughout the state to address and resolve the collateral consequences of the War on Drugs – state violence. As a co-author of Blueprint for a Public Health and Safety Approach to Drug Policy and as technical advisor to The Ithaca Plan, Frederique cultivates and mobilizes powerful coalitions in communities devastated by drug misuse and drug criminalization to develop municipal strategies to foster healthier and safer communities. Frederique’s professional focus includes building a reparative justice framework that positions Black and Latinx leaders to create solutions that not only end and repair the harms of the drug war but also create accountability structures between policymakers and people who use drugs. She is currently working on an emerging body of work that discusses Black recreation and drug use. Frederique holds a M.S. in Social Work from Columbia University and earned a B.S. in Industrial Labor Relations at Cornell University.

Policy priorities

- Prioritize universal access to three life-saving public health tools for all New Yorkers struggling with opioids: medication-assisted treatment, naloxone, and harm reduction services
- Invest in innovative strategies for an evolving epidemic by tackling five key drivers of vulnerability: inadequate treatment, criminal justice involvement, housing instability, heightened risk among overdose survivors, and unobserved overdoses. Neglecting these core factors has fueled New York’s crisis and left our communities ill-equipped to manage the threat of more potent opioids. New York’s continued leadership – and our ability to make an impact on the overdose epidemic – requires taking bold new steps to save lives.
- Commit to public education that provides information and hope, by funding a public health campaign to both educate the general public as well as provide additional information to help individuals and families in need to understand overdose while also tackling the stigma that keeps families isolated and pushes individuals at risk of overdose away from support and care.

MELISSA GREEN, MS
Harm Reduction Program Manager, Alcohol & Drug Services, Columbus Public Health

Melissa Green is the Harm Reduction Program Manager at Columbus Public Health. In this capacity, Melissa oversees the development, implementation and ongoing management of harm reduction initiatives – targeted at reducing the personal and community risk associated with substance misuse, addiction and injection drug use. Among others, Melissa oversees programs such as Project LIFE, a fentanyl test strip distribution program; the Naloxone Education and Street Outreach Program, a naloxone distribution program that meets individuals where they are to distribute the life-saving drug naloxone; the Safe Point program, Columbus’ syringe exchange; and the Early Intervention Services program, which provides free HIV, Hepatitis C, Syphilis, and other STI screening and education to individuals living with a substance use disorder. Melissa is a Licensed Social Worker and received her Masters’ Degree in Social Work from Miami University.

TRACI GREEN, PhD
Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, Associate Director & Senior Scientist, Injury Prevention Research Center, Boston University Medical Center

Dr. Green is an epidemiologist whose research focuses on drug use, opioid addiction, and drug-related injury. Currently, she is Deputy Director of the Boston Medical Center Injury Prevention Center, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Community Health Sciences at Boston University, and Adjunct Associate Professor at Brown University where she co-directs the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) on Opioids and Overdose at Rhode Island Hospital. She advises the Rhode Island Governor on addiction and overdose, and consults for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas on public health and public safety opportunities. Dr. Green earned a Master of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from McGill University and a PhD in Epidemiology from Yale University. Her research is supported by the CDC, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, the Bloomberg American Health Initiative, and the Department of Justice.

Policy priorities

- Increase access to opioid agonist treatment (methadone and buprenorphine) by removing barriers to community treatment and increasing access in correctional settings.
- Provide authorization and funding for harm reduction interventions like community-based naloxone, drug
• Checking, syringe access, safe consumption sites, and accurate and evidence-based education about drug use and related-risks.

• Decriminalize drug use and reallocate resources previously spent on enforcement and incarceration to shoring up the social safety net, including housing, health care, employment, and other social services.

ABRAHAM GUTMAN, MA
Opinion Writer, Philadelphia Inquirer
Abraham Gutman is a staff writer at the Philadelphia Inquirer where he writes commentary pieces and editorials. His commentary is focused on drug policy, criminal justice, and housing equity. He is passionate about evidence based and data driven opinions. Gutman holds a MA degree in economics from Hunter College at the City University of New York where he did research on racial bias in stop-and-frisk. He is the co-author of academic papers that have appeared in Addiction and Public Health Reports and he has forthcoming papers in CityScape, Fordham Law Review, and the Northeastern Law Review. Follow him on twitter @abgutman and read his work at http://www.philly.com/archive/abraham_gutman/.

