

Law Enforcement Team Award

Moderator: Johanne Morne, Director, Office of Planning and Community Affairs, NYS DOH AIDS Institute

Albany Medical College

Michael W. Dailey, MD, FACEP, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine

Harm Reduction Coalition

Sharon Stancliff, MD, Medical Director

William Matthews, PA, Physician Assistant

amfAR - The Foundation for AIDS Research

Lisa Chiu, Program Coordinator

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

Michael C. Green, Executive Deputy Commissioner

Johanna Sullivan, Director of Public Safety

Joshua Vinehout, Associate Training Technician (Police)

David J. Mahany, Associate Training Technician (Police)

Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez, M.S., L.M.S.W., Commissioner

Sean M. Byrne, Executive Deputy Commissioner

NYSDOH AIDS Institute

Dan O'Connell, Director, AIDS Institute

Valerie White, Deputy Director, AID Institute

James Tesoriero, Ph.D., Director, HIV/STD/HCV Prevention

Mark Hammer, Director, Program Integration and Special Projects, Division of HIV, STD, HCV Prevention

Richard Cotroneo, MA, Director, Education and Training Programs

Shu-Yin Leung, Director, Office of Program Evaluation and Research

Kirsten Rowe, Evaluation Specialist IV, Office of Program Evaluation and Research



2014 Commissioner's Special Recognition Awards LGBT, STD, Hepatitis C, Drug User Health and Law Enforcement

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.,

Acting Commissioner, New York State Department of Health

Guthrie Birkhead, MD, MPH,

Deputy Commissioner, Office of Public Health

Dan O'Connell,

Director, NYS DOH AIDS Institute

Johanne Morne,

Director, Office of Planning and Community Affairs, NYS DOH AIDS Institute

December 2, 2014 • 2:00 PM
Empire State Plaza Convention Center
Albany, New York

Master of Ceremonies: Valerie White, Deputy Director, AIDS Institute

LGBT Health

Moderator: Carmen Vazquez, Coordinator, LGBT Health and Human Services Initiative, AIDS Institute

Jeff Birnbaum, MD, MPH, Founder and Executive Director
Health Education Alternatives for Teens housed at Research Foundation of SUNY Downstate

Kenneth Soler-Rios, aka Symba, Community Educator
Project S.O.L. (Speak Out Loud), Grand Street Settlement

Pete Carney, Director
Pride for Youth (PFY), a project of Long Island Crisis Center

Elder Stacey Latimer, Senior Pastor
Love Alive International Sanctuary of Praise Worship Center

Marvin Henchbarger, Executive Director
Gay and Lesbian Youth Services of Western NY (GLYSWNY)

Tandra LaGrone, Executive Director
In Our Own Voices

Reducing STD Infections

Moderator: Alison Muse, Director, Bureau of STD Prevention and Epidemiology, AIDS Institute

Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH, FAAP, FSAHM, Commissioner
Erie County Department of Health

Susan Blank, MD, MPH, Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of STD Control and Prevention, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Patricia Coury-Doniger, FNPC, Director
Center for Health and Behavioral Training, University of Rochester

Randy Viele, Assistant Director of Prevention Services
AIDS Council of Northeastern NY

Nanette Ecker, MA, Director, Sexual and Reproductive Health Program
Nassau Health Care Corporation

Hepatitis C

Moderator: Colleen Flanigan, Director, Viral Hepatitis Section, AIDS Institute
VOCAL-NY

Drug User Health

Moderator: Mark Hammer, Director, Program Integration and Special Projects, AIDS Institute

Alma Candelas, MPH, Director
Division of HIV, STD, HCV Prevention, AIDS Institute (retired 2012)

Sharon Stancliff, MD, Medical Director
Medical Director, Harm Reduction Coalition

Chief Mark Spawm, Director of Research, Development & Training
NYS Association of Chiefs of Police (NYSACOP)

Lisa Chiu, Program Coordinator
amfAR - The Foundation for AIDS Research

Joyce A. Rivera, Founder and Executive Director
St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction (SACHR)

Don Des Jarlais, Ph.D., Director of Research
Mt. Sinai Beth Israel, Baron Edmond de Rothschild Chemical Dependency Institute

Annette Roque-Lewis, Founder and Executive Director
La Nueva Esperanza

Ray Ganoë, Chief Executive Officer
Evergreen Health Services

Hiawatha Collins, Liam Gibson
The Peer Network of New York





2014 Commissioner's Special Recognition Awards: LGBT, STD, HCV, Drug User Health and Law Enforcement

LGBT Health:



