

the real deal on SYNTHETIC DRUGS

a symposium presented by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's
Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration Taskforce

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CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

July 17, 2014

Dear Symposium Attendees:

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's (CJCC) Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Integration Taskforce (SATMHSIT) was pleased to present *The Real Deal on Synthetic Drugs*, a symposium designed to bring behavioral health, medical, legislative, criminal justice, social services, and business leaders together to examine the current landscape of synthetic drugs in the District of Columbia.

CJCC wishes to extend thanks to the subject matter experts who presented the innovative approaches under way both nationally and locally to address this issue; reported on the progress that has been made locally since last year's symposium; and continued the dialogue on local response strategies. And thank you, the attendees, who helped to make this symposium not only informative, but also interactive.

SATMHSIT was convened to improve the treatment options available to District residents who are involved in the criminal justice system with mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and co-occurring disorders. One of SATMHSIT's strategic priorities is to facilitate cross-system educational opportunities between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems.

We hope that, beyond providing new information about the impact and prevalence of synthetic drug use in the community, the symposium will propel our efforts as a jurisdiction to continue moving forward toward a comprehensive and coordinated approach that addresses the public health and public safety concerns related to synthetic drug use in the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Mannone A. Butler
 Executive Director

agenda

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A G E N D A

In February 2013, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration Taskforce presented a symposium – *Synthetic Drugs: Myths, Facts, and Strategies* – that brought law enforcement, criminal justice, health, human services, and business leaders together to raise awareness about the proliferation of synthetic drug use in the District of Columbia. Beyond raising awareness and given the public health and public safety concerns related to the emergence of synthetic drug use in the community, the aim of that symposium was also to generate a dialogue geared towards engineering a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address the issue.

For this follow up symposium, we have brought behavioral health, medical, legislative, criminal justice, social services, and business leaders together to examine the current landscape of synthetic drugs in the District of Columbia. Subject matter experts will describe the innovative approaches under way both nationally and locally to address this issue; report on the progress that has been made locally since last year's symposium; and continue the dialogue on local response strategies.

We look forward to an informative and interactive forum where we can continue moving forward toward a comprehensive and coordinated approach that addresses the public health and public safety concerns related to synthetic drug use in the District of Columbia.

9am **Welcome**

Mannone Butler, Executive Director (CJCC)

Max Houck, Director (DFS) and Chair of CJCC's Synthetic Drugs Workgroup

9:10am **Community Drug Early Warning System Pilot Study**

A review of recent findings from the Community Drug Early Warning System (CDEWS) pilot study conducted in the District of Columbia, focusing on the detection of synthetic cannabinoid use in urines obtained from arrestees, parolees, and probationers. An overview of synthetic cannabinoid metabolites and summary of current data from key law enforcement and public health indicators.

Dr. Eric Wish, Director (UMD CESAR)

Erin Artigiani, Deputy Director of Policy (UMD CESAR)

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014

KELLOGG CONFERENCE CENTER

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

800 FLORIDA AVENUE, NE

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9:55am Bath Salts and Spice: Facts and Strategies

Lisa Pryor, Group Supervisor (DEA)

A Forensic Perspective on Synthetic Drug Trends

Jill Head, Supervisory Chemist (DEA)

10:40am Morning Break

10:55am Synthetic Drugs in the Community

(Concurrent Breakout Session #1, Main Ballroom)

How do synthetic drugs affect the individual and the community? Panelists will discuss what they are seeing firsthand in the community and what can be done.

Moderator: **Wendy Pohlhaus**, Executive Asst. U.S. Attorney for External Affairs (USAO-DC)

Panelists: **Dr. Geoffrey Mount Varner** (HUH)
Melvin Scott, Commander (MPD)
Charles Dark, Director (DC Prevention Center, Wards 5 & 6, Sasha Bruce Youthwork)
Bonita Bantom, Clinical Specialist, Office of Special Education (DCPS)

10:55am Protecting Your Business: Synthetic Drugs Regulations and Your Bottom Line (Concurrent Breakout Session #2, Room 6)

The DCRA enforcement team will describe the new regulations related to synthetic drugs and preview the penalties associated with enforcement.

Vincent Parker, Program Manager of the Office of Business Compliance (DCRA)
Eric Rogers, Administrator of the Business and Professional Licensing Administration (DCRA)
Matt Orkins, Legislative and Public Affairs Officer (DCRA)



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12pm Lunch

Free Minds Book Club Poetry Reading and Panel Discussion

Tara Libert, Co-Founder and Executive Director

Alisha Carrington, Reentry and Outreach Lead Facilitator

Maurice Beander, Poet Ambassador

1pm Case Study: Application of Knowledge

Interactive exercise examining the presence of and response to synthetic drugs in the District.

