

HOUSING PEOPLE IMPACTED BY THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

JUNE 21

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Shamika Augustine

Women's Prison Association

Shamika Augustine is an enthusiastically driven social worker and women's rights advocate who has spent the last decade fighting for women's rights at the intersection of health, mental health, and justice. Shamika currently serves as Program Director of Transitional Services for the Women's Prison Association (WPA), where she has worked since



2018. Led by her extensive experience advocating for women's reproductive rights and leading programs in support of helping women co-create meaningful lives after incarceration, Shamika is utilizing her clinical expertise and direct-service experience to lead her team in providing anti-oppressive and trauma-responsive reentry support to women reentering the community from periods of incarceration.

“The stigma and racial disparity surrounding individual who’ve had criminal legal background is very challenging in them obtaining employment, housing, income stability...this system needs to be dismantled; with the more knowledge gained we’ll be able to fight against this injustice and racial disparity.”

David Cooper

New Jersey's Department of Veterans Affairs

David Cooper is a Licensed Social Worker working for New Jersey's Department of Veterans Affairs. David has been in the mental health field for more than 20 years. In that time, David has worked with various populations such as those with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI), homeless individuals, veterans, justice re-entry, and those with substance use disorders (SUDs). David is looking forward to learning how best to engage community providers and incorporate that same community to tackle the homeless issue(s).



“I hope to bring enhanced skill sets that will aide my co-workers in creating relationships with community providers to decrease stereotypes of individuals negatively impacted by the criminal/legal justice system in securing stable housing”

Kelly Davis

SUS HomeBase

Kelly Davis is a Sr. Case Manager at SUS HomeBase. Kelly has been working with SUS HomeBase for ten years and started her Human Services Career following her graduation from The Valley's GED Program. Kelly worked with The Valley assisting young adults experiencing homelessness and mental health issues. Before transitioning to SUS HomeBase, Kelly has worked as a case manager for various agencies providing mental health services.



“Homelessness, mental health among other issues that affect the Youth are all things that affected me personally which is why I am so passionate about it. My favorite quote ‘Experience is the best teacher’.”

Sydnee Freeman

Designing Justice + Designing Spaces

Ms. Sydnee Freeman is the Director of Real Estate Development for Designing Justice+Designing Spaces, which is an Oakland, California, based architecture and real estate development nonprofit organization working to end mass incarceration by building infrastructure (includes peacemaking centers, mobile resource centers, workforce development facilities, housing for those transitioning from incarceration, etc.) that addresses its root causes: poverty, racism, unequal access to resources and the criminal justice system itself.



Before DJDS, Ms. Freeman held the position of Vice President of Development for BGC

Advantage, a private developer whose focus was small and rural public housing authorities. Her responsibilities included executing the multi-family growth strategy across Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and the Southeastern region of the United States. Ms. Freeman has 18 years of development experience, including single-family real estate, affordable & market-rate multi-family, commercial, entertainment, medical, nonprofit, residential, and retail development experience.

Ms. Freeman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Public Affairs / Graduate Certificate in City Planning from the University of Texas at Dallas, and Executive Leadership certification from Harvard Business School. Additionally, she was awarded the Harvard Business School MBA Class of 1973 Fund for Social Enterprise Scholarship in 2017. Additionally, she is a 19-year core volunteer and sits on the Board of Directors for the Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity.

“As the person responsible for the nuts and bolts of all real estate development (and it's financing), I want to be able to utilize every tool available in order to further our mission. The more humans we can serve, the greater our impact on the community in a positive way.”

James Holmes

Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS)

James Holmes LCSW is the Director of the Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS) Academy for Justice Informed Practice. He has years of experience training behavioral health, legal, and law enforcement professionals in areas of mental health, crisis management, de-escalation, and harm reduction. James has also spent many years of his career working in and running supportive housing programs. Before joining CUCS, James worked with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Senior Citizens, and HIV prevention programs.



“I am always interested in learning new ways to fight issues like structural racism, oppression and injustice. I hope to gain new anti-racist strategies to serve people's needs in the housing and criminal legal systems.”

Kimberly Marshall

Homeward NYC

Kimberly Marshall is Chief Program Officer for Homeward NYC (formerly known as West End Residences and True Colors Housing for LGBTQ young adults). The nonprofit organization provides housing and wraparound support services for homeless young mothers and their children, homeless LGBTQ young adults, and homeless and low-income seniors. Ms. Marshall joined the organization in 2011 as program director for the first True Colors site. She oversees program development, implementation, and contract compliance for all programs, including the Tier II transitional family shelter, the single room occupancy (SRO) older adult affordable housing, and the LGBTQ young adult supportive housing.

As part of the nonprofit's executive management team, she works closely with the Finance and Operations departments for budgets and agency operations; coordinates program delivery with governmental and non-governmental agencies; and supervises program directors across three sites. She is committed to the professional growth of the teams she supervises. Before joining the organization, Ms. Marshall worked in the Tax Credit program for Catholic Charities Progress of Peoples, the affordable housing developer of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

Ms. Marshall has a Master of Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. Her criminal justice studies inform her professional experiences working in shelter services and affordable housing—formerly incarcerated individuals experience higher rates of homelessness. She is passionate about reforming the criminal justice system as a matter of fairness and equity for marginalized communities.