Jeff Birnbaum, MD is the founder and Executive Director of Health Education Alternatives for Teens, The HEAT Clinic housed at Research Foundation of SUNY Downstate. He is also the primary medical provider there and in all of Brooklyn for young people living with HIV. Dr. Birnbaum has been a tireless and constant provider and hero in the field of Adolescent HIV prevention and care for decades. In the last 5 years in particular, HEAT has come to serve Transgender youth and YMSM youth at increasingly high rates. They are a provider of hormone therapy, mental health, sexual health and HIV care for hundreds of affected youth. Dr. Birnbaum is there for his patients and his clinic to a fault. His program currently receives AIDS Institute funding for working with YMSM and young women for the prevention of HIV, STI and HCV and funds for LGBT Health and Human Services, as well as primary care for HIV positive youth. Under his supervision, the HEAT program provides consistent, comprehensive and quality services to the LGBT population and beyond. He is a hero to many staff at the SUNY Research Foundation and many youth.

Kenneth Soler-Rios, aka Symba has been making contributions to enhancing the health outcomes of LGBTQ youth since he was a young person himself. At the age of 16, Kenneth became a peer educator at Hetrick-Martin Institute, where he became heavily involved with the Kiki ballroom scene. More than 10 years later, Kenneth continues his involvement as a service provider, and today he is a Community Educator for Project S.O.L. (Speak Out Loud) at Grand Street Settlement. Over the past 10 years, Kenneth has mentored dozens of youth to develop self-confidence and social skills, and also regularly organizes large scale balls that draw in hundreds of youth. His focus within the ballroom scene has always been to utilize the subculture to promote safer sex practices and reduce the risk of contracting and transmitting HIV and other STIs. His flagship event is the World AIDS Day Ball, held at Grand Street Settlement, which always occurs on the first Friday of December in honor of World AIDS Day. This will be his 7th year organizing the event, and we expect over 500 youth to attend.

Finally, as an HIV-positive community member himself, Kenneth is in a unique position to provide leadership to help youth develop holistically, to accept themselves and others fully, and to have all of the information necessary to make healthy and safe decisions. He will be featured in the November issue of POZ magazine for his decade-long contributions to vulnerable communities in

New York City and beyond.

Pete Carney is Director of Pride for Youth (PFY), a project of Long Island Crisis Center. He brings to this position a vision of healthy, resourceful and successful LGBT youth and he effectively imparts this vision to his staff. In this position, he oversees a robust program of services that work synergistically together for LGBT youth: individual, family and group counseling (for youth up to 26 years of age); sexual health services providing education on HIV/STDs (including testing) and unintended pregnancies; youth leadership opportunities through the Program Leaders Group; separate support groups for gay youth, transgender youth and parents of LGBT youth; MPowerment, a nationally-recognized program that provides HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C prevention through community outreach and education to young, gay/bisexual men of color; and, The Coffeehouse, a weekly, Friday evening drop-in center providing education and support for LGBT youth and their straight allies. Widely recognized for his expertise, Pete has delivered many professional trainings throughout the State on these issues and is sought after as a speaker by those who strive to build bridges between the LGBT community and the community at large.

What distinguishes Pete is his ability to have his pulse on the LGBT community and to strategize and plan for the future needs in the community. Pete Carney is a man of great leadership skills, intense passion, a sense of social justice and equality, and high ethical standards that he models and imparts to others. He uses all these qualities to advance the well-being and rights of LGBT youth. He richly deserves to be recognized with the Commissioner's Special Recognition Award.

Elder Stacey Latimer is the Senior Pastor and founder of Love Alive International, a faith-based organization committed to empowering those oppressed by structures, systems, cultures, and traditions that impede their social progress. He is also the Senior Pastor of Love Alive International Sanctuary of Praise Worship Center. Elder Latimer is an openly gay clergy of African descent with an affirming and welcoming congregation. He is dedicated to supporting and advocating for the health and wellness of LGBTQ youth. For more than 20 years, he has worked closely with community-based organizations to advocate for services related to HIV awareness, education and HIV/HCV screening. What makes Elder Latimer's commitment particularly outstanding is his willingness to be the first and sometimes only clergy to speak openly at community forums on how faith communities can address the needs of LGBT youth, and participates in youth/clergy panel discussions related to LGBT youth. As a clergy living with HIV, Elder Latimer courageously shares his story with others and works with faith leaders of various denominations to educate them about health issues impacting young people, especially LGBT youth. Elder Latimer is a veteran of the US Army, has appeared on numerous radio and television programs across the nation, and has written various articles on the church, especially "Black Churches" response or lack of response to HIV. As an openly gay clergy of African descent, living with HIV, Elder Latimer is aware of the struggles and he continues to provide message of hope and love to all that will hear.