Moderators: **Michen Tah**, Policy Analyst (CJCC)

Betsy Biben, Chief of the Office of Rehabilitation and Development (PDS)

Charisma Howell, Deputy Executive Director (CJCC)

2:30pm Afternoon Break

2:45pm Action Plan: Addressing Synthetic Drug Use in the District

Discussion highlighting the efforts under way in the District as well as how the District plans to move forward in addressing synthetic drug use.

Moderator: **Dr. Roger Mitchell**, Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

Panelists: **Leslie Cooper**, Deputy Director (PSA)

Phil Mendelson, Chairman (DC Council)

Todd Menhinick, Chief of Quality Assurance (DBH)

Melvin Scott, Commander (MPD)

Rabbiah Sabbakhan, Director (DCRA)

Nancy Ware, Director (CSOSA)

4:15pm Closing Remarks

Paul Quander, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice



Glossary of Abbreviations

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CJCC	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
CSOSA	Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency
DBH	Department of Behavioral Health
DCPS	District of Columbia Public Schools
DCRA	Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
DFS	Department of Forensic Sciences
HUH	Howard University Hospital
MPD	Metropolitan Police Department
OCME	Office of the Chief Examiner
PDS	Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
PSA	Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia
UMD CESAR	University of Maryland Center for Substance Abuse Research
USAO-DC	United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia



summary

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SYMPOSIUM SUMMARY

As a follow up to February 2013's *Synthetic Drugs: Myths, Facts, and Strategies*, which focused on the emergence of synthetic drugs in the District of Columbia, on July 17, 2014, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration Taskforce brought behavioral health, medical, legislative, criminal justice, social services, and business leaders together for *The Real Deal on Synthetic Drugs*, a symposium examining the current landscape of synthetic drugs in the District of Columbia. Subject matter experts described the innovative approaches under way both nationally and locally to address this issue; reported on the progress that has been made locally since last year's symposium; and continued the dialogue on comprehensive and coordinated local response strategies.

During the *Community Drug Early Warning System Pilot Study* presentation, symposium attendees learned about the findings of a recent pilot study conducted in the District of Columbia focusing on the detection of synthetic cannabinoid use in urine samples obtained from arrestees, parolees, and probationers. During the *Bath Salts and Spice: Facts and Strategies* and *A Forensic Perspective on Synthetic Drug Trends* sessions, representatives from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration discussed the nature and attributes of bath salts and synthetic marijuana and discussed emerging trends in their use and manufacture. The *Synthetic Drugs in the Community* session offered an opportunity for panelists from the Metropolitan Police Department, Howard University Hospital, District of Columbia Public Schools, and the District of Columbia Prevention Center for Wards 5 & 6 to share firsthand

accounts of the effects of synthetic drugs in the community and what can be done to address their proliferation. Representatives from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs described the new synthetic drug regulations, enforcement, and associated penalties to business owners during the *Protecting Your Business* session. The *Application of Knowledge* case study was an interactive exercise during which attendees examined the interagency responses to synthetic drugs in the District. The final panel – *Action Plan: Addressing Synthetic Drug Use in the District* – served as a forum for the District’s public safety and health leaders to discuss current and future efforts to curb synthetic drug use in the community.

Bath Salts and Spice: Facts and Strategies & A Forensic Perspective on Synthetic Drug Trends

Synthetic drugs, which include synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones, are perceived as “legal” alternatives to drugs like marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA (Ecstasy). Manufacturers of synthetic drugs create and produce these substances to mimic the effects of controlled substances.

Synthetic cannabinoids (synthetic marijuana) typically consist of a blend of herbs and plant material sprayed with one or more chemical compounds or metabolites that are believed to bind to the same brain receptors as delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the principal psychoactive constituent of marijuana. As of 2013, fifty-one (51) variations of synthetic cannabinoids have been identified across the nation, with reports of 100-200 additional variations around the world. Colloquially referred to as K2 or Spice, synthetic cannabinoids are sold in retail stores and on the internet as “herbal incense” or “potpourri,” and are often marked “not for human consumption.” These substances, which are typically sold in 3-5gram packages that cost \$30-\$50 per package, are often smoked in joints, pipes, e-cigarettes, or even

ingested in tea. People who smoke synthetic cannabinoids may experience adverse health effects affecting the psychological, neurological, cardiovascular, metabolic, gastrointestinal, and autonomic systems.

Synthetic cathinones are structurally and pharmacologically similar to amphetamine, Ecstasy, and other related substances that stimulate the central nervous system. Synthetic cathinones – which are sold in retail stores and on the internet as “bath salts,” “plant food,” “research chemicals,” and “jewelry cleaner” – come in the form of a white or off-white powder that is usually snorted, smoked, or injected. Bath salts are typically sold in 250-500milligram packages, which cost \$25-\$50 per package. Bath salts and synthetic marijuana can be purchased at “head shops,” convenience stores, tobacco stores, gas stations, and on the Internet.