RICK HODGES, MPA
Executive in Residence, College of Health Sciences and Professions, Ohio University; Director, Ohio Alliance for Innovation in Population Health
Richard Hodges is Executive in Residence and Visiting Professor at the Ohio University. He began his career by being elected Treasurer of Fulton County (1987-1993) and then as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives (1993-1999) where he worked on healthcare and workers compensation issues. After leaving public service he held senior management roles in hospitals and health related organizations in Northwestern Ohio (1994-2005), Arizona (2005-2010) and Wisconsin before returning to Ohio in 2011. Rick reentered state service in 2011 first as Director of Legislative Reform for the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation before being appointed as Executive Director of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (2011-2014). Prior to joining Ohio University Rick was appointed by Ohio Governor John R. Kasich to serve as the Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) from 2014-2017. Rick earned a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Toledo. Prior to that, he graduated with honors from Oberlin University with a bachelor’s degree in government.

Policy priorities
• Enact sentencing guidelines that promote community based treatment over incarceration in cases where violence and/or trafficking are not involved.
• Coordinate systems of care, and increase incentives to providers, for people who are opiate dependent so they can access existing provider systems regardless of their ability to pay.
• Build health data analytics systems so at risk individuals can be identified, with all due respect for privacy issues, before they encounter an opiate related problem.

STEPHEN JOHNSONGROVE, JD
Deputy Director for Policy, Ohio Justice & Policy Center
Stephen is Deputy Director for Policy at the Ohio Justice & Policy Center. He has been part of several campaigns to draft and ultimately push through legislation to remove barriers for people with criminal records and to make the justice system more just. He was part of the team that wrote Issue 1 and is on the board for the Issue 1 campaign.

TERRELL JONES
Community Leader, VOCAL-NY
Terrell Jones is a community leader with VOCAL-NY, a grassroots organization that builds power among low-income people impacted by HIV/AIDS, drug use and mass incarceration to build healthy and just communities. He is currently the Outreach and Advocacy Manager at New York Harm Reduction Educators, a non-profit organization devoted to promoting the health, safety, and well-being of marginalized, low-income persons who use drugs or engage in sex work, their loved ones and their communities. Jones is also Co-Chair of the Peer Network of New York, a citywide coalition of harm reduction health workers who work with community members at risk of HIV, Hepatitis C, and other risk based behaviors using harm reduction principles.
ALEX KREIT, JD
Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law; visiting professor at OSU Moritz College of Law (fall 2018)
Alex Kreit is a leading expert on illegal drug and marijuana law. He is author of the casebook Controlled Substances: Crime, Regulation, and Policy, published by Carolina Academic Press, and co-author of the annually updated reference book Drug Abuse and the Law Sourcebook. Professor Kreit is frequently quoted in the media on drug policy and marijuana law issues, having appeared in news outlets including the Christian Science Monitor, the Fox News Channel, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, the San Diego Union-Tribune, VICE News and the Wall Street Journal. Before coming to Thomas Jefferson, Professor Kreit worked as an associate at Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco and clerked for the Honorable M. Blane Michael on the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Professor Kreit has taught in Hangzhou, China and Nice, France in Thomas Jefferson's study abroad programs and as a visiting faculty member at Boston College Law School. He continues to practice law as a member of the Appellate Defenders Inc. panel, representing indigent defendants in state criminal appeals. Professor Kreit is a member of the City of San Diego’s Ethics Commission, which is responsible for monitoring, administering, and enforcing the City's governmental ethics laws. From 2009 to 2010, he served as Chair of the City of San Diego’s Medical Marijuana Task Force.”

LINDSAY LASALLE, JD
Director of Public Health Law and Policy, Drug Policy Alliance
Lindsay LaSalle is Director of Public Health Law and Policy with the Drug Policy Alliance’s Office of Legal Affairs and an expert and strategist in the areas of harm reduction and treatment as it relates to drug policy. She drafts harm reduction, treatment, and health-related legislation across the country, including bills that provide legal protections for people who seek medical assistance in the event of an overdose, improve access to the overdose antidote naloxone, permit syringe exchange programs, remove barriers to treatment medications such as methadone and buprenorphine, authorize new interventions such as supervised consumption sites and drug checking services, and advance novel drug research. LaSalle also pushes back on attempts to criminalize overdose through, for instance, drug-induced homicide, involuntary commitment, or fentanyl mandatory minimum laws. LaSalle has been published in peer-reviewed journals and also regularly drafts reports for the Drug Policy Alliance. She has testified before numerous legislative and government bodies in the United States, including the United States Sentencing Commission. She received both her B.A. and J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, where she served as development editor of the California Law Review. Prior to joining DPA, LaSalle worked at Morrison & Foerster LLP for three years on commercial litigation matters, while maintaining an active pro bono practice.

