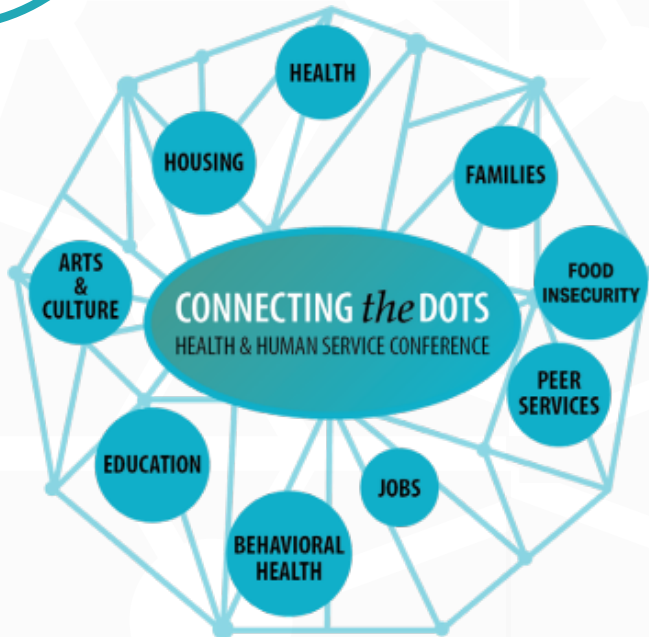


RIT Inn & Conference Center, Rochester, NY

5257 W Henrietta Rd, Henrietta, NY 14467

Tuesday March 28, 2023

www.positivestepsny.com



Dr. Junior Dillion
Keynote Speaker



RIT Inn & Conference Center, Rochester, NY

5257 W Henrietta Rd, Henrietta, NY 14467

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9:00 am to 4:15 pm (EST)

www.positivestepsny.com



Sara Taylor



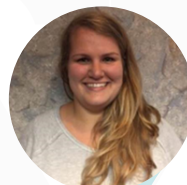
Andre Stokes



Margi Taber



Mia Abdullah



Carrie Hoey



Leslie Barnes



Craig Johnson



Carol Mancari



Kayleigh Stedman



Nira Tobochnik



Emily Childress



Angela Colón-Rentas



Carmen Torres



Elijah McCloud



Mona Lisa McEachin



Anthony Hall



Nick Coulter



Vincent Sears



Dr. Latise Hairston



Nia Jones



Shamicka Joseph



Thank you for joining us for the 12th annual Health and Human Service Conference.

More than 150 conference attendees from various Upstate, NY regions have convened to attend this year's conference, featuring more than nine emerging practice workshops, keynotes, panels, and opportunities to network and learn from peers and experts. We will cover topics that impact urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Each day thousands of Health and Human service providers, community stakeholders, funders, and policymakers in this region collectively work to address challenges related to Poverty, Trauma, Violence, Mental Health, Substance Use, and Social Determinants of Health.

This year's theme: ***“Connecting the Dots Through the Lens of Equity,”*** will challenge us to prioritize and demonstrate our collective efforts to implement services and practices that truly put “People First” through the lens of equity.

Our goals and learning objectives include:

- To improve organizational capacity to effectively address basic needs, including housing, employment, education, food insecurity, and other social determinants of health.
- Advance opportunities to address the intersection of Social Determinants of Health and Social Justice.
- To improve efforts to streamline service navigation and improve access to services.
- To improve institutional accountability for equitable practices that positively advance actionable change to impact diverse populations.
- Present emerging best practices that include peer models and initiatives that center services in the inclusion of human. design.
- Present culturally responsive and trauma-informed strategies aimed at addressing Health Disparities and Inequities
- Feature new models of engagement through technology and hybrid service delivery.
- To elevate the Peer movement to inform and improve policies and practices through system change and collective impact activities.
- To promote networking, establish/improve relationships across systems and build collaborative partnerships.
- To offer cost-effective professional development opportunities and continuing education and training hours.

We are very grateful for our sponsors and partners who have supported this conference!