Traffickers continuously alter the chemical composition of synthetic drugs so that they do not have the same chemical make-up as those listed in the Controlled Substances Act as Schedule I drugs. For instance, prior to being added as a Schedule I drug by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), only three (3) synthetic cathinones were most often found in bath salts. There are now over 30 such synthetic cathinones commonly found in bath salts. This makes prosecution for distribution more difficult, but not impossible, for law enforcement agencies.

Using the Federal Analogue Act, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies can successfully bring charges against a manufacturer or distributor of synthetic drugs if they can show that the substance in question has a chemical structure substantially similar to a Schedule I or II controlled substance, that the substance has either a pharmacological effect substantially similar to a Schedule I or II substance or was represented as having such an effect, and that the

substance was *intended for human consumption*. This last clause requires the use of investigators and undercover officers for evidence gathering.

DEA experts have reviewed a long list of substances that have proven to have chemical structures and pharmacological effects substantially similar to Schedule I or II substances and are adding new substances to this list continually. To assist in the fight against synthetic drug proliferation, the Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act, signed into law in 2012, placed 26 synthetic drugs on the Schedule I list and doubled the length of time a substance can be temporarily designated as a Schedule I substance (from 18 months to 36 months).

Since 2012, the DEA and other federal, state, and local partners have conducted various nationwide synthetic drug takedown operations with the goal of disrupting or dismantling synthetic drug retailer and wholesaler operations in the United States. These operations have resulted in hundreds of arrests, the seizure of millions of packets of synthetic marijuana and bath salts, as well as the seizure of millions of dollars in cash, weapons, and assets.

The DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory works to identify new synthetic drug compounds in order to keep up with the newest generations of synthetic drugs, which are completely new drug materials falling outside the scope of the Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act. The latest trend in synthetic drug abuse involves the use of synthetic compounds in e-cigarettes, which produce minimal odor, are discreet, and are easily refillable. The individuals that create these drugs have a clear understanding of U.S. drug control laws and are prepared to bring new substances to our markets quickly. As an example, following the nationwide federal drug raid codenamed *Operation Logjam*, a new class of drugs was packaged and ready for sale on shelves in the U.S. within one week.

Community Drug Early Warning System Pilot Study

The Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) at the University of Maryland, College Park, conducts policy-relevant research and evaluation studies and disseminates statistical information to inform policy makers and practitioners about the nature, extent, prevention, and treatment of substance abuse. CESAR recently conducted the Community Drug Early Warning System (CDEWS) pilot study, designed to provide rapid information about emerging drug use in the District and other jurisdictions by retesting urine specimens, which had already been obtained and tested for a limited panel of drugs by local criminal justice agencies, for a larger panel of drugs. The anonymous specimens were sent to an independent laboratory for testing for illicit drugs, including 12 synthetic cannabinoid (SC) metabolites.

CDEWS was tested with a variety of criminal justice programs in the District of Columbia; Chesterfield, Virginia; and Prince George's County, Maryland. The study revealed that synthetic cannabinoids were as likely to be found in persons who had failed the limited screen as in persons who had passed, meaning that current drug screens that do not test for synthetic cannabinoids are likely to be missing significant drug use in the populations they monitor.

One possible explanation for this is that persons who know they will be tested use synthetic cannabinoids because they know the drug is not included in most test panels. Synthetic cannabinoids have the youngest average age of persons who tested positive (28.5 years), followed by marijuana (31.0 years), and PCP (34.5 years). The findings of a new study funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy will be released soon.

As we endeavor to get a better sense of the prevalence of synthetic drug use in the District, it is important to note that efforts to eliminate synthetic drug use are underway throughout the community. One such effort targets synthetic drugs at the point of sale.

Protecting Your Business: Synthetic Drugs Regulations and Your Bottom Line

The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) presented to community business owners and some symposium attendees information about “The Right Choice” Campaign, which aims to stop the sale of synthetic drugs by businesses operating in the District.

The Right Choice Campaign includes three (3) phases: Education, Engagement, and Enforcement. The education component consists of a publicity campaign to inform businesses about the penalties for selling synthetic drugs, which can be as severe as the loss of the business license. The engagement component includes issuing regulatory alerts and reaching out to community organizations and government offices, such as the Office of African Affairs (OAA) and the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA), to assist in getting the word out to business owners and employees about the regulations and highlight the dangers posed by synthetic drug sales and consumption. In addition, businesses are also being encouraged to sign pledge letters acknowledging that the business owner is aware of the illegality and harmfulness of synthetic drugs and pledging not to sell them in their stores. Finally, enforcement involves fining businesses or suspending or revoking business licenses of any business found to be selling synthetic drugs.