“There are several factors that affect the criminal legal system and affordable housing. However, the need is still the same: people need a place to live.”

Melissa Mowery

CAMBA's HomeBase

Melissa Mowery has over 30 years of experience working in the social services field with diverse populations. She has coached Special Olympians, worked in a residential facility with mentally ill adults, developed a therapeutic recreation program for male and female juvenile offenders, and managed a workforce development and vocational training program assisting Asylees, Refugees, and those receiving public benefits to find jobs. For the past 17 years, Melissa has been the Vice President for CAMBA's HomeBase, a Homelessness Prevention Program funded by the Department of Social Services in New York City. HomeBase is a program offering a variety of services to keep households stably housed.



HomeBase has 26 locations city-wide: targeting services to over 28,000 at-risk households annually at various stages of a housing crisis/transition.

“We need to rethink and redesign our systems that were built on systemic racism to not only level the playing field, but give those impacted by the criminal legal system an opportunity to fully reengage and be participants in the innovation of real housing solutions.”

Karen Paschal

Services for the Underserved

Karen Pashcal is the Program Director at Senior Case Manager for Services for the Underserved (SUS). SUS envisions a city where everyone has a roof over their head, is healthy, productive and can enjoy the social connections that create a life of purpose. Founded in 1978, SUS works with 35,000 individuals and their families every year to create pathways to rich and productive lives by offering housing, employment, skills-building, treatment, and rehabilitation services.

“Individuals that have criminal histories and are facing homelessness, should be able to be afforded the same housing opportunities as someone that doesn't have a criminal background.”

James R. Posner

Posner-Wallace Foundation (PWF)

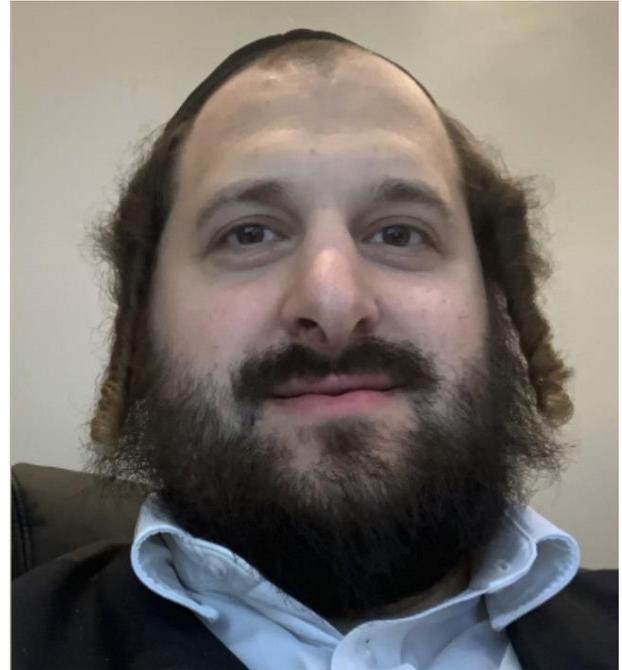
James R. Posner Trustee, PH. D. is a Trustee / Chair Emeritus of The Posner-Wallace Foundation (PWF). PWF is a private family foundation formed in 1957 currently led by family trustees in the third generation with a broad vision of 'Thoughtful Giving.' PWF makes grants and social impact investments independently and in collaboration/alignment with other organizations, both within and outside the US. James is experienced in stewardship and the advancement of human capital. As a Trustee / Chair Emeritus, James is a member of the Finance and Investment Committee and designated lead trustee in planning and evaluation.

“Mentoring a pre-release individual at Sing Sing Correctional Facility makes clear the burden of finding safe, affordable, and stable housing along with employment...”

Sam Rosenberg

Reside New York

Sam Rosenberg is the Executive Director at Reside New York, an approved NYC HPD Affordable Marketing Agency that markets Affordable Housing units benefiting from various tax incentive programs throughout the five boroughs. Since its launch, Reside New York has successfully occupied 1000's Affordable units. Our skilled team of professional marketing agents are trained and received certificates by HPD and are equipped with the most up-to-date software systems to process applicant files.



“Our company is committed to bringing much needed affordable housing to New Yorkers...”

Kinshasa Hillery

RiseBoro Community Partnership

Kinshasa Hillery is the Program Director of the Legal Empowerment & Assistance Program, a legal services program within RiseBoro's Empowerment Division. RiseBoro Community Partnership is a community based nonprofit organization with a vision to build a city where your zip code does not determine your health outcomes, housing stability, or economic power. As the Program Director, Kinsha supervises all aspects of the program's activities including, staff training and development, working with colleagues to create strategize to combat trends in housing litigation designed to displace community residents. Kinsha actively engages with other division and program areas and community partners to collaborate in litigating cases where intersectional issues arise.