Schedule At a Glance and Highlights

Tuesday March 28th

8:30 am-9:00 am Continental Breakfast, Registration and Exhibits

9:00 am -Opening remarks- Sara Taylor and Carol Tegas

9:10 am-10:30 am Keynote Dr. Junior Dillion and Plenary Panel

Connecting the Dots – Success, Challenges and Opportunities: Experts will discuss an array of topics that will challenge us to prioritize and demonstrate our collective efforts to implement services and practices that truly put “People First” through the lens of equity

Panel Experts:

Margi Taber

Angela Colon- Rentas

Leslie Barnes

Andre Stokes

Carrie Hoey

Mai Abdullah

Session I

Tracks 10:45 am-12:00 pm

- A. Clinical**
- B. Engagement/Service Delivery
- C. Behavioral Health – Peer Movement

12:00 pm-1:15 pm Lunch and Networking

Session II

1:30 pm-2:45 pm

Tracks-

- A. Clinical**
- B. Engagement/Service Delivery
- C. Behavioral Health – School Supports, Restorative Practices, and Mental Health

Session III

3:00 pm-4:15 pm

Tracks

- A. Clinical**
- B. Engagement/Service Delivery
- C. Behavioral Health – Advocacy and Public Policy

***** Clinical Sessions have been approved for Social Work CEUs through the Nazareth School of Social Work. The NY State Department of Education recognizes the Nazareth College Department of Social Work and the State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of social work continuing education for licensed social workers. In addition, session one, track A at 10:45 am has been approved for New York State OASAS through Huther Doyle for New York State OASAS CASAC credentialing and re-credentialing. All CEU credentialing documentation, evaluations and required forms must be at the end of each session.***

March 28th Workshop Overviews

Session I

10:45 am-12:00 pm

A. *Chemical Dependency Treatment for the Criminal Justice Population- Craig Johnson (Social Work & NYS CASAC). This session will also run until 12:15 pm***

This session is developed to increase participants' knowledge of the criminal justice system, the relationship between addictions and criminal justice involvement, and the relevance of race, access to care, and other contributing factors.

Key Educational Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

- Identify two demographic descriptors of those heavily involved in the criminal justice system
- List five components of the criminal justice system
- List three perceived reasons for discrepancies between demographic groups relative to involvement in crime and the criminal justice system

B. *Preparing for success: Tools to prepare Care Managers and Outreach Workers for a successful work environment- Carol Mancari, Kayleigh Stedman and Nira Tobochnik*

This session is designed to explore strategies to make our jobs more successful as we are continuing to learn how to navigate a new work environment. This will include discussions on Time Management, Self-Care, Empathy and Compassion, and the importance of work-life balance while working in a virtual/hybrid employment model. This dynamic presentation will incorporate the use of videos and activities to engage attendees.

C. *The Power: Peer Movement and Peer Voice- Emily Childress, Carmen Torres, Elijah McCloud and Mona Lisa McEachin*

During this session, peer experts will discuss the evolution of the peer profession, the power of the peer voice to influence policy and the growing body of evidence and research highlighting the numerous benefits. This session will also cover key components of a successful program including supervision, internal organizational culture, competitive salary, diversity of perspectives and roles, and continuing education.

Session II

1:30 pm-2:45 pm

A. *Promoting Parents/ Caregivers and Youth as Partnering Experts through the lens of Equity: Addiction, Health and Behavioral Health Care – Sara Taylor and Dr. Junior Dillion***

Relationships between parents/caregivers and providers impact all aspects of care and are often contributing factors which play a critical role in the development of healthy and thriving children. This session will highlight key components for building trusting partnerships with parents/ caregivers while empowering them to become vital contributors, experts, and the lead decision maker in their child's care. We will also explore the inherent power dynamics between providers and parents and opportunities to move models and mindsets from family involvement to family engagement through the lens of Equity.

Key Educational Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

- Participants will increase their understanding of difference between parent involvement versus engagement through the equity lens
- Participants will increase their ability to recognize how power dynamics impact relationships and service delivery models.
- Participants will learn strategies for empowering parents/caregivers to become the lead decision marker in their child's care.
- Participants will Increase their understanding of key considerations for establishing trusting partnerships with families from culturally diverse backgrounds

B. *Housing and Residential Services: Prioritizing Morale, Retention and Safety for all- Nia Jones and Shamicka Joseph*

This training will help health and human service providers across practices learn the importance of employee morale, retention, and safety. Participants will be offered key concepts to review, dissect, create or recreate in order to improve service delivery from an organizational standpoint to the people that serve the community. Understanding that a healthy employee offers healthy service delivery to individuals within a program.

C. *School Supports: Restorative Practices and Mental Health – Vincent Sears and Selena Ruiz*

During this session, we will explore incorporating restorative practices to support the social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs of school-age youth. We will aim to emphasize the relational needs of the community in fostering student accountability for behavior by building self-concept through a collectivist lens.

