

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

Welcome and Opening Remarks/Awards Ceremony

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Presidents Hall

- *Michael D. Pennington, Executive Director, PCCD*
- *Jennifer Lopez-Cerrato, Chairperson, Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee*

S.A.F.E (Sisterhood Alliance for Freedom and Equality) Building Unlikely Leadership to Lead the Way Home

- *Susan Burton, Founder, SAFE Housing Network and A New Way of Life*

Keynote
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Presidents Hall

Susan Burton broke free of a life trapped in her harmful past, addiction and the criminal justice system but gaining her life back was just the beginning. She felt compelled to help other women stuck in the cycle of incarceration and continues to do so to this very day. From establishing A New Way of Life's reentry model to creating the S.A.F.E (Sisterhood Alliance for Freedom and Equality) network, Susan has empowered other women to find their voice and use it. She shares her story with audiences of all backgrounds in hopes to reach those still struggling to find their way home.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Breakout Sessions**

The Role of Lived Expertise in Advancing Stepping Up

- *Megan Davidson, Program Director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center*
- *Gretchen Frank, Senior Policy Analyst, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center*

Room 207

In this session, Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center staff will provide an overview of Stepping Up and the PA TA Center and will discuss a new key area of focus: incorporating the voices of people with lived expertise into this work. People with lived expertise bring a unique perspective through their firsthand knowledge, which can help counties implement more effective responses to people with behavioral health needs in the justice system and address any disparities identified. Despite it's understood importance, counties struggle to meaningfully engage people with lived expertise in this work. This session will cover the continuum of different types of engagement, from simple outreach through surveys and public forums to shared leadership roles, as well as how counties can set the stage for meaningful engagement. It will then provide a more in-depth look at one level of engagement from the CSG Justice Center's Stepping Up team, a lived experience advisory committee/panel, and steps counties can take to establish their own advisory panels.

Confidentiality: The Intersection Between the Addiction Treatment and Criminal Justice Systems

- *John Adams, District Attorney, Berks County*
- *Paul Cannon, Director, Clinical Care Services, UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Twin Lakes*
- *Gary Klimowicz, Parole Agent, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections*
- *David Pertile, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Pyramid Healthcare Inc.*
- *Jason Snyder, Director, Behavioral Health Division & Policy Director, SUD Treatment Services, Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association*

Room 208

For decades, Pennsylvania addiction treatment providers operated under confidentiality regulations stricter than federal rules. These rules often created friction between the addiction treatment and criminal justice systems. In late 2022, a new confidentiality law passed in Pennsylvania, aligning the commonwealth with federal law. Still, a lack of awareness and misunderstanding continue to drive frustration between the two systems. A panel of experts from both systems will discuss the issue and specific challenges and seek solutions.

CJAB and EBP: How Each Can Support the Efforts and Impact of the Other

- *April Billet, Deputy District Court Administrator-Director of Probation Services, York County*
- *Rick Parsons, Deputy Director, The Carey Group*

Room 108

Evidence-based practices (EBP) is often seen as a probation initiative. CJAB stakeholders may struggle with their role in the implementation process. The Pennsylvania Partnership for Criminal Justice Improvement has developed a messaging campaign that highlights the importance of stakeholder engagement in EBP implementation to create safer and healthier communities. At the workshop, speakers will examine the critical impact of these agency roles and demonstrate how one county, through the effective utilization of its CJAB, has improved outcomes.

The NEW Definition of Pardons: No-Cost Workforce Development and Community Investment

- *Phillips Armstrong, County Executive, Lehigh County*
- *Jenna Henry, Director, Central Pennsylvania United*
- *Shuja Moore, President and CEO, Do Moore Films*
- *Tobey Oxholm, Statewide Director, The Pardon Project*

Room 106

Criminal convictions are permanent, unless and until they are erased (expunged) by a judge; and a judge cannot expunge a conviction unless it has been first pardoned by the Governor. In most states, the Governor pardons a handful of people every Christmas; in Pennsylvania, Gov. Wolf pardoned 2500 over his two terms. The reason: pardons are now understood as "workforce development and community investment policies". The program will explain pardons and how communities can come together to create "Pardon Projects".

Beyond Employment

- *Jacqueline Fusco, Regional Director, Center for Employment Opportunities*
- *Josh Will, Site Director, Center for Employment Opportunities*

Room 105

Beyond Employment is an interactive lecture designed to highlight what Center for Employment Opportunities delivers as a program while also providing education on general strategies for supportive services, best practices, and innovation in the workforce development field. We will cover the use of person-centered and holistic strategies to support discovery of purpose and meaning throughout the participant journey.

Creating Trauma-Informed Juvenile & Criminal Justice Systems in Pennsylvania

- *Chief Randy Cox, Somerset Borough Police Department*
- *Kelly J. Evans, Deputy Secretary for Reentry, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections*
- *Honorable Jennifer McCrady, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County*
- *Robert K. Reed, Director, Reentry, Trauma, and Reform Initiatives, Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General*
- *Christi M. Smith, Resident Senior Fellow, R Street Institute*
- *Angela Tornatore Work, Deputy Director, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission*

Room 206

In December 2022, as part of the HEAL PA initiative to create a trauma-informed Pennsylvania, the HEAL PA Criminal Justice Action Team published its report and more than 150 recommendations to create trauma-informed juvenile and criminal justice systems in Pennsylvania. This is the first state-wide effort in the U.S. to begin the process to create trauma-informed criminal justice systems.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Presidents Hall

Lunch

From Skid Row to CEO

- *Joe Roberts*

Keynote
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Presidents Hall

A former homeless addict, Joe Roberts understands how limiting fear and uncertainty can be. He also knows that believing in what's possible can reframe perceived limitations to spark true resilience. Joe didn't stay homeless. One step at a time, he turned his life around. In this inspiring and motivational keynote address, we will learn about Joe when he was homeless in Vancouver, how he made a promise if his life was spared, he would pay it forward. He did just that in the form of triumphantly pushing a shopping cart a staggering 5,625 miles across Canada in the name of youth homelessness prevention. This very act birthed a national awareness campaign called The Push for Change, inspiring fellow Canadians to create ripple effects of transformation in the lives of at-risk youth throughout the country. We will hear how within 12 years of leaving the streets, he became the Skid Row CEO, a highly successful entrepreneur.

2:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

- *Michael D. Pennington, Executive Director, PCCD*