



THE BALDY CENTER
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We are
the Drug
Policy
Alliance.

Leading the Way: Toward a Public Health & Safety Approach to Drug Policy in New York

May 2-3, 2013 | Buffalo, New York

Draft Conference Program

Day 1: Thursday, May 2: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Downtown Buffalo - Marquis de Lafayette Hotel,
391 Washington Street, Buffalo, NY 14203

6:00pm – Welcome and greetings by special guests

6:30pm – Screening of the award-winning documentary, *The House I Live In*.

Filmed in more than twenty states, *The House I Live In* captures heart-wrenching stories from individuals at all levels of America's War on Drugs. From the dealer to the grieving mother, the narcotics officer to the senator, the inmate to the federal judge, the film offers a penetrating look inside America's longest war, offering a definitive portrait and revealing its profound human rights implications.

7:30- 9:00 – Panel discussion and community dialogue about the war on drug, with special guests

After the film, a distinguished panel of speakers will discuss the war on drugs and mass incarceration from municipal, state, national and international perspectives and engage the audience in a discussion about the future of drug policy in New York. Where are we headed with our drug and criminal justice policies? What can we do to improve the health *and* safety of our communities? What role should policymakers, community members, religious leaders, services providers and others play in addressing these issues?

Moderator: asha bandele, Director, Advocacy Grants Program, Drug Policy Alliance

- **Karima Amin**, Founder/Director, Prisoners are People Too, Inc.
- **Nuno Capaz**, Vice President, Dissuasion Commission of Lisbon, Ministry of Health, Portugal
- **Soffiyah Elijah**, Executive Director, Correctional Association of NY
- **Elizabeth Glazer**, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, New York
- **Svante Myrick**, Mayor of Ithaca
- **Crystal Peoples-Stokes**, NYS Assemblymember- Buffalo
- **Christopher St. John**, Producer, *The House I Live In*

Registration is free. Please visit: <http://bit.ly/12SY94o> or call gabriel at 646-335-2264.

Day 2: Friday, May 3: 8:00am – 5:00pm

Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, adjacent to the University at Buffalo
2402 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068

8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:30 Welcome: Robert Granfield, University at Buffalo; **gabriel sayegh**, Drug Policy Alliance

8:40 UB Welcome: Lynn Kozlowski, Ph.D., Professor of Community Health and Health Behavior and Dean of the School of Public Health and Health Professions, University at Buffalo

9:00 Keynote

Introduction of Keynote: Ruth Finkelstein, Sc.D., Senior Vice President for Policy and Planning, The New York Academy of Medicine

Keynote Speaker: Elizabeth Glazer, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, New York

9:30 Opening Plenary: Drug Policy Today – Where are we now?

The draconian Rockefeller Drug Laws, signed 40 years ago in New York, led to mass incarceration and racial disparities, while having no meaningful impact on rates of use, addiction, or availability of illicit drugs. Other states soon followed New York, and the laws became the national model for a criminalization-based approach. Today, there is growing discussion and debate around the country about the need for new approaches to drug policy; signs of change can be seen throughout the nation, from major shifts in media coverage and public opinion, to a new openness to alternative approaches at all levels of government. What does drug policy stand today? Where is it headed? What can we learn from the successes and failures of the last 40 years? How can we realize a more effective approach guided by public health and safety approach?

Moderator: Ruth Finkelstein, Sc.D., Senior Vice President for Policy and Planning, The New York Academy of Medicine

- **Pastor James Giles**, Back to Basic Ministries
- **Kenneth E. Leonard**, Ph.D., Director, Research Institute on Addictions and Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, University at Buffalo
- **Alison Holcomb**, Author of Initiative 502 and Drug Policy Director, ACLU of Washington State
- **Jerry Otero**, Lead Support Specialist, Partnership at DrugFree.org.
- **Craig Reinerman**, Ph.D., Professor, Departments of Sociology and Legal Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz
- **David Soares**, Albany County District Attorney

11:15 – 12:45 Concurrent morning sessions:

Morning Concurrent Session 1:

Prevention Pillar: Rethinking Prevention for Healthier, Safer Communities

Grand Ballroom

Effective prevention strategies promote healthy families, protect children and youth, prevent or delay the start of substance use among young people, reduce harm associated with substance use, and improve the health of the

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community overall. How can we broaden the notion of prevention and build cross-sector alliances to achieve better outcomes? Panelists will discuss prevention across multiple levels – education, policy, community development, community engagement, and more.