Session III

3:00 pm-4:15 pm

A. **Poverty and Health Disparities and the correlation, intersection of Racial Trauma- Dr. Latise Hairston

Billions of dollars have been spent on researching minority health outcomes and practices. From engagement to discharge, the process has been studied. Yet there has been a failure to prioritize the impact of racial trauma in correlation with oppression, poverty, and the various socioeconomic factors on the individual, the community, treatment behaviors, and provider outcomes. This training will educate healthcare and community providers on the attitude of sameness that was historically weaved into the American culture, perpetuating systems of violence and discrimination on people of color, traumatically impacting them, future generations, communities, and the overall wellbeing of Americans. The benefits to America for increasing racial equality will be discussed.

Key Educational Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

- Identify the way America has traumatically impacted different ethnic groups
- Identify consequences on the body due to the perception of discrimination or racism
- Identify the adverse health or services outcomes that have been attributed to provider bias
- Identify individual actions to assist in the decrease of racial inequality

B. Street Outreach and Engagement: Urban Youth and Chronically Homeless- Anthony Hall and Nick Coulter

During this session, experts will share best practices for street outreach and engagement efforts targeting Urban Youth and the Chronically Homeless. Facilitators will discuss innovative strategies which are respectful, responsive, and truly meeting people where they are.

C. Advocacy and Public Policy-Sara Taylor

Public policy impacts people with various health condition and service needs in many ways — from health care to housing to criminalization. Changes in policy can result in improved treatments, increased access to services and better outcomes for people with various conditions and diverse needs. This session will review key strategies for engaging clients, program participants and consumers in Advocacy efforts.

Speaker Bios

Dr. Junior Dillion is a skilled non-profit leader with extensive experience in various human service systems. Currently serving as the Senior Director of Programs for the Wilson Foundation, Dr. Dillion works tirelessly to enhance grant-giving efforts in addressing poverty, housing instability, trauma, and racial inequities. He also serves on several boards that target inequities, including Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, and is the vice-chair for Empire Justice Center. In addition to his leadership roles, Dr. Dillion has served as a clinical therapist and adjunct professor at the University of Rochester (U of R). He has worked in outpatient services and settlement projects. He has provided training, evaluation, and program development through his own company, Dillion Consulting, Inc. Dr. Dillion's research focus is on contributors to access and success for Black men in postsecondary settings. Dr. Dillion's expertise in data analysis helps non-profits tell their stories effectively. He has a special focus on fathers, Black men, and masculine-identified individuals accessing mental health care. His outstanding work in the field earned him recognition, including the Rochester Business Journal's Forty Under Forty award in 2021. Overall, Dr. Dillion is a versatile and accomplished professional who has made significant contributions to various human service systems. His dedication to addressing inequities and promoting access to mental health care is admirable, and his skills and expertise make him an invaluable asset to the organizations he serves.

Nia Jones M.S. is currently the Vice President of Operations at East House. Dedicating her career to Human Services with over a decade of progressive Leadership, Nia has demonstrated her ability to improve program outcomes, plan and execute strategic plans, and provide administrative oversight to programs and operations. Nia has experience providing and overseeing support services for Seniors and individuals with Developmental Disabilities, Eating Disorders, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders.

Elijah McCloud is a passionate, outcome-driven leader with 20 years of experience in serving vulnerable and at-risk populations. He has worked diligently to improve the outcomes of our community members while also ensuring programs providing these services maintain compliance with proper oversight and leadership. By nature, He is a team builder and seeks to collaborate with likeminded leaders to improve constituent outcomes and organizational culture through the lens of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.

Mai Abullah joined Empire Justice Center as Program Support Specialist for Roc Your Family's Future Project in November of 2020. She worked previously as the Client Service Coordinator for Creating Assets Savings and Hope (CASH). She holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and a master's in environmental health and safety Management from Rochester Institute of Technology. She is also a court certified Arabic interpreter and has extensive experience interpreting for the refugee population in a wide variety of professional environments. Mai is a graduate of the Greater Rochester Parent leadership Training Institute where she went through comprehensive training in civic engagement and advocacy. Mai is very involved in her community, she serves on her children's School Board, Equity Steering Committee, and Multicultural Advisory Board. Mai is passionate about equity and racial justice, education, and disability rights.

Leslie Barnes is employed by Coordinated Care Services Inc. (CCSI) as the Director of the Monroe County Family Support Center. The Center includes the Family Access and Connection Team (FACT), Youth and Family Partnership (YFP) and Family Voice programs, all with the mission of supporting hope, partnership, peace and change! Leslie is leading the transformation of innovative, strength based programs that support families and children, playing a strategic role in advancing a multidisciplinary approach to engagement, assessment and referral. Leslie has over 30 years of experience in human services and has held leadership positions at Monroe County Office of Probation and Hillside. Leslie is a passionate advocate for Hope Science and a System of Care values champion.