The language of the regulations bans substances on the basis of packaging, marketing, promoted use, and the effects of products. The regulations do not ban substances based on the chemical make-up of the product or whether the product is a scheduled narcotic. DCRA regulations already prohibit its licensees from selling scheduled substances.

Any business found selling, marketing, or possessing synthetic drugs faces fines, license suspension or revocation, and the business licensee may be prohibited from obtaining a new license for two (2) years. DCRA has been working with MPD to execute sweeps across the city

to close businesses engaged in selling synthetic drugs. DCRA also works closely with Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) to assist in their efforts to end synthetic drug sales across different District neighborhoods. As a complement to efforts to stem the supply of synthetic drugs entering the District, attempts to lessen the demand for synthetic drugs in the community remain crucial.

Synthetic Drugs in the Community

The chemical compounds in synthetic cathinones and synthetic cannabinoids change rapidly as manufacturers attempt to elude prosecution. As a result, manufacturers are creating substances that have not existed before and have not been tried in large numbers, meaning that the user *is* the tester. Furthermore, given the lack of consistency in the manner in which synthetic drugs are manufactured, the potency can vary not only from brand to brand, but also from pack to pack within the same brand. Moreover, it is unknown how the synthetic drug may interact with other substances, such as alcohol, that the user may have consumed. As a result, synthetic drug users can display a wide variety of physiological and psychological effects.

Synthetic drug users have been brought to the emergency room exhibiting symptoms including complete memory loss, hallucinations, stroke-level high blood pressure, grand mal seizures, acute agitation, acute psychosis, and a high tolerance to pain. Howard University Hospital Emergency Room has even seen instances of patients who have suffered cardiac arrest, leading to death. Patients under the influence of synthetic drugs can be dangerous and unpredictable, capable of seriously harming or even killing others while acutely intoxicated.

Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers often assist Emergency Medical Service personnel in dealing with intoxicated individuals, because some persons become violent while under the influence of synthetic drugs. Although MPD, working in concert with other District

agencies, has clamped down on the sale of synthetics, making dozens of arrests and seizing over 190kg (more than 55,000 packages) of synthetic drugs in the District since March 2013, enforcement continues to be challenge. In addition, synthetic drugs have now been introduced in the homeless population, with single packages costing as little as \$1 being sold in most homeless shelters in the District.

The DC Prevention Center is working with the Department of Behavioral Health to put in place a quick response to this problem. The K2/Spice Campaign is the result of this collaboration. The campaign, which was designed to raise awareness among District youth of the adverse effects and risks of synthetic drug use and about how to recognize warning signs of synthetic drug use, is grounded on the principle that education is the best way to eradicate this problem in the District.

District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) are committed to prevention and intervention for substance abuse and collaborates with community-based organizations to provide on-site intervention and treatment for DCPS students. While the school setting may be the optimum location for intervention for many DCPS students, schools currently do not utilize drug testing, relying instead on self-reporting. DCPS is disseminating information on synthetic drugs in high schools and plans to disseminate information in middle schools in the near future. Based on general community feedback and concern, DCPS will consider the best methods of expanding its synthetic drug education strategies.

Free Minds Book Club Poetry Reading

With help from symposium attendees, representatives from the Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop shared poetry on the subject of synthetic drugs written by District

youth. The general sentiment among young people is that synthetic drugs are easier to obtain than marijuana or other drugs. Additionally, the fact that synthetic drugs are often found in legal establishments, such as retail shops, lends them an air of legitimacy and makes them seem like a safer alternative to other drugs. The youth representatives shared their view that in order to curb use of synthetics among youth, the city must address the underlying mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety, that lead young people to turn to drugs.

Action Plan: Addressing Synthetic Drug Use in the District

Agencies throughout the jurisdiction are responding to the rising prevalence of synthetic drug use in the District. The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) have placed posters and signs up at drug testing sites to educate clients about synthetic drugs. CSOSA staff has been educated about the symptoms an individual who has used synthetic drugs may exhibit and what the packaging looks like. CSOSA has also put in place security procedures to ensure that synthetic drugs seized from clients are turned over to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). Although MPD has ramped up its enforcement efforts, more work is needed to disrupt the sale of synthetic drugs in a meaningful way. The Council of the District of Columbia (DC Council) amended the Controlled Substances Act to include certain synthetic drug compounds, and the Act also authorizes the Mayor to add to the list of banned substances through emergency rulemaking. The panel noted that it is important to balance legislative and law enforcement responses to synthetic drugs in the District with the attendant public and behavioral health concerns.

Recognizing that substance use can often be linked to mental health issues, the Department of Behavioral Health, which came into existence in October 2013 as a result of the merger of the Department of Mental Health and the Addiction Prevention and Recovery

Administration, is working towards a more integrated structure that addresses both the mental health and substance abuse needs of District residents. Considering that identifying synthetic drug users is a crucial first step to attending to their needs, the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia, which conducts drug testing for the bulk of the criminal justice-involved population in the District in partnership with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, is working to develop strategies for managing synthetic drug use among that population.