Policy priorities
- Increase access to opioid agonist treatment (methadone and buprenorphine) by removing barriers to community treatment and increasing access in correctional settings.
- Provide authorization and funding for harm reduction interventions like community-based naloxone, drug checking, syringe access, safe consumption sites, and accurate and evidence-based education about drug use and related-risks.
- Decriminalize drug use and reallocate resources previously spent on enforcement and incarceration to shoring up the social safety net, including housing, health care, employment, and other social services.

RONALD MARTIN
Harm Reduction Policing Consultant, North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
Ronald Martin is a retired Law Enforcement Professional with over 20 years of experience in the New York City Police Dept. He advocates for the incorporation of the harm reduction model within the law enforcement community by teaching officers about needle stick prevention, the utilization of naloxone and the benefits of syringe exchange programs.

RICK MASSATI, PhD
State Treatment Opioid Authority, OhioMHAS
Dr. Rick Massatti is the State Opioid Treatment Authority at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Over the last 16 years, he has worked on substance use and mental health research, policies, and programs. Currently he oversees Ohio’s federally licensed opioid treatment programs (OTPs). He is coordinating the efforts to bring new opioid treatment programs into the state, update the OTP administrative code, and implement a workforce development strategy to increase physician interest in medication assisted treatment. Dr. Massatti also has been at the forefront of documenting the opioid epidemic in Ohio through his work with the Governor’s Cabinet Opiate Action Team, and has raised awareness about topics like naloxone use and neonatal abstinence syndrome. He has also been
an advocate of coordinated healthcare for drug-dependent pregnant women as part of the Maternal Opiate Medical Supports project.

Policy priorities

- Confronting stigma and building knowledge of substance disorders in the healthcare community through disseminating standardized curricula.
- Increasing access to buprenorphine through helping prescribers (physicians, APRNs, and PAs) obtain their DEA DATA 2000 waiver.
- Increasing the availability of federally licensed opioid treatment programs that provide high class and wraparound care for persons with chronic opioid use disorder.

RUSS MAYNARD
Community Engagement, Research and Policy, PHS Community Services Society
Russell has worked at the forefront of poverty, homelessness, mental health, and addictions for the last 15 years. His roles with the PHS Community Services Society (PHS) have included being the PHS Director for Vancouver’s InSite supervised injection facility - the world’s busiest injection facility. That role necessitated managing media, international visitors coming to learn about InSite and PHS, as well as developing new projects and programs to address the alienation that is at the heart of the issues in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside.

RYAN MCNEIL, PhD
Research Scientist, British Columbia Centre on Substance Use; Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia; Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar
Ryan McNeil, PhD, is a Research Scientist with the BC Centre on Substance Use and Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Through the BC Centre on Substance Use, Dr. McNeil leads a National Institutes of Health and Canadian Institutes of Health Research-funded program of community-engaged qualitative and ethnographic research that examines social, structural, and environmental influences on risk, harm, and health care access among people who use drugs (PWUD). His current research examines: (1) the implementation and effectiveness of harm reduction and addiction treatment interventions, including supervised consumption services and opioid agonist and assisted therapies; (2) the impacts of housing vulnerability on HIV- and overdose-related risks; (3) public health approaches to the management of stimulant use; and (4) the management of co-morbidities among people living with HIV who use drugs. Dr. McNeil’s community engaged studies are undertaken in partnership with community-based organizations, including drug user- and sex worker-led organizations, and he seeks to ensure the meaningful involvement of affected communities in all stages of the research process. Dr. McNeil is supported by a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar Award and Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator Award.

Policy Priorities

- Remove legal barriers to supervised consumption services, and make this approach a standard of care for people who use drugs across health and community settings.
- Immediately decriminalize drugs and implement interventions that ensure access to a safer supply to address fentanyl-driven overdoses.
- Address underlying social and structural inequities, such as poverty and housing vulnerability that drive overdose-related risks, and disproportionately impact Indigenous people and people of color.