Carrie Hoey has worked at Foodlink for six years. She is currently the Member Services Manager and works closely with the pantries and meal programs in Foodlink's 10-county service area. Prior to working on the Member Services team, she spent two years working on the Curbside Market, a mobile farmer's

market that brings fresh produce to areas that lack traditional access points. She believes that dignified access to food is a human right and a central factor in overall health.

Andre Stokes is a Master Social Worker, CASAC, author, and Senior Director at Bestself Behavioral Health in Buffalo, NY. With 16 years of experience within the field. Andre understands the challenges that people experience within the community regarding race, culture, trauma, and psychological needs. He has also played a key role in many local agendas with relation to family & addition services and racial trauma recovery in the City of Buffalo. Andre is currently working on his Doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher University in Rochester, NY and is focusing his research on Black mental health. Bringing the same level of motivation to the field; Andre remains intentional within the community regarding mental health and cultural competency.

Angela Colón-Rentas is a New York State-certified, professional bilingual Youth Peer Specialist and Skillbuilder. Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Rochester, NY, she's a mother, nature lover, authentic mirror-writer and fine arts artist. Angela Colón-Rentas is a member of Families Together Youth Peer Advocate Advisory Council and is New York States' Office of Mental Health "What's Great in Our State" 2022 Youth/Young Adult awardee. She has over five years professional experience in the Mental Health field and personal experience in the juvenile justice system. Angela has a personal commitment share experiences and expertise to help break the mental health stigma in the BIPOC communities. She advocates for more preventive recreational opportunities for youth, and access to trustworthy, reliable services.

Mona Lisa McEachin has dedicated over five years of service to BestSelf, beginning as a Peer Specialist with the substance use disorder mobile team. While on the mobile team, she had the privilege of collaborating with Buffalo Opioid Court Judge Hannah and Judge Hennighan on pioneering initiatives for the Buffalo community. In July of 2021 Mona was promoted to Lead Peer Mentor of the WNY Peer Workforce Development Center, and recently she was promoted to Assistant Program Director (APD) of BestSelf's Recovery Community & the WNY Peer Workforce Development Center. Alongside her primary role as ADP, Mona actively provides peer services to various programs, such as Lighthouse Women's Residence, Harambee House, and the Crisis Team. She is also a valued member of the Black Mental Health Response team and provided essential peer services to the Jefferson Ave community following the Top's shooting on 5/14.

Emily Childress is the Director of the CORE Peer Navigator Project at the NY Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS). She is proud to be a provisionally certified Peer Specialist in NYS. Emily attended Binghamton University where she completed a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and a Master of Public Administration. It was during her undergraduate studies that Emily first learned of NYAPRS by attending Legislative Day in Albany. Prior to joining NYAPRS as a staff member, she served for two years on the NYAPRS board of directors as the Southern Tier Regional Coordinator and caucus chair. Emily has 8 years of experience providing and advocating for peer support services, including being the director of the first peer-run crisis respite house, Our House, in the Southern Tier. Emily is a distinguished trainer and finds her passion in empowering peers to advocate for themselves.

Shamicka Joseph is the Director of Recovery Support Services with East House. In this role she cultivates the opportunity for clients working through mental health and addiction to have independent "normal" lives through vocational, education, and groups. Shamicka has a passion for people with youth being at the top, she currently holds a front line position with The Children's Home working with youth in the foster care system. Shamicka's goal in life would include offering wrap around services for all ages in her community.

Dr. Latise Hariston is Chief Impact Officer at Harvest Opportunities Dynamic, accomplished certified Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategist respected for delivering a consistent creative vision based on data-driven decision making. Proven track record of effectively designing and managing large scale culture transformation projects overseeing the entire implementation cycle. Known as a motivational, influential thought leader who is often called upon to train in the area of Racial Trauma.

Craig W. Johnson LMHC, CASAC-G is a leader at Huther Doyle Memorial Institute in Rochester NY, where he oversees the New Initiatives and the Health Homes Care Management activities. Formerly, Craig was the Director of Inmate Drug and Alcohol Programs with the Sheriff's Office where he developed and managed a corrections-based substance abuse and re-entry program. Prior to this, Craig served as the Clinical Director at Park Ridge Chemical Dependency, a major provider of residential and outpatient treatment for persons affected by a substance use disorder. Craig is well known for his active involvement in the community and committees designed to improve services for vulnerable populations.