Marvin Henchbarger is the Executive Director of Gay and Lesbian Youth Services of Western New York (GLYSWNY), has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving and supporting the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and young adults (ages 14-21) in the eight-county region of Western New York (WNY). GLYSWNY's mission and services are reflected in Marvin's personal dedication to helping LGBTQ youth recognize and be proud of their individual uniqueness through a range of

youth asset and leadership development activities and supportive services. She is recognized regionally as the “go-to” person for information and support for LGBTQ youth and their families. At GLYSWNY’s Drop-in Center in downtown Buffalo, Ms. Henchbarger has created a non-judgmental, safe space for LGBTQ youth to socialize and participate in a variety of after school activities designed to build self-esteem, skills and personal strengths, learn tolerance and acceptance, defeat bullying and homophobia and to find direction and support from interaction with positive LGBT peer and adult role models. Marvin has also made an invaluable and significant contribution to addressing the needs of LGBTQ youth in foster care settings throughout WNY.

Marvin Henchbarger is the embodiment of LGBT pride—always proudly wearing the LGBT Pride Rainbow—and is to be commended for her tireless energy, enthusiasm and dedication to improving the lives of all LGBTQ youth and their families in WNY.

Tandra LaGrone is the Executive Director of In Our Own Voices (IOOV), is a tireless advocate for all LGBT communities, especially LGBT people of color. She strives for social equity and works to close the gaps that prevent the provision of culturally competent services and care. During her 10 year tenure as Executive Director of IOOV, Tandra has worked to ensure the success and stability of IOOV and their services to communities of color, expand their services to include HIV prevention services, mental health services and the purchase of their own building in 2014. During the past year, Tandra also championed the creation of Shades of Change Best Practices Guide: Responding to the needs of LGBT POC Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, unveiled at a full day Institute during the 4th Bi-Annual Unity Through Diversity Conference. Conceived and led by Tandra, the conference has grown from a statewide to a national conference providing people of color with a rare opportunity to reflect on the status of health and wellness for LGBT people of color, substance abuse, spirituality, sexual health and self-advocacy within LGBT people of color communities. Tandra embodies leadership by example and powerful advocacy with grace, humor and a well-known capacity to speak truth to power.

Reducing STD Infections:



Dr. Gale Burstein is Commissioner of the Erie County Department of Health in Buffalo New York, a position she has held since 2012. She is also a clinical professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, is the adolescent committee chair of the NY Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and practices medicine as a board certified adolescent medicine physician, providing STD care to adolescents. As a clinician, a public health leader and a medical epidemiologist, she has conducted health services research to identify barriers and successful strategies to improve the delivery of confidential sexual health services for adolescents. She has also collaborated with state and national policy experts to address the challenge of confidential adolescent sexual health services as a health policy issue. She has received awards recognizing her work in the field of adolescent medicine including an Erie County Accomplishment Award, a Special Achievement Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a Promising Practice Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

Patricia Coury-Doniger is a family nurse practitioner with several leadership roles. She is the Director of the Center for Health and Behavioral Training at the Infectious Disease Division of the University of Rochester School of Medicine. She is also the Director of Curriculum Development for the New York State STD Center for Excellence and has served as the Program Director of the Monroe County Department of Health's STD/HIV Program for over 25 years, ensuring the delivery of quality STD and HIV clinical and prevention services to high-risk persons in clinical, community and criminal justice settings. She has made significant contributions to the field of social and behavioral interventions. Research conducted by Ms. Coury-Doniger and her colleagues has been translated into practice with the development of high impact behavioral interventions that have been effective in reducing HIV and STD infections in high risk populations and are used nationally. As a trainer, Ms. Coury-Doniger has developed and delivered curriculum to increase the capacity of clinical providers to provide quality diagnostic and treatment services for persons with STDs as well as the capacity of community service providers to implement evidence based STD and HIV prevention services.

Dr. Susan Blank is the Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Director of the Bureau of STD Prevention and Control, a position she has held for over 20 years. Her contributions to creating a safer and healthier environment for the residents of New York City are extensive and evidenced by her leadership in delivering STD public health services. Dr. Blank directs the activities of over 280 employees which are responsible for conducting STD surveillance and prevention activities for the largest county health department in the State as well as overseeing the clinical operations of eight STD clinics located across the five boroughs, ensuring that no New Yorker goes without access to timely diagnosis and treatment for STDs. She has been at the forefront of innovation in the areas of surveillance and epidemiologic methods which have improved our understanding of affected populations and enhanced community surveillance of sentinel events such as the detection of gonorrhea infections

that are resistant to antibiotics. She has improved the quality of care delivered through the city's STD clinics by promoting the availability of improved diagnostics for HIV and STDs, ensuring access to confidential care for young people and promoting technological advances to automate the delivery of test results to patients. Dr. Blank's impact is also seen in the broader health care community where she has played a significant role in training thousands of health care professionals to provide quality STD care and has improved STD services for New Yorkers through changes in policy and legislation. Dr. Blank has received numerous awards and citations for her public health leadership and excellence. Today, we are pleased to recognize Dr. Susan Blank's public health investment in the sexual health of New Yorkers by awarding her the Commissioner's Special Recognition award.