CHRISTINE MEHTA, MPP
Research Assistant Professor, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University
Christine Mehta joined the Syracuse University faculty in August 2018 after a career conducting human rights investigations around the world. She conducts research for Syracuse University’s independent, nonprofit data center, the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), and teaches classes in data and investigative journalism. Prior to joining Syracuse University, Mehta worked as an investigator and writer for Amnesty International, Physicians for Human Rights, and as an expert consultant for Equidem Research and Consulting. Her work has included extensive reporting on international conflicts, counterterrorism, national security, freedom of expression, torture, impunity, criminal justice reform, extractive industries, forced evictions, involuntary treatment, police brutality, and violence against women in countries around the world, especially Asia and the Americas. A journalist by training, her work has also been published by media outlets like the New York Times, Foreign Affairs, Al Jazeera and USA Today. Her most recent published work can be viewed at https://www.christinemehta.com.
M-J MILLOY, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia; Research Scientist, British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

M-J Milloy, PhD, is an epidemiologist; a research scientist at the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use; an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of British Columbia; and the principal investigator of the ACCESS study involving more than 1,000 people who use drugs and are living with HIV funded by the United States National Institute on Drug Abuse. His research focuses on documenting the social and structural factors, in particular marginalization and criminalization that underlie the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs. He has published more than 175 peer-reviewed scientific articles, including one in The Lancet which found a 35% decline in fatal overdoses associated with the opening of Insite, Vancouver’s first legally sanctioned supervised injection facility. A new area of research for him are experimental trials to assess whether cannabis can mitigate the risk of overdose among people who use opioids.

Policy priorities
- End criminal penalties for the use of psychoactive substances.
- Scale-up access to evidence-based interventions shown to reduce risk of fatal overdose, including: free, on demand and low-barrier opioid agonist therapies and other pharmacotherapies for opioid use disorder; supervised injection facilities; and peer-delivered naloxone.
- Legalize and regulate, using a public health framework, the production, distribution, sale and use of cannabis for medical and non-medical purposes.

BAXTER WORTH PASCHAL, JD
Assistant District Attorney, Cumberland County District Attorney’s Office, North Carolina

KIEFER PATERSON
Government Relations Manager, Harm Reduction Coalition

Kiefer Paterson comes to his work as Harm Reduction Coalition's Government Relations Manager following a decade of community organizing and direct service experience. In his role at Harm Reduction Coalition, Kiefer works to support harm reduction policy & advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels, with a special emphasis on the implementation of federal funding for syringe services programs. His work doing grassroots community organizing started in Michigan, organizing with LGBTQ groups to expand non-discrimination policies and address intimate partner violence (IPV), and continued into anti-violence, suicide prevention, and homelessness organizing with trans and queer folk in Washington D.C. This was complemented by experience working as the Client Care Coordinator & lead case manager for a D.C. based syringe service program, with a focus on the intersection of harm reduction and homelessness services delivery. He is deeply interested in the intersections of HIV, HCV, racial and economic justice, homelessness and housing instability, and LGBTQ identity, and strongly believes that service providers, community groups, and people with lived experience are key stakeholders in any truly representative policy work.

Policy priorities
- Significant, sustainable investments in community-based harm reduction programs which meet people who use drugs where they’re at, provide lifesaving syringe access & naloxone distribution services, and serve as both a safety net and lifeline for PWUD.
- On-demand, low-barrier access to MAT - especially buprenorphine - ideally integrated directly into community based harm reduction programs, other community-based settings, and in places of incarceration.
- End the War on Drugs, the criminalization of marginalized peoples, & the prison-industrial complex. The funding used to perpetuate these systems should instead be used to rebuild the social safety net and to end homelessness & housing instability.

DANIEL RAYMOND
Policy Director, Harm Reduction Coalition

Daniel Raymond has worked in the field of harm reduction for over two and a half decades. As Harm Reduction Coalition’s Deputy Director of Planning and Policy, Daniel oversees the organization’s policy, capacity-building, and overdose prevention departments. Daniel works with federal and state officials, advocates, and providers to expand critical drug user health interventions.
Policy priorities

- Scale up syringe access and naloxone distribution programs to reach all people who use drugs through removing policy barriers and developing sustainable financing for implementation.
- Develop and expand meaningful alternatives to incarceration through a harm reduction framework, including pre-arrest diversion.
- Support the development of leadership, organizing, and meaningful involvement of people who use drugs in drug policy and program design.