Symposium attendees lamented about the lack of treatment options beyond incarceration, diversion, or case dismissal that address the health needs of the individuals as well as the safety needs of the community. Attendees and panelists alike expressed the importance of continued youth involvement, as their voice is needed in order to come up with most effective ways of dealing with synthetic drug use among youth.

Next Steps

Moving forward, there is a need for synthetic drugs research and funding to support it. Continuing research into the pharmacological properties of these drugs and their medium and long-term behavioral effects is crucial. As of now, little or no information exists concerning the long-term effects of exposure to synthetic drugs. The District local and federal agencies will develop a comprehensive plan. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration Taskforce is a forum to shepherd this effort. District agencies will also explore the possibility of collaboration with universities, as a way of leveraging research funding. The District needs to employ a multi-disciplinary approach in order to generate evidence-based solutions to the proliferation of synthetic drug use. It is clear that efforts with respect to synthetic drug use in the District must continue beyond this symposium. We look forward to working with you to build on the ideas that arose from the discussions.

case study

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CASE STUDY

Introduction

The following scenario is designed to illuminate issues and capture the current practices and responses to the emerging prevalence of synthetic drugs. Each participant will contribute to a roundtable discussion by educating your group members about your agency's approach to the facts in the scenario. Each group has a mixture of representatives from local and federal agencies that will discuss the separate, yet interconnected, issues that each faces regarding synthetic drugs. By participating in a discussion group, you will experience the challenges faced by other local businesses, governmental agencies, and community organizations.

Instructions

- Briefly introduce yourselves to members of your group.
- Read the scenario and questions.
- Discuss and memorialize your group's responses to the questions on the paper provided.
- Designate one person to present on behalf of your group to the larger group.

Note: Facilitators will be available to answer your questions.

Case Study

Paul is a nineteen-year-old college student from 7th and Kennedy St, also known as KDY. He has not been involved with the legal system since age fourteen when he was arrested for driving a yuyu (stolen car) around River Terrace. Placed on 6 months of probation under Court Social Services, he successfully completed supervision without incident. Paul is a graduate of Coolidge High School and received a football scholarship to Georgia State University. A business major, Paul's grades during the first semester were above average.

While on spring break during freshman year, he returns home. The second day of spring break he connects with a few friends from his alma mater, Dontae and Billy, who are not employed. Dontae is currently looking for employment with the District Government. However, as a recreational pot smoker, his failed drug tests have hampered his efforts to gain employment.

Their friend Billy, whose probation is supervised by the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, suggests that Dontae should grab a P.O. Pack (synthetic marijuana) instead of using weed. Billy believes that because he has not been found to have violated his probation while using the synthetic drug, Dontae won't be disqualified for employment either.

After the heated discussion between the friends, Billy decides to pick up some Aloha, an inexpensive brand of synthetic marijuana, and convinced Paul to join him. Billy tells Paul, who has never used Aloha before, that it is just like weed. They walked to the gas station a block from their houses and purchased two capsules.

Soon after sparking with Billy, Paul jumps up, runs out of the house, and bolts into the street, dodging cars, screaming "everybody go to Coolidge football field now," and yelling obscenities. Dontae hears the ruckus and tries to run after him, but Billy is too fast. Billy runs to the gas station and tries to steal a parked car with frightened passenger in the station parking lot. A Metropolitan Police Department officer already in the neighborhood chases him and calls for back up. Paul punches the first officer in the stomach. Another officer apprehends Paul and places him under arrest. Paul is charged with Attempted Carjacking, Assaulting a Police Officer, Resisting Arrest, and Disorderly Conduct. While in the police car Paul is trying to break the car windows, screaming that he must get out to save the city. "The aliens are coming tonight! Agent K is the only person that can help us!"

Please discuss and respond to the following questions:

- What are the policy issues?
- How would your agency or organization respond to this scenario?
- What opportunities are there for agencies and organizations to collaborate on the issues identified in this scenario?
- What additional information, legislation, resources, testing, policies, etc. would be helpful in addressing situations like these?

biographies

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BIOGRAPHIES

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration Taskforce and the Synthetic Drugs Workgroup would like to thank our distinguished panelists for their invaluable contributions.

Eleanor Erin Artigiani

Deputy Director of Policy

University of Maryland Center for Substance Abuse Research

Erin Artigiani received her Master's Degree in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology & Psychology from Wellesley College and is now Deputy Director of Policy at the University of Maryland's Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR).