Randy Viele is the Assistant Director of Prevention Services at the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York. He has a long standing client centered approach to STD prevention for residents of the 15-county catchment area that the AIDS Council serves. In his early days of HIV and STD prevention work, Randy recognized that members of the community such as young black and Latino gay men, were not walking through the doors of the AIDS Council to receive services. To reach this population, he knew that he had to reach them in a trusted environment on their terms and time and as a result, he developed an innovative program to conduct STD screening and HIV testing in non-traditional settings. He continues to lead AIDS Council staff to think outside the box of traditional means of client engagement and service provision. He has been instrumental in the success of the AIDS Council's ability to establish relationships with bars, missions, bathhouses and many other institutions throughout the Capital District to provide services, again, to clients in a trusted environment on their terms and time. Randy plays an integral part in the success of the Syphilis Elimination Campaign and the Condom Access Program, both of which serve as model programs for other community based organizations in New York State. Without hesitation, over the years, Randy has assisted the AIDS Institute's Bureau of STD Prevention and Epidemiology in developing protocols, establishing best practices, and as a resource for STD prevention service delivery.

Nanette Ecker is the Director of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Program at Nassau Health Care Corporation. She has also served as the former Director of International Programs for the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States and is the founding Director of the Global Institute for Training of Planned Parenthood. Ms. Ecker has strengthened development of STD/HIV prevention programs and provided sexual health advocacy efforts which have created greater access to prevention health services. She has trained thousands of New York educators, human service, government, medical, health and other professionals. Through her work as an advocate, author and educator, she has advanced sexual health and rights issues for all individuals but with a particular emphasis on the poor and marginalized, drug users, and LGBT individuals in order to increase respect and tolerance. Her work promotes a community where sexual health, equality and respect for all are recognized as human rights and everyone has access to health care and services.

Hepatitis C:



VOCAL-NY is a statewide grassroots organization working to create healthy and just communities by building power among some of the most marginalized New Yorkers, including low-income people affected by HIV and viral hepatitis, incarceration, and substance use. VOCAL-NY accomplishes this through community organizing, leadership development, civic engagement, participatory research, public education and direct action. They have coordinated successful campaigns to pass the birth cohort HCV testing law and the recently-signed law allowing registered nurses to administer HCV tests by standing order. In addition, they have advocated for elimination of mail order pharmacy requirements, integration of HCV services with drug treatment programs, and improvements in HCV care and treatment.

Drug User Health:



Alma Candelas, MPH graduated with a Masters of Public Health from the University of Puerto Rico. She moved to NYC in the late 70's. Alma worked for Promesa for over a decade, and came to the AIDS Institute in 1990. She retired in 2012. During her tenure, she was involved in a variety of initiatives involving MSM, women, adolescents, and drug users. Today, we are going to focus on her contributions to drug user health.

Alma was instrumental in the creation of the harm reduction/syringe exchange programs. In 1992, Alma developed the regulations needed for the legalization of syringe exchange in NYS. Before developing the regulations, Alma knew that she had to see the unsanctioned street practices so she joined the "walkabout" team as they visited a homeless encampment on the Lower East Side, known as "The Hill." This was truly the birth of syringe exchange. It is here that she met Allan Clear, now Executive Director of the Harm Reduction Coalition. He and others in the community were driven by what needed to be done, although at the time, it wasn't considered public health. Alma was the person who brought it to another level, and took what they did and turned it into a reality. In 1992, the first five syringe exchange programs were approved. She taught the programs how to negotiate the system, develop a work plan, and create a budget. She taught them the bureaucracy as she knew it from the inside. As Allan Clear says, she tolerated their being amateurs and immature with infinite patience. At the time, NYC was the epicenter of IDUs and HIV in the world. Without her work and compassion, HIV would have claimed far more lives. As time went on, Alma recognized the need for syringes to be more available and worked to

develop the Expanded Syringe Access Program. Alma also realized that peers needed to be more involved, and developed Peer Delivered Syringe Exchange (PDSE). PDSE has allowed the programs to expand, and serve more drug users. These programs were instrumental in allowing NYS to reduce the rate of infection among people who inject drugs from over 50% to less than 13% percent in 2001, an achievement not reached by any other state. Under her guidance, in 2006, a law passed authorizing the creation of the Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs. This came with no staffing and no funding. Alma worked on the development of regulations and began with the approval of a handful of community programs. Today, we have over 180 registered opioid overdose prevention programs.