Josiah “Jody” D. Rich, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Brown University, Director, The Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights

Josiah D. Rich, MD, MPH, is a professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Brown University and a practicing infectious disease and addiction specialist at The Miriam Hospital and consultant to the Rhode Island Department of Corrections since 1994. Dr. Rich has extensive expertise in the care and prevention of disease in addicted and incarcerated individuals. This combined clinical experience has informed and driven his research career, which has focused on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of infection and addiction and related HIV/AIDS conditions. Currently, Dr. Rich is the Principal or co-Investigator on numerous federal research grants, mostly focused on incarcerated or disadvantaged populations. He is the Principal Investigator on the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose. He has had continuous Federal Research Funding for over two decades and has published over 197 peer-reviewed articles, predominantly in the overlap between Infectious Diseases, Addictions, and Incarceration. He is the Director and Co-Founder of “The Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights” at The Miriam Hospital, and the Co-Founder of the Nationwide Centers for AIDS Research (CFAR) collaboration in HIV in Corrections (CFAR/CHIC). Dr. Rich has advocated for public health policy changes to improve the health of people with addiction, including increasing medication for addiction treatment for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated populations. Dr. Rich has served as an expert for the National Academy of Sciences; The Institute of Medicine and many others. In 2015, he was appointed by Rhode Island’s Governor Gina Raimondo, as an Expert Advisor to the “Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force” to help formulate a strategic plan to address opioid addiction and stop overdose deaths in Rhode Island.

Policy priorities

- Increase access to opioid agonist treatment (methadone and buprenorphine) by removing barriers to community treatment and increasing access in correctional settings.
- Provide authorization and funding for harm reduction interventions like community-based naloxone, drug checking, syringe access, safe consumption sites, and accurate and evidence-based education about drug use and related-risks.
- Decriminalize drug use and reallocate resources previously spent on enforcement and incarceration to shoring up the social safety net, including housing, health care, employment, and other social services.

Samuel Kelton Roberts, PhD
Associate Professor of History, Columbia University School of Arts & Sciences; Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

Samuel Roberts, PhD, is the former Director of Columbia University’s Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS), and is Associate Professor of History and Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences. He writes, teaches, and lectures widely the history of public health and medicine, urban history, movements for social justice, African-American history, and on issues of policing and criminal justice. His widely acclaimed book, Infectious Fear: Politics, Disease, and the Health Effects of Segregation (UNC Press, 2009), demonstrates the historical and continuing links between legal and de facto segregation and poor health outcomes. In 2013-14, Dr. Roberts served as the Policy Director of Columbia University’s Justice Initiative, where he coordinated the efforts of several partners to bring attention to the issue of aging and the growing incarcerated elderly population. This work led to the publication of the widely-read landmark report, Aging in Prison Reducing Elder Incarceration and Promoting Public Safety. Roberts is currently researching and writing a book-length project, tentatively titled “To Enter a Society Which Doesn’t Want Them”: Race, Recovery, and America’s Misadventures in Drug Policy. This project explores the social and political evolution of drug addiction “rehabilitation” (recovery) from at the beginning of the post-WWII heroin epidemic, to the emergence of methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) in the 1960s, the search for medico-carceral solutions in the late 1960s and 1970s, and syringe exchange programs (SEPs) and other harm reduction efforts in the 1980s-1990s. He serves on a number of organizational advisory, executive, and editorial boards and is a founding member of the Black Harm Reduction Working Group. Dr. Roberts is also the host of the public health and
DANIEL ROSENBLOUM, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Dalhousie University
Daniel Rosenblum is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at Dalhousie University (Ph.D. Yale University). He is an applied microeconomist with research in development and health economics. He is part of an NIH/NIDA-funded multidisciplinary research group focused on understanding the US heroin/opioid problem. His research in development economics investigates the economic causes and consequences of gender discrimination in India.

JOCelyn ROSNICK, JD
Policy Director, ACLU of Ohio
Jocelyn Rosnick is the Policy Director at the ACLU of Ohio. She joined the ACLU of Ohio staff in 2012, where she has used her legal, communications, and organizing skills to move between departments and work on a variety of high-level projects. Jocelyn currently oversees the development and execution of the ACLU of Ohio’s administrative, legislative and public education advocacy efforts. Jocelyn has collaborated on a number of criminal justice programs, including those related to bail reform, debtors’ prison, solitary confinement, prison privatization, and collateral sanctions. In 2013, Jocelyn co-authored “The Outskirts of Hope,” a report which details unconstitutional debtors’ prison practices across Ohio. In addition to her work with the ACLU, Jocelyn coordinates the Ohio Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild which trains individuals to be legal observers at demonstrations in order to safeguard protestors’ constitutional rights. Jocelyn received her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology with an emphasis on social inequality from West Virginia University and received her Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 2012.