Carol Mancari is a certified Recreation Therapist who has been with HHUNY for 6 years in various roles including Referral Coordinator, Health Coordinator Lead and most recently Training Coordinator. During her time with HHUNY she has supported Care Managers on the benefits of closing Gaps in Care and how to help Care Managers be successful in the Care Manager Role. Carol also has experience working in mental health and substance use fields including being a Program Coordinator in a PROS Program in the Rochester area where she assisted with providing support to high risk members working on accomplishing life role goals.

Kayliegh Stedman, MHA has worked in the Human Services field for the last decade. Kayliegh acquired her Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration from Utica College. Kayliegh has been working in Health Home Care Management for eight years and is currently a Training Coordinator for the Health Homes of Upstate New York (HHUNY). Prior to joining HHUNY, Kayliegh provided Health Home services to diverse populations and held a leadership position overseeing care management teams and providing quality assurance oversight. Prior to her career in Health Homes, Kayliegh was a Service Plan Coordinator for individuals living in residential behavioral health programs to help them advance their biopsychosocial goals.

Nira Tobochnik received her LMSW from the University at Buffalo and has worked at Health Homes of Upstate New York (HHUNY) for eight years. She is currently a Training Coordinator at HHUNY. Prior to being a Training Coordinator, Nira was a Referral Coordinator and specialized in working with community-based agencies and Managed Care Organizations to connect high needs individuals to appropriate service organizations.

Sara I. Taylor is the Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of Positive Steps and Managing Director of Taylor-Jones Enterprises Event Management (www.positivestepsny.com). In addition, Sara is employed full time as a Training Specialist and Community Liaison in Western, New York where she focuses on Social Justice and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. Sara's 20+ year career, across multiple industries, range from direct-care front-line social worker to senior-level administrator. Her entire career has focused on empowering and motivating vulnerable populations including individuals with disabilities, homeless and low-income populations who often face barriers related to obtaining employment and career advancement.

Vincent Sears healer, educator, activist, and scholar is a licensed professional counselor, passionate mental health /social justice advocate, healer, and Ph.D. student. Vincent entered the field of psychology/counseling 10-years-ago. From attending Tuskegee University to graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with my BS in political science, his journey has been long and challenging. His focus now is unapologetically about Black Mental Health primarily, how racial experiences and family dynamics impact the wellbeing of Black and multiracial youth/ families. He has authored various publications, participated on national mental health panels, sought out workshop facilitator and enjoys providing therapy to children and families.

Margi Taber is currently employed by Wayne County Department of Mental Health as a collaborative partner with Wayne County Community Schools. Her role as an active partner and liaison between the school, behavioral health programs and community providing leadership for the collaborative process and development of a behavioral health continuum of services for children and families. She is a certified Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor, CASAC II, and life coach. Her role supports Restorative Practices, building communities of Practice and promoting inclusivity by addressing gaps in services and

working to identify equitable services and supports for all. She is a member of the Adolescent Specialty Committee at NAADAC: Association for Addiction Professionals currently helping to develop an Adolescent Addiction Specialist Endorsement to roll out across the United States. Margi has written for professional publications on addiction, impact of addiction in the family, and inspiring others to be true to themselves. She is a past recipient of the Helen Guthrie Memorial Youth Advocate of the Year Award by the National Council on Drug Dependence - Rochester Area.

Carmen Torres is a graduate of the Rochester City School District and attended higher education at Monroe Community and Nazareth College. Carmen worked for the Rochester City School District for over 30 years in a variety of positions. She has always believed in giving back to our community especially to those children who are vulnerable because of poverty, racism, health inequities and trauma. She discovered that advocacy through The Children's Agenda allowed her to work closer with our families in our city and teach them how to find their voice and how to ACT on a variety of child related issues. She is currently the Parent Leadership Manager.

Selina Ruiz is the assistant director of prevention education at the Center for Youth Services. She has been working with children and youth in the city of Rochester for the last 17 years. Her focus has primarily been in schools, providing prevention education on a range of topics, including sexual health and social and emotional support. She developed a passion for helping youth work through patterns that limit their success and decided to seek a Masters in Marriage and Family therapy to support families in staying together to provide even more support for our youth in their homes.

NICHOLAS J. COULTER is Executive Vice President and Co-Founder of PCHO. Nick finds his passion in social justice, providing the tools for each of staff member to empower the lives they touch, and educating and enlisting allies in Housing First. He is a nationally known expert in the area of engaging the Chronically Homeless.

Anthony Hall is Director of Pathways to Peace at the City of Rochester and Founder/CEO B.O.O.K.B.A.G.S Express with more than 20 years of experience leading grassroots neighborhood based engagement efforts. He is the recipient of numerous community awards and a well sought out regional expert working to address gang violence and creating career pathways for young black males.