Ms. Artigiani has more than 15 years of experience in substance abuse research and policy development. Ms. Artigiani has managed a number of epidemiological workgroups for Maryland and Washington, DC, most recently as a part of the SAMHSA funded Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) Initiative that utilized a multidisciplinary approach to conduct state level needs assessments and develop state prevention strategies. She currently works closely with local county coalitions on their community level SPF needs assessments, prevention strategies, implementation plans, and program evaluations. She also represented Maryland and Washington, DC, on NIDA's national Community Epidemiology Workgroup.

She is currently working with BSU as an evaluator for their substance abuse and HIV prevention strategies and is Co-PI on both the Community Drug Early Warning System and the Maryland Community Services Locator projects.

Bonita Bantom

Clinical Specialist

Office of Special Education, District of Columbia Public Schools

Ms. Bantom received her undergraduate degree in Sociology from Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and her graduate degree in Social Work from Indiana University at Indianapolis, Indiana. She has held addiction counselor certification from NAADAC and is currently certified at the Master's level by the American College of Certified Forensic Counselors.

Ms. Bantom has extensive experience providing and managing mental health and substance use/dependency programs and interventions. Her professional experience includes highlights such as the supervision of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) Employee Assistance Program; management of an opioid replacement therapy clinic for women and directing the Office of Public Policy and Special Populations for DC Department of Health Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration.

As a member of the DC Public Schools Clinical Specialist team Ms. Bantom introduced Motivational Enhancement Therapy/Cognitive Behavior Therapy 5 (MET/CBT5) of the Cannabis Youth Treatment CYT Series. This is an evidence based structured psychotherapy intervention to address the problem of marijuana use.

Maurice Beander

Poet Ambassador

Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop

Maurice Beander is a dedicated Free Minds member and Poet Ambassador for the Free Minds "On the Same Page" violence prevention program, where he speaks to students and community groups about the root causes of youth incarceration. When he is not doing outreach with Free Minds, Maurice divides his time between his job as an office assistant at a mental health services organization and a job as a dog daycare attendant. Maurice plans to attend college at UDC in the spring of 2015. He hopes to someday start his own mentoring organization for young men or pursue a career as a parole officer.

Betsy Biben

Chief of the Office of Rehabilitation and Development

Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

A Forensic and Clinical Social Worker, serves as the Chief of the Office of Rehabilitation and Development (“ORD”) for Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (“PDS”) where she has been employed since 1982.

Betsy represents PDS on numerous city-wide committees. She has prepared sentencing reports and/or testimony before courts in Washington, D.C. (local and federal), Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama and has trained judges, attorneys, law and social work students on a national and local basis since 1976.

She is a founding member of the National Association of Sentencing Advocates, renamed NASAMS (National Alliance for Sentencing Alternatives & Mitigation Specialists), a consultant for The Sentencing Project, and a former consultant at the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA). Betsy is a member of the Defender Counsel and the Client Policy Group for the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) since 2013 and a board member of the Southern Center for Human Rights since 1992. She is a member of the board for Voices for a Second Chance in D.C. (formerly Visitors’ Services Center) since 2003. She has worked in the criminal justice system since 1974.

Betsy received her Masters in Social Work from the University of Connecticut in 1982, and a postgraduate certificate from the Washington School of Psychiatry in 1986. She is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW) and is a licensed social worker in D.C. (LICSW).

Mannone A. Butler

Executive Director

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Mannone A. Butler was appointed Executive Director of the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) in May 2011. CJCC, an independent District agency, serves as the forum to facilitate and support systemic planning, analysis, information sharing, problem solving and cooperation among local, federal, legislative, executive and judicial partners to address criminal and juvenile justice issues facing the District of Columbia.

Ms. Butler began her career with the CJCC in 2006 as a Legal Advisor/Program Analyst. In that capacity, she provided general legal and policy analyses on interagency criminal and juvenile justice issues. She

also served as Deputy Executive Director where she was responsible for managing the implementation of the agency's strategic priorities and day to day operations. She was the Interim Executive Director prior to her appointment.

Before joining the CJCC, Ms. Butler was a Senior Associate in the Washington, DC law firm of Curtis White, Esq. specializing in telecommunications and information technology. She also served as the Senior Associate for ALTA Consulting Group, a Washington DC consulting firm specializing in public policy development, project management and organizational development. In addition, she served as the Director of Program Operations for the Urban Family Institute, a nonprofit organization that served youth and families nationally. While at the Urban Family Institute, she developed the Bridge, a program, supported by Maryland's Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services and in partnership with the Eastern Correctional Institution, for incarcerated fathers to engage and stay connected to their children.

Ms. Butler is a native Washingtonian and attended DC Public Schools. She earned her B.S. in Finance from Georgetown University and J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. After graduating law school, Ms. Butler served as a Law Fellow for Georgetown University Law Center's Street Law Clinic.