Policy priorities
• Shift to a harm reduction model, prioritizing treatment over incarceration
• Expand access to medically-assisted treatment like buprenorphine/ methadone/ suboxone, evidence-based treatments for opioid use disorder across the state, on demand, including in prison, jail, drug courts, and mandated treatment programs.
• Increase availability of syringe exchange programs.

LIPI ROY, MD, MPA
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health, NYU Langone Health; former Chief of Addiction Medicine, Rikers Island
Dr. Lipi Roy is an internal medicine physician board certified in addiction medicine as well as clinical assistant professor at the Department of Population Health, NYU Langone Health. As the former Chief of Addiction Medicine for NYC jails including Rikers Island, Dr. Roy oversaw substance use treatment and recovery services for the nation’s second-largest jail. Previously, she served as a primary care physician to Boston’s vulnerable homeless population, among whom the leading cause of death was drug overdose. She is currently the medical director of an addiction treatment center in New York City. Dr. Roy also served as an attending physician at Massachusetts General Hospital and an Instructor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She completed her medical and master’s in public health degrees at Tulane University, followed by internal medicine training at Duke Medical Center. Dr. Roy is a strong advocate for public service. In addition to caring for incarcerated and homeless men and women, she has served the underserved in Nicaragua and India, as well as New Orleans residents impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Roy has also provided medical relief to earthquake victims in Haiti, and volunteered in the medical tent at the Boston Marathon. She currently volunteers with the New York City Medical Reserve Corps. She is currently a Forbes contributor and has appeared on CNN and Charlie Rose; she has also published in the Huffington Post and STAT and has been featured in the Boston Globe, Wall Street Journal, Cooking Light and Oprah.com.

SHAWN RYAN, MD
President and Chief Medical Officer, BrightView; Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Cincinnati
Dr. Ryan originally trained as an emergency physician at the University of Cincinnati and simultaneously obtained his MBA while completing his residency. For over 10 years, Dr. Ryan has practiced in the Greater Cincinnati area, and for part of that time, he functioned as a hospital administrator. During this period, he became acutely aware of the issue of heroin/opioid abuse in the region and for the past 6 years has been working tirelessly to make a difference on the
issue. Dr. Ryan serves on many regional, state, and national committees/workgroups focused on turning the tide of this epidemic. Dr. Ryan is one of the founders of BrightView and is responsible for strategic development, alignment of operations and medical practice, clinical and outcomes research, and maintaining focus on the mission and vision of the company. He is both a board certified addiction specialist and board certified emergency physician.

Policy priorities
- Require education of all criminal justice professionals on the disease of addiction and the evidence-based treatments including MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment).
- Increase access to ALL forms of MAT (methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone) by removing barriers to community treatment and increasing access in correctional settings.
- Provide authorization and funding for harm reduction interventions like community-based naloxone, drug checking, syringe access, safe consumption sites, and accurate and evidence-based education about drug use and related-risks.

**JEROME SANCHEZ**
Training and Technical Assistance, LEAD Santa Fe
Jerome Sanchez was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Jerome began his career with the Santa Fe Police Department in 1996 and retired at the rank of Captain in 2017. Jerome held many positions within the Department to include: Field Training Officer, Detective in White Collar Crimes, Juvenile Investigations, Property Crimes, Violent Crimes, and SWAT Team Leader. As a Captain, Jerome commanded the Investigations Section of the Department which includes Narcotics, Street Crimes and Burglary. He worked with in the Investigations Section to address crimes intimately related to drug addiction. As a Captain, Jerome was instrumental in establishing the state’s first LEAD program and was co-chair of the committee that instituted the program for the City of Santa Fe. Jerome’s commitment to improving all lives in Santa Fe has been evidenced by his continued commitment in his retirement by providing technical assistance throughout the country to entities interested in beginning a diversion program.