It is clear to all of us that the foundation that she developed for drug user health continues to allow us to achieve the outcomes that we do today. Alma continues to be both admired and loved by the community, her peers and her former staff. It is with great pleasure that we recognize her today for her contributions to drug user health.

Sharon Stancliff, MD - For over 20 years, Dr. Sharon Stancliff has worked tirelessly to improve the health of persons who use drugs, their families and their communities. Dr. Stancliff who is currently the Medical Director of the Harm Reduction Coalition has worked extensively with the AIDS Institute, first as a Nicholas Rango HIV Clinical Scholar, then as staff in its Office of the Medical Director and now as collaborator. She also worked directly with syringe exchange programs since their earliest years and has delivered both primary care and has been the medical director of a methadone program. She has helped in the development of policies and procedures for the provision of training to syringe exchange program staff and volunteers on HIV, hepatitis and other infectious diseases. When the Expanded Syringe Access Program was established in 2000, she worked with the AIDS Institute to promote this program, and developed a Continued Pharmacy Education (CPE) on it for pharmacists. Dr. Stancliff has been central to the AIDS Institute's work on opioid overdose. She serves as the Opioid Overdose Clinical Director for several registered programs in NYC, and, with her partners at HRC, has trained over 20,000 individuals as overdose responders. When regulations changed this year allowing non-patient specific prescriptions to be issued for naloxone, she developed model policies and procedures and was the first prescriber to begin training syringe exchange programs in furnishing naloxone pursuant to these prescriptions. Dr. Stancliff also works closely with the NYCDOHMH on opioid overdose prevention and is a national resource in this and other drug user health issues. Dr. Stancliff collaborated with the DOH AI, OASAS, DCJS and Albany Medical Center on training law enforcement officers as opioid overdose responders and on equipping them with naloxone. This included helping to develop the curriculum and training materials; providing trainings across the State; and prescribing naloxone so officers could be furnished with naloxone at the trainings. In addition, Dr. Stancliff prescribes buprenorphine to individuals to their treat opioid dependence. She also works with other clinicians so that they too are better able to treat and counsel their buprenorphine patients. Dr. Stancliff has a very diverse skill set. She is board certified in family medicine and a fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice. She is also certified by the American Board of Addiction Medicine. She is well respected in government and the medical community for her expertise in drug user health. In addition, she works closely with the

community and with drug users advocating for them on a daily basis. Her international work for various international countries has included the Ukraine and Zanzibar. The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute is fortunate to have been able to work with Dr. Stancliff for over 20 years, and now wishes to recognize her for her contributions to drug user health.

Chief Mark Spawn is the Director of Research, Development & Training at the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police (NYSACOP) has been an indispensable resource for the Harm Reduction Unit in promoting the health, well-being and safety of injection drug users.

For NYSDOH Syringe Access Initiatives to work, there needs to be understanding and adherence to the Public Health and Penal Laws by law enforcement entities. When law enforcement does not know the protections provided to participants by these laws, the functionality and effectiveness of the initiative is affected. This is where Chief Mark Spawn's assistance has been outstanding.

Chief Spawn recognized the need to educate and train all police departments in a comprehensive way. He created a toolkit and template for police departments about NYSDOH's Syringe Access Programs. The materials were posted on the NYSACOP and NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services EJustice websites and the podcasts on iTunes. CDs of the podcast and video were created, with the logo and seal of NYSACOP on the packaging, giving this educational tool greater credibility with law enforcement as it was made "by law enforcement for law enforcement".

The video speaks to the importance of SEP in HIV prevention and delineates law enforcement's role in allowing the programs to work. When shown to audiences of police officers, they are riveted, as the information is being offered and promoted by police entities. Through DCJS' Learning Management System, law enforcement staff can log on, view the video, take a brief post-test, and receive a training certificate.