Moderator: Robert Granfield, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and Director of the Strategic Strength in Civic Engagement and Public Policy, University at Buffalo

- **Dessa Bergen-Cico**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at Syracuse University and a Certified Addiction Specialist
- **Nuno Capaz**, Vice President, Dissuasion Commission of Lisbon, Ministry of Health, Portugal
- **R. Lorraine Collins, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Community Health and Health Behavior Associate Dean for Research School of Public Health and Health Professions, University at Buffalo
- **Nathan Hare**, Executive Director, Community Action Organization of Erie County
- **Tracy Pugh**, Policy Associate, New York Academy of Medicine
- **Marilyn Scales**, VOCAL New York leader and Community Public Health Worker at New York Harm Reduction Educators

Morning Concurrent Session 2:

Harm Reduction Pillar: Beyond Seat Belts and Syringe Exchange

Ellicott room

Strategies to reduce the potential harm associated with a particular action or choice are sometimes referred to as “harm reduction” and are used in many different areas of society. Seat belts, for instance, do not eliminate the risk of vehicle accidents, but they substantially reduce the likelihood of harm in the event of a car crash. In drug policy, harm reduction is often construed narrowly to refer to syringe exchange programs. But New York has led the nation in creating innovative harm reduction programs that go beyond clean syringes – these programs decrease the spread of deadly communicable disease, prevent drug overdose deaths, create entry-points for marginalized people to access healthcare and drug treatment, and, overall, improve the health of those have used or continue to use drugs. Panelists will discuss how we can push harm reduction even further in New York to reduce the harm, not only of drug use, but of our current drug policies.

Moderator: Julie Netherland, Ph.D., Deputy State Director, New York, Drug Policy Alliance

- **Iva E Carruthers, Ph.D.** General Secretary, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc.
- **Peter Christ**, Tonawanda (NY) Police Department (retired), Co-founder & Vice-Chair, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition
- **Patricia Erickson, Ph.D.**, Department of Sociology and Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto
- **Kassandra Frederique**, Policy Coordinator, Drug Policy Alliance
- **Maurice Lacey**, Executive Director of Faith Mission Crisis Center
- **PENDING speaker**

12:45 – 1:30 - Lunch (provided)– Grand Ballroom

1:30 – 3:00 Concurrent afternoon sessions

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Afternoon Concurrent Session 1:**Public Safety Pillar: Improving Public Safety Through Collaboration Across Sectors**

Grand Ballroom

An effective drug policy is one that fosters safe communities in which residents of all ages can lead healthy lives and can participate fully in the community without fear. Violence and crime, as well as fear of police, can make it difficult for residents and business to build community, get to work and school, exercise, connect with friends and family, or even access healthcare or emergency services. In the traditional criminalization-oriented approach to

drug policy, public safety has focused narrowly on policing and the criminal justice system, leading to an explosion of incarceration in the U.S. – nearly 500,000 people are currently incarcerated in prisons and jails in the U.S. for drug offenses, mostly possession. But just as health is more than the absence of disease, safety is more than the absence of crime. For instance, can a community be considered “safe” if it is struggling with poverty, or if its residents are unable to get a job because they have a criminal record? How can we pursue safety in ways that avoid the unconscionable racial disparities of past efforts? What lessons might we learn from the last 40 years about reducing crime, injury, and death and to promote healthy and secure neighborhoods? Panelists will discuss how a public health and safety approach to drug policy requires the engagement of community members and collaboration between sectors, including the police and criminal justice system, to achieve shared goals.