Policy priorities
- Provide education and information plan to educate the general public and first responders regarding addiction, treatment and alternative responses to the epidemic.
- Coordinate engagement plan with community stakeholders such as: Police, Emergency Department Staff, local governments, etc. to address stigma and alternatives to incarceration.
- Engage youth in prevention and education plans regarding drugs and addiction.

**SUSAN SHERMAN, Ph.D.**
Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health, John Hopkins University
Dr. Susan Sherman is a Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Behavior and Society. She is a social scientist whose focuses on the documenting and intervening on structural drivers of HIV/STIs and violence among people who use drugs and engage in sex work. She has conducted extensive research in India, Thailand, and Pakistan examining the role of microeconomics and peer influence on reducing HIV risk among people who use drugs and women who sell sex. She is the Co-Director of the Baltimore HIV Collaboratory as well as the Addiction and Overdose focus area of the Bloomberg American Health Initiative. She has recently examined the validity, acceptability, and implementation of several fentanyl testing technologies. That study led to a change in the law in Maryland regarding the legality of drug checking and informed programs throughout the U.S. She leads a study examining the role of the police on the STI/HIV risk environment of street-based sex workers, which includes one of the first cohort of sex workers in the US. She also studies the impact of a structural level intervention on HIV risk among female sex workers in Baltimore, which has created a full service, harm reduction women’s drop-in center. She serves on several Baltimore City and state advisory commissions on syringe exchange and overdose prevention initiatives, as well as chair of the Board of the National Harm Reduction Coalition. She testifies regularly in Annapolis and has been interviewed on a number of local and national media outlets regarding her work around safe consumption spaces and fentanyl testing.

**DYLAN STANLEY**
Coordinator of Community Outreach, Harm Reduction Ohio
Dylan Stanley, coordinator of community outreach for Harm Reduction Ohio, was an active IV drug user until recently. She currently is on methadone treatment and working to get her infant daughter Ruby returned to her.
CARTER STEWART, JD  
Managing Director, Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation  
Carter Stewart began his career as an educator in New York City before pursuing law in both the public and private sectors. He served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of California where he prosecuted drug and gun crimes, environmental crimes, and the illegal distribution of steroids to professional athletes. In 2009, Stewart was appointed by President Barack Obama to be the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio. His leadership saw the creation of the district’s first community outreach position and community leadership committee designed to build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. He created the district’s first diversion program to allow individuals a means of avoiding a felony record while still being held accountable for their wrongdoing. He focused resources on prosecuting pill mills while also emphasizing prevention and treatment as a means to address the opioid epidemic. Stewart chaired the Racial Disparities Working Group of U.S. Attorneys, where he formed recommendations to address issues such as mandatory minimums, sentencing discrepancies, and implicit bias. He was an integral part of the “Smart on Crime” initiative, which stressed the importance of diversion and drug treatment programs. Additionally, he helped create the Columbus Community Engagement Council to represent the city’s diversity while tackling problems such as cybersecurity, child exploitation, human trafficking, the school-to-prison pipeline, and violent extremism. Stewart left the U.S. Attorney’s office in 2016 and currently serves as the managing director of the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Stanford University, a M.Ed. from Columbia University, and a J.D. from Harvard University.

Policy priorities
- Creating more treatment centers that are free.
- Expanding alternatives to incarceration for drug use.
- Creating more partnerships between medical personnel and law enforcement.

TOM SYNAN  
Chief of Police, Newton Police Department, Ohio  
Tom Synan began his law enforcement career in 1993 with the Newtown Police Department in Ohio. He rose through the ranks and joined the SWAT Team in 2007 as the Tactical Team Leader and became Chief of the Newtown Police shortly thereafter. Synan’s tenure as Chief has been marked by a strong commitment to address the opioid epidemic. He leads the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition and created a strategic action plan that directs resources to treatment, preventive education, naloxone training for officers, and access to methadone. He has testified before the U.S. Senate Homeland Security Committee on synthetic opiates, and his work with the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition has been cited by national and international media outlets. Outside his work at the department, Synan owns and manages a security consulting firm and trains clients on how best to be operate under conditions of stress and fear. He resides in Newtown, Ohio.

Policy priorities
- Increase access to opioid agonist treatment (methadone and buprenorphine) by removing barriers to community treatment and increasing access in correctional settings.
- Provide authorization and funding for harm reduction interventions like community-based naloxone, drug checking, syringe access, safe consumption sites, and accurate and evidence-based education about drug use and related-risks.
- Reform sentencing laws for low-level drug offenses and shore up the safety net with programs for housing, healthcare, employment, and other services to both decrease incarceration and prevent crime.