Through Chief Spawn's efforts, he exponentially expanded HRU's reach while conserving time, effort and resources. Chief Spawn's contributions have not only influenced HRU's social marketing efforts and training of law enforcement, they have benefitted injection drug users

Lisa Chiu is the Program Coordinator at the Foundation for AIDS Research, manages the supplies contract for the NYSDOH Syringe Access Initiatives - Syringe Exchange and Expanded Syringe Access Programs, NYS Condom Program, and HIV and HCV Test Kit Programs. Since the inception of the Syringe Exchange Programs in 1992, the Foundation for AIDS Research has ordered, maintained inventory, stored, and distributed supplies to agencies on a monthly basis. Ms. Chiu has had full responsibility for identifying quality products, negotiating best prices, tracking purchases, monitoring inventory, shipping supplies, and following up with vendors regarding contractors' complaints or concerns since the inception of the initiative. Ms. Chiu has done this seamlessly, ensuring that agencies have the supplies they need to meet clients' needs. She also tracks supplies closely and questions orders that appear extraordinary and seeks guidance from AI prior to fulfillment. Similarly, when the AIDS Institute needs information regarding supplies, Ms. Chiu sends an inventory report, which is prioritized relative to usage, duration of supplies and availability, within hours of the request, to help inform AI's allocation of additional funds.

With the implementation of the Expanded Syringe Access Program, the NYS Condom Program and AI's purchasing of HIV and HCV Rapid Test Kits, the scope of Ms. Chiu's work load increased exponentially. With minimal part time assistance, Ms. Chiu regularly fulfills orders from AI staff and contractors related to all of these programs. She is the center of this well-organized supplies contract. In all of the years of this contract, orders are fulfilled with a very quick turnaround and no deliveries have been missed or supplies lost. Last year, prior to executing FAR's contract, AI did price comparisons for various items and found that Ms. Chiu had negotiated lower prices than those available through bulk purchase or NYS contracts. Through Ms. Chiu's maximizing of purchasing power, she has expanded the depth and breadth of available supplies.

Ms. Chiu efforts and dedication to her work are outstanding. She responds to emails and requests for supplies, even while on vacation, as long as she has access to the internet. She takes pride in her ability to consistently, effectively and efficiently meet the needs of contractors for harm reduction supplies, condoms, and test kits. The AIDS Institute is indeed fortunate to have Ms. Chiu as the Program Specialist for this contract.

Joyce A. Rivera is a Latina/Puerto Rican, born and raised in the South Bronx where she directly experienced the effects of substance use on poor, urban communities of color. Several close family members struggled with substance use of which four died as a consequence of drug related AIDS and violence. She studied health administration, then political science. She holds a Masters Degree and is currently working on finalizing her Ph.D. From 1990 on she was one of the few pioneers who conducted illegal syringe exchange in New York. When Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs) became legal, she started St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction (SACHR), a syringe exchange program in the South Bronx which has been funded by the New York State Department of Health since 1992. Today she is the longest sitting Executive Director of a syringe exchange/harm reduction program in New York State. SACHR has grown into the second largest SEP in New York and into a multi service program where over 150 drug users and their families utilize a range of services on a daily basis. While running her agency, she was one of the founders of the National Harm Reduction Coalition and of the North American Syringe Exchange Network (NASEN). She presented at many conferences and published in peer reviewed journals. Joyce also teaches a class on 'Drug Use & Abuse' at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Meanwhile she is still pushing for innovation in the care of IDUs. Recently SACHR conducted 'The Drug User Needs Assessment Project (DUNA): Injection Drug Users in the South Bronx'. The final report on this project was issued by the AIDS Institute in October 2014. Her story is a truly inspiring - one of compassion and courage standing up for marginalized drug users and their families in the context of The War on Drugs and creating syringe access in the beginning of the 1990s when drug related AIDS was the main transmission factor in New York. 25 Years later, Joyce's story is still unfolding.

Don DesJarlais, Ph.D is an internationally and nationally known as a world leader in research on epidemiology of HIV transmission among injection drug users. Although he holds many titles including Director, International Research Core, Center for Drug Use and HIV Research, the AIDS Institute has known him best as the Director of Research, at the Baron Edmond de

Rothschild Chemical Dependency Institute, Beth Israel/Mt. Sinai Medical Center. Since 1992 and the inception of syringe exchange programs in New York State, Don DesJarlais has been a close partner with the Foundation for AIDS Research and the AIDS Institute as the Principle Investigator of the annual evaluation of New York State's Syringe Access Initiatives. His team has conducted quantitative and qualitative evaluations of all facets of syringe exchange including effectiveness of various program models, HIV seroprevalence testing of SEP participants in comparison to other injection drug users, and utilization of SEP by individuals by different ethnicity, race, age groups and gender. After the implementation of the Expanded Syringe Access Program, Don DesJarlais and his team assessed the utilization of the program by injection drug users by borough and by demographic characteristics. This research helped to inform and target the AIDS Institute's education and training to pharmacies and law enforcement entities to improve the effectiveness and impact of NYS' Syringe Access Initiatives. Most recently, Don DesJarlais' research on drug users' knowledge of the 911 Good Samaritan Law has helped the AIDS Institute enhance its messaging to SEP and ESAP participants to better understand the law and not hesitate to call 911 when needed to save a life. NYS is most grateful to Don DesJarlais for documenting the tremendous success of its syringe access initiative on reducing HIV transmission in injection drug users. Don DesJarlais continues to stay in contact with his roots. Don attended meetings with advocates of the early underground exchange back in 1992, both to ask permission for and to shape how the research would be done, always promising to share the results. He continues to this day to attend and present at Harm Reduction Coalition conferences, sharing what he has learned and gathering information from others.