Alisha Carrington

Reentry and Outreach Lead Facilitator

Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop

Alisha Carrington joined Free Minds when she was incarcerated as a youth at the age of 16. Now 24, Alisha works as a Reentry Coach and Lead Outreach Facilitator for Free Minds. As part of the Free Minds "On the Same Page" violence prevention program, Alisha speaks with DC youth in classrooms and juvenile detention facilities about using creative writing as a tool for personal transformation. Alisha is currently pursuing an associate's degree in general studies and sociology at Montgomery College. A talented poet, Alisha was recognized with a "Best Poem" award from BleakHouse Publishing. Her work has been published in Tacenda Literary Magazine and Street Sense Newspaper.

Leslie Cooper

Deputy Director

Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia

Leslie C. Cooper currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA). In this capacity, she serves as the Chief Operating Officer and provides oversight for all administrative and operational functions of the independent federal agency. Leslie was selected as the Deputy Director after joining PSA in November 2011, as the Associate Director overseeing Operations.

From 2008 through 2011, Leslie was employed with the US Department of Labor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, where she served in a senior policy position, managing a diverse portfolio of labor and employment issues, including disability employment and employee pensions and healthcare. While there, she was instrumental in finalizing a series of regulations implementing the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act (“Obama Care”).

Prior to joining the Labor Department, Leslie was employed with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) for over ten years, helping the organization achieve certification as an independent, Executive branch federal agency and subsequently serving in a variety of capacities, including Program Analyst, Program Manager, and the Deputy Associate Director for Community Justice Programs. In these roles, she managed a number of community supervision support functions, including community relations; community service; faith-based mentoring; substance abuse assessment and treatment services; residential re-entry and sanctions programming; vocational/educational support services; violence reduction programming; and victim services.

Leslie received her Bachelor of Science degree from Howard University and her Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law.

Charles Dark

Director

DC Prevention Center Wards 5 & 6, Sasha Bruce Youthwork

Charles A. Dark, II serves as the Director of the Ward 5 & 6 DC Prevention Center as a member of the Sasha Bruce Youthwork staff. During the past three years Charles has worked in conjunction with the Addiction Prevention Recovery Administration (APRA) and the Department of Health (DOH) to use a public health risk and protective factor approach as the guiding framework for the ongoing development of a Ward 5 & 6 Prevention Center. The targeted population for this initiative are youth ages 8 to 18 and those in the community that influence their decision making (peers, families, caregivers and

communities). Through his leadership the plan has been to address three District wide substance abuse outcomes, (Community Education, Community Leadership, Community Changes), and priority risk factors that have been documented as contributing to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use (ATOD) among children and youth in the District.

Charles has a significant background in Education having taught in both the District of Columbia Public School System and the Prince George's County Public School System. Charles also worked for several years at Howard University as the Academic Support Programs Director for the Center for Research on the Education of Students Placed at Risk (CRESPAR), which is now CAPSTONE Institute. Charles has also worked providing program management and identifying program best practices for the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation.

Charles earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), English & Mass Communications degree from Virginia State University. He also was selected as one of the second cohort of teachers to receive his Early Elementary Teaching Certification from the African-American Males into Teaching/ Teacher Certification Program at Howard University.

Jill Head

Supervisory Chemist

Drug Enforcement Administration

Jill Head is a Supervisory Chemist at the Drug Enforcement Administration Special Testing and Research Laboratory in Dulles, Virginia.

Ms. Head began her career with the Drug Enforcement Administration as a forensic chemist in 2004. She began analyzing, researching, and tracking trends related to synthetic drugs when they first emerged in the United States in 2009. Ms. Head supervises two highly specialized groups of chemists who analyze synthetic drug evidence and track emerging drug trends in the United States. In addition, they provide reference materials and author numerous publications and resources used in the analysis of synthetic drugs by the international forensic community.

Ms. Head holds a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in Forensic Science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Dr. Max Houck

Director

Department of Forensic Sciences

Dr. Houck is an internationally-recognized forensic expert with research interests in forensic science, education, and the forensic enterprise and its industries. He has worked in the private sector, the public sector (at the regional and federal levels), and in academia. Dr. Houck has published in a wide variety of areas in the forensic sciences, in books, book chapters, and peer-reviewed journals. His anthropology and trace evidence casework includes the Branch Davidian Investigation, the September 11 attacks on the Pentagon, the D.B. Cooper case, the US Embassy bombings in Africa, and the West Memphis Three case, among hundreds of others. He served for six years as the Chair of the Forensic Science Educational Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). Dr. Houck is a founding co-editor of the journal Forensic Science Policy and Management, with Dr. Jay Siegel; he has also co-authored a major textbook with Dr. Siegel, "Fundamentals of Forensic Science."