“Systemic racism permeates every aspect of life from interactions with law enforcement, to access to housing and capital, to health care, education and the workplace. Reversing the status quo requires a recognition and agreement of the issue, ownership and responsibility and most of all a willingness to dismantle a system that the privileged have and continue to benefit.”

Josef Reutershan

Services for the Underserved

Josef Reutershan is a Senior Case Manager for Services for the Underserved (SUS). SUS envisions a city where everyone has a roof over their head, is healthy, productive and can enjoy the social connections that create a life of purpose. Founded in 1978, SUS works with 35,000 individuals and their families every year to create pathways to rich and productive lives by offering housing, employment, skills-building, treatment, and rehabilitation services. Josef has also worked as a substance use counselor and has a demonstrated history of working in the individual and family services industry. Josef received his Bachelor of Social Work from the City University of New York-Herbert H. Lehman College.

“Looking to better assist people impacted by the legal system obtain suitable, affordable, permanent housing.”

Haley Romero

OAR of Tompkins County

Haley Romero is a Housing Coordinator / Parolee Case Manager for OAR of Tompkins County. For over forty years, OAR has been protecting the civil liberties of those incarcerated in the Tompkins County Jail through assumption of innocence until proven guilty; ensuring legal representation in the case of indigence; bailing eligible individuals pre-trial; providing transitional housing; assistance with housing & employment. Before working with OAR of Tompkins county, Haley worked at the Southern Tier Care Coordination as an Outreach Care Manager & Care Manager.



“I feel more motivated to learn about this intersection [between the criminal legal system and the affordable housing sector] to help see what our program can do to break down these obstacles and address these underlying issues.”

Jonathan C Smith

Social Entrepreneur

Jonathan C Smith is a Social Entrepreneur who spent the first ten years of his career developing and operating Housing, Legal, and Employment services for “At-Risk Demographics.” Jonathan then transitioned his Real Estate hobby into a full-time adventure as a Social Entrepreneur, the mission being to make a profit, by making his small corner of the world a better place.

Jonathan created a niche market, consultation, and investment for clientele in various stages of developing nonprofit and for-profit Supportive Housing Facilities, including Carnegie Capital, Center for Court Innovation, and Goldman Sachs, ultimately owning and operating a multi-million dollar supportive housing facility. Jonathan is now launching several new projects in the Social Tech arena and Urban Strategic Planning space.



“The American Dream is about Thriving, not just Surviving.”

Anica Velez

CUCS Institute

Anica Velez, LMSW, MA, is the Director of the Housing Resource Center at the CUCS Institute. Ms. Velez has 18 years of experience in program development, mental health, supportive housing, and re-entry. In her current role, she oversees the Single Point of Access (SPOA) Housing Program, the NY/NY I & II Referral Assistance Program, and the Reentry Coordination System. Ms. Velez also develops training curricula, trains, and provides technical assistance on mental health supportive housing options in NYC, and creating effective housing packets for justice-involved individuals. She currently sits on the Bureau for Health Promotion of Justice Impacted Populations (HPJIP) Community Services Board Subcommittee. Ms. Velez has also presented on Best Practices for Implementing SOAR in Institutional and Community Correctional Settings and with Justice-Involved Persons for SAMSHA. Before joining CUCS, she served as the Community Liaison of the Kendra's Law - Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program for Brooklyn & Staten Island. She has an MA in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and holds an MSW from Hunter's Silberman School of Social Work.



“I advocate to bring humanity back to how providers interact with the justice-involved population so that providers see the whole individual holistically, their history but also their strengths and potential.”

Tonja Honsey

We Rise Leadership Collective

Tonja Honsey is the founder of We Rise Leadership Collective – formerly incarcerated women creating & shaping systems & policy with a transformative, restorative, and healing justice lens. She was recently appointed to the MN Sentencing Guidelines by Gov. Tim Walz. She is a 2019 Soros Justice Fellow, a 2019 Reimagining Communities Fellow with the National Council of Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls. She has recently partnered with multiple organizations including the MN Prison Doula Project, Minnesota Freedom Fund. Tonja Honsey has facilitated trainings and has been a guest speaker on a national level. Her passion and love for the community and people has been her motivation to carry this as her life’s work.

“I am looking for more of a network, ideas on policy reform, and other resource.”

Amy Gigliuto

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh

Amy Gigliuto is the Operations Manager for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh. Habitat Newburgh helps families access the safety, stability, and self-reliance of homeownership by selling homes for an affordable mortgage (no more than 30% of a family's income). In her current role, Amy overseeing the operations department, including Family Services, Neighborhood Revitalization, Marketing and Outreach, and Volunteer Coordination. Her professional experience includes many years in finance, customer service, and nonprofit leadership. She has a passion for volunteering and has been involved in youth cycling programs, school functions, and library events for many years.

“As someone who works closely on our homeownership application policies, I would like to learn about ways in which we can make our affordable homeownership program more accessible to people who have been impacted by the criminal legal system.”