Annette Roque-Lewis is the Founder and Executive Director, La Nueva Esperanza is an inspirational example of a woman in a desperate life situation who healed herself, her relationships and now is working to heal her community. Annette Roque was not always viewed as a community leader. She grew up in the Williamsburg area of Brooklyn where she lived in poverty, witnessed rampant drug use and became an addict herself. Since winning her own battle with cocaine addiction, Annette has devoted herself to the health of drug users in the Williamsburg / Bushwick community. In 1998, and after 3 years in prison, she began a bold advocacy effort that resulted in the support of El Regreso, elected officials and community members to open the first women's drug treatment program in Williamsburg in 2004. In 2005, Williamsburg residents lost its only grassroots community-based organization providing HIV prevention services to the Latino drug using community. Under the bold leadership, inspiration and commitment of Annette Roque, the organization was resurrected as La Nueva Esperanza (The New Hope) in 2006. La Nueva Esperanza addresses the needs of the poorest and most HIV ravaged neighborhoods of New York City by providing freshly prepared nutritious meals planned by registered dieticians to 150 HIV infected individuals in both a congregate meal and socialization setting and to homebound individuals. These individuals living in severe poverty and unstable housing, many of who live with HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, mental illness and addiction. The agency serves 56,600 meals annually and over 1700 high-risk individuals in weekly outreach, individual counseling, and educational sessions.

In addition to her responsibilities for the overall oversight of programming, administration and finance, Annette's extensive clinical background with substance use treatment and her credentials

as a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) allow her to reach out to individuals and families desperate to find resources for their children who are using drugs, as they fear the loss of their children through overdose or the prison system. Imbued with a passion for service, Annette Roque and a small but dedicated staff have established La Nueva Esperanza as a powerful healing presence in the community.

Ray Ganoe - Syringe exchange in Buffalo is synonymous with Ray Ganoe. When syringe exchange in Buffalo was in its nascent phase, Ray was one of its earliest employees and vocal supporters. Although a very public figure at the time as a councilman and theater owner, Ray was willing to risk his community's support to promote the need for and value of syringe exchange in Buffalo. He clearly has carried his vision forward as the SEP in Buffalo moved from Columbus Health Center to Buffalo General Hospital to Kaleida Health and to its present home in Evergreen Health Services. With each agency change, Ray's career advanced into higher level administrative positions, and although his connection to the syringe exchange program grew in distance from his day to day activities, his commitment to its existence and growth remained steadfast. As Ray Ganoe is now poised to assume the top leadership position at Evergreen Health Services, its syringe exchange program is planning to expand into EHS' satellite site in Jamestown and into neighboring counties via mobile van services to address the needs of injection drug users throughout Western New York.

Hiawatha Collins/Liam Gibson - The last awards for drug user health will be presented to Hiawatha Collins and Liam Gibson. Hiawatha and Liam were the founders and first co-chairs of The Peer Network of New York. The mission of The Peer Network is to support the peers at harm reduction agencies across New York City through education and training, citywide networking, and advocating for harm reduction principles. Peers are critical to the work that harm reduction agencies do, as they have experienced the past or current need for harm reduction services. There is no required commitment to either abstinence or use. The primary, but not sole goal, is to deliver syringes and safe injection information beyond the network of formal services as peers know how to find the people who need the services.

Peer Delivered Syringe Exchange (PDSE) began in 2007. Today, 22 of the 23 approved Syringe Exchange Programs are approved to conduct PDSE. Recognizing the toll that drugs have taken on our communities, peers are continuously fighting to save lives and reduce the harm caused by drug use. Hiawatha and Liam are two individuals that recognized the importance of peers, and started The Peer Network of New York.

Liam has been a peer educator with harm reduction programs since 2005. He started as a Peer Educator at Positive Health Project and then moved to New York Harm Reduction Educators (NYHRE) in 2012. He is still a peer at NYHRE. He has not pursued a staff position, as he believes that being a peer allows him to be where the “real” work happens, and doesn’t want to be removed from that. Has been a speaker and fearless champion on hepatitis C, overdose, safer injecting, syringe access, peer-delivered syringe access, outreach to drug users and challenging drug

related stigma. He is a skilled Opioid Overdose Responder and has personally reversed over 25 opioid overdoses.