Charisma X. Howell

Deputy Executive Director

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Charisma X. Howell is the Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Mrs. Howell joined the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in April of 2012. She has extensive experience in criminal and civil law and education policy. Mrs. Howell is a practicing lawyer and successful trial attorney. She served as Policy Counsel for a non-profit, education advocacy organization where she conducted research in the areas of accountability, assessment and best practices. She worked as a Visiting Professor and Clinic Co-Director at Georgetown University Law Center where she also attained a Master of Laws and continues to teach classes at Georgetown University.

Tara Libert

Co-founder and Executive Director

Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop

Before co-founding Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop in 2002, Tara worked as a radio and television news and documentary producer for twelve years. After producing many features on the US

criminal justice system, showcasing such topics such as the death penalty, prison overcrowding and juvenile justice reform she was drawn to direct service. Tara began volunteering with Georgetown University's Family Literacy Program, tutoring incarcerated parents at the District of Columbia jail. She is trained as a tutor with the Literacy Volunteers of America and a mediator with The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County, MD. Tara is also a facilitator for the Community Conferencing Center, a conflict transformation and community justice organization that works with youth to resolve conflicts and to prevent crime. Tara is an advisory board member of The Beat Within, an organization that conducts writing workshops for youth in juvenile detention facilities. Tara is also a certified yoga instructor.

Phil Mendelson

Chairman

Council of the District of Columbia

Phil Mendelson was first elected to the Council of the District of Columbia in November of 1998 as an At-Large Councilmember. He served the District in that role until June 2012 when, following the departure of the previous Council Chairman, Phil was selected by his colleagues to take over that role. In November 2012, District voters overwhelmingly elected Phil as Chairman of the Council.

As Chairman, Phil leads the Council on all legislative matters. Phil also presides over the Committee of the Whole which includes: the DC Auditor; Board of Zoning Adjustment; District of Columbia Community College; District of Columbia Retirement Board; District Statehood Commission; District Statehood Compact Commission; Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; National Capital Planning Commission; Office of Budget and Planning; Office of Planning; Office of Zoning; Tax Revision Commission; Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation; University of the District of Columbia; and the Zoning Commission.

In 2014 Phil was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), a position he also held in 2004. The COG Board is comprised of local and state elected officials from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. As Chairman, Phil will continue to work with regional colleagues to further the common goals and interests in moving the region forward.

Phil has been an active participant in District politics since 1975, when he became a member of the McLean Gardens Residents' Association. In this role he was a large part of the effort to save the 43-acre housing complex from destruction. In 1979 Phil successfully ran for a seat on the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) and continued to serve as an ANC Commissioner until he took office as an At-Large Member of the Council.

Prior to becoming Chairman, Phil served eight years as Chair of the Council's Committee on the Judiciary. In this role he was responsible for oversight over the District's public safety agencies—including the Metropolitan Police Department, Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department, and the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia—as well as legislation impacting criminal laws in the District.

Phil came to the District from Cleveland, Ohio in 1970 to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from American University. He grew up in a family dedicated to public service. His mother was a national crusader for nursing home reform. His grandmother had been President of the Michigan State League of Women Voters, was appointed by President Roosevelt to the Federal Office of Price Administration, and was a founder of the Grand Rapids Urban League.

Phil has an adorable daughter Adelaide, who attends DC Public Schools. He lives in Northwest DC.

Todd Menhinick

Chief of Quality Assessment, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration

Department of Behavioral Health

Todd Menhinick currently serves as the Chief of Quality Assessment at the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration in the District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health. In that capacity, Mr. Menhinick is responsible for collecting data to monitor and evaluate District treatment providers on a range of quality indicators. Additionally, Mr. Menhinick oversees monitoring of the youth treatment system in the District of Columbia, working closely with youth treatment providers to enhance the quality of treatment for young people in DC.

Prior to joining APRA, Mr. Menhinick worked in the field of Chemical Dependency Counseling for over eight years in both Upstate New York and Maryland. Mr. Menhinick provided outpatient treatment to addicted and mentally ill adults and adolescents and supervised an outpatient addiction treatment program in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Mr. Menhinick received his Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from the University at Albany in Upstate New York and received formal training in Project Management at the School of Continuing Studies at Georgetown University.

Dr. Roger Mitchell Jr.

Chief Medical Examiner

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Dr. Roger Mitchell Jr. is board certified in Anatomic and Forensic Pathology by the American Board of Pathology. He is a Fellow with the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) and the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). Dr. Mitchell sits on national subcommittees for NAME including Education & Planning and Strategic Planning.

He is a graduate of Howard University, Washington DC, and UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, Newark, NJ. Dr. Mitchell is licensed to practice medicine in New Jersey and Washington DC. He has performed over 1300 autopsy examinations in his career and has testified as an expert on numerous cases.

He began the study of forensic science and violence prevention as a Forensic Biologist for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) – DNA Unit in January 1997 at the FBI Headquarters Building.

Dr. Mitchell served 4 years as the Assistant Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, in charge of Medicolegal Death Investigations, at the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences prior to serving 2 years