Moderator: Lorenzo Jones, Executive Director, A Better Way Foundation

- **Judy Greene**, Founder, Justice Strategies
- **Tara Lyons**, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Fellow, British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
- **Sam Magavern**, Co-director, Partnership for the Public Good; Professor, University at Buffalo, Cornell University
- **Teresa Miller**, Professor, University at Buffalo School of Law
- **Divine Pryor**, Executive Director, Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions
- **Susan Rusinko**, Medical Marijuana Patient

Afternoon Concurrent Session 2:**Treatment and Recovery Pillar: Re-envisioning Treatment for the 21st Century**

Ellicott room

In a state where the Department of Corrections is one of the largest providers of drug treatment, there is a growing call for recovery-oriented models, where people are not punished for being addicted to drugs, where treatment is available upon demand for all communities, and where treatment and mental health services are more thoroughly integrated with healthcare. How can we create more access points for treatment, especially beyond referrals through criminal justice system? How can we transform our treatment programs to better support those who cannot or will not completely abstain from drugs? What might treatment look like if we expanded our notions of treatment to included services -- such as education, employment, training and housing – that could help support recovery? Panelists will discuss different treatment options, which types work best for specific populations, opportunities for expansion and innovation, research needs – and how New York can realize truly accessible and effective treatment programming for all communities.

Moderator: Tina Reynolds, Executive Director, Women On the Rise Telling HerStory (WORTH)

- **Jeffrion Aubry**, Speaker Pro Tempore, New York State Assembly
- **Robert Cordero**, Executive Director, Citiwide Harm Reduction

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- **Laura Elliott Engels**, Executive Director, Council on Addiction Recovery Services
- **Avi Israel**, Father, Founder, Save the Michaels of the World,
- **Thomas H. Nochajski**, Ph.D., Professor, School of Social Work, University at Buffalo
- **PENDING speaker**

3:00 – 3:15 – break

3:15 – 4:45 Closing Plenary

Leading the way on Drug Policy: Towards a Public Health and Safety Approach

Grand Ballroom

New York is uniquely positioned to develop a new, coordinated public health and safety approach to drug policy: the state ended mandatory prison sentences for (most) drug offenses with the 2009 reforms of the Rockefeller Drug Laws; New York has among the largest alternatives to incarceration and reentry systems anywhere in the nation; many of the state's treatment and harm reduction programs are recognized as the best in the country; and communities across New York are calling for a new approach. Additionally, the Affordable Care Act will expand access to healthcare in New York and across the country, likely leading to more integration of drug and mental health treatment into primary care. But reform is never easy, and won't happen on its own. How can we best take advantage of this unique moment to realize effective approaches to drug policy? What lessons can we draw from other cities, states, countries? What are some immediate challenges we face in developing a public health and safety approach? Informed by local, national and international experiences and drawing on the conversation from the day's sessions, speakers will explore how we can realize a vision of a comprehensive drug policy grounded in science and focused on improving the health and safety of all New York communities.

Moderator: gabriel sayegh, State Director, New York, Drug Policy Alliance

- **Nuno Capaz**, Vice President, Dissuasion Commission of Lisbon, Ministry of Health, Portugal
- **Robert E. Fullilove**, EdD, Associate Dean for Community and Minority Affairs; Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences; Co-director of the Community Research Group
- **Jennifer Mecozzi**, Director Community Organizing, PUSH Buffalo
- **Susan Shepherd**, Manager, Toronto Drug Strategy Secretariat, Toronto Public Health
- **Kima Joy Taylor**, MD, MPH, Program Director, National Drug Addiction Treatment and Harm Reduction, Open Society Foundations
- **Marsha Weissman**, Executive Director, Center for Community Alternatives

4:45 – 5:00 p.m. Closing Remarks