Hiawatha has worked for ACQC and the NYCDOH as a Peer Educator/ Buprenorphine educator. He currently works for Community Access. Hiawatha has been a leader of VOCAL-NY's Users Union since 2009, contributing to campaigns to pass new statewide overdose prevention and syringe access laws, strengthen patient rights in methadone programs, and improve healthcare in the NYC shelter system. He uses the motto "Nothing about us without us". He recognizes the need for drug users to have a voice, be at the table making decisions about issues that affect drug users, and believes that drug users are the best at taking care of each other and their communities. He has been a role model for many, and taught many peers the responsibilities associated with being a peer.

Both Hiawatha and Liam continue to assist others around building peer networks elsewhere in the country. They have been doing a lot of work in Baltimore that they are really proud of. They see a lot of great things they have achieved in NYS and they want to support others in the country to do what they need to do for their communities.



Law Enforcement Team Award:

Division of Criminal Justice Services: Michael Green, Johanna Sullivan, Josh Vinehout, David Mahany

Albany Medical College

Michael W. Dailey, MD, FACEP, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine

Harm Reduction Coalition

Sharon Stancliff, MD, Medical Director

William Matthews, PA, Physician Assistant

amfAR - The Foundation for AIDS Research

Lisa Chiu, Program Coordinator

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

Michael C. Green, Executive Deputy Commissioner

Johanna Sullivan, Director of Public Safety

Joshua Vinehout, Associate Training Technician (Police)

David J. Mahany, Associate Training Technician (Police)

Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez, M.S., L.M.S.W., Commissioner

Sean M. Byrne, Executive Deputy Commissioner

NYSDOH AIDS Institute

Dan O'Connell, Director, AIDS Institute

Valerie White, Deputy Director, AID Institute

James Tesoriero, Ph.D., Director, Division of HIV/STD/HCV Prevention

Mark Hammer, Director, Program Integration, and Special Projects,

Division of HIV, STD, HCV Prevention

Shu-Lin Leung, Director, Office of Program Evaluation and Research

Richard Cotroneo, MA, Director, Education and Training Programs

Kirsten Rowe, Evaluation Specialist IV, Office of Program Evaluation and Research

The NYSDOH AIDS Institute has collaborated closely with the Division of Criminal Justice Services, Albany Medical Center, the Harm Reduction Coalition and the Foundation for AIDS Research to train law enforcement personnel throughout the State in responding to life threatening opioid overdoses. The fruits of this collaboration include a public safety-focused curriculum and the rollout of regional trainings across New York State. These trainings all start by showing a video of officers who have been trained, administered naloxone, and saved someone's life. One officer attending a session saved a life 45 minutes after the training. More than 1,300 officers were directly

trained through the multi-agency collaboration in a six-month period, including 450 instructors who were then qualified to train their colleagues. This train-the-trainer approach has made the initiative highly scalable. In the initial six-months, naloxone has been administered 62 times and 48 lives have been saved. In addition to learning how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose, the officers learned about New York's 911 Good Samaritan law, which protects individuals reporting an overdose—as well as the overdosed person—from prosecution for most drug possession charges. The purpose of this law is to encourage individuals to call 911 immediately without fear of repercussions.

The law enforcement initiative builds on a highly successful opioid overdose program overseen by the AIDS Institute. Under regulation, eligible programs register with the Department of Health to train community responders and to furnish these responders with naloxone. Eligible programs include community-based organizations; health care facilities; drug treatment programs; individual practitioners; state and local government agencies; colleges, universities and trade schools; public safety agencies; and pharmacies. Since April 2006, over 180 eligible entities have registered. Their trained responders have reported nearly 1,000 reversals. The actual number of reversals is likely to be substantially higher.

Many of the registered programs play an important role in the law enforcement overdose initiative. Only prescribers affiliated with registered programs may issue the prescriptions necessary for providing naloxone to police. Recent changes in Public Health Law Section 3309 and in 10 NYCRR 80.138 permit these prescribers to issue non-patient specific prescriptions—sometimes known as standing orders—for naloxone. A single non-patient specific prescription can cover an entire law enforcement agency; and the prescriber may delegate to a non-clinician—such as a training officer—the role of furnishing naloxone to the new responders.

This training initiative has been highly successful because of the collaboration of the six agencies involved, each with its own expertise and strengths. Materials developed for this training have been shared with other states, and the curriculum is now part of an opioid overdose toolkit for law enforcement developed by the United States Department of Justice. The Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Michael Botticelli, has attended one of the trainings, further placing this initiative in the national spotlight. The initiative was also presented at the 10th National Harm Reduction Coalition Conference in Baltimore in October 2014.