NICOLAS P. TERRY, JD  
Hall Render Professor of Law & Executive Director, Hall Center for Law and Health, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law  
Nicolas Terry is the Hall Render Professor of Law at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law where he serves as the Executive Director of the Hall Center for Law and Health and teaches various healthcare and health policy courses. His recent scholarship has dealt with health privacy, mobile health, the Internet of Things, Big Data, AI, and the opioid overdose epidemic. Terry has served on the Board of Advisors for the non-profit Patient Privacy Rights and was a member of the US Department of Health and Human Services Health IT Policy Committee’s Consumer Workgroup. In 2016, he testified before Congress on the regulation of mobile health apps. Currently, he is serving on Indiana University’s Grand Challenges Scientific Leadership Team, working on the addictions crisis and is the PI on addictions law and policy Grand Challenge grants. In that capacity he recently testified on opioids policy before the
Senate Committee on Aging. He is one of the permanent bloggers at Harvard Law School's Bill of Health. His recent publications are at http://ssrn.com/author=183691, you can find his “The Week in Health Law” podcast at TWIHL.com, and he is @nicolasterry on twitter.

**Policy priorities**

- Adopt MAT as the standard of care for the treatment of OUD across all healthcare settings with five-year recovery as standard measure of effectiveness.
- Establish syringe exchange programs and safe consumption sites and better leverage safe sites (including emergency departments, SEPs, fire stations, PAARI programs, etc. as a route to treatment.
- Strengthen public health surveillance laws and systems to improve reporting and data quality, but ensure that data are used only for clinical and public health purposes.

**DENISE TOMASINI JOSHI, JD, MIA**  
Division Director for Health Law and Equality, Open Society Public Health Program  

Denise Tomasini-Joshi is a division director with the Open Society Foundations, Public Health Program, working to realize the right to health as a public good by dismantling barriers to access for the most marginalized. Her work currently focuses on combating coercive and abusive treatment in the name of healthcare. She has served as Co-Acting Director of OSF’s Women’s Rights Program helping craft a strategy to reduce feminist over-reliance on criminal justice systems, and overseeing a vibrant portfolio on Sexual Health and Rights. An attorney by training, Denise’s experience has touched upon issues of mental health, homelessness, academia, criminal justice reform, children, women and marginalized populations. Her work has appeared in journals, books, policy briefs and blogs. She contributes internationally to conferences and working groups, and as an expert on radio and print media. Denise holds a law degree from Columbia University School of Law, a Master’s in International Affairs from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, and a Bachelors of Art in Sociology from Purdue University. She was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and speaks Spanish.

**Policy priorities**

- To increase access to evidence based practices and care.
- Decrease over-reliance on criminal justice systems to address public health matters.
- Re-invest in community services that complement health care interventions.

**JASMINE TYLER, MA**  
Advocacy Director, US Program, Human Rights Watch  

Jasmine L. Tyler is the Advocacy Director for the US Program at Human Rights Watch. She currently handles federal criminal justice, immigration, and national security policy. Prior to joining HRW, she was the senior policy advisor for drug policy and global health in the Washington, D.C. office of Open Society Foundations, where she worked with Congress and the executive branch to shape domestic and international policy. Previously, Jasmine served as deputy director of National Affairs for the Drug Policy Alliance, where she helped lead reform efforts to address the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine which culminated in the passage of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. She has also worked as research director for the Justice Policy Institute and as a sentencing advocate in public defenders’ offices in Fairfax, VA and Washington, D.C. Jasmine’s firsthand understanding of the harms of our criminal justice system began as a child visiting her father in prison. She holds an MA from Brown University and a BS from James Madison University, both in sociology.

**Policy priorities**

- Promote the need for the Food and Drug Administration to transition naloxone to “over-the-counter” status immediately.
- Implement pilots for Supervised-injection facilities, which are medically and legally sanctioned spaces designed to reduce harm from drug use for both people injecting drugs and their communities.
- Support access to health care for people who use drugs, including comprehensive harm reduction programs that include access to clean syringes; HIV and hepatitis C prevention information; drug dependence treatment; overdose prevention information; and naloxone. Take advantage of federal funding opportunities to increase capacity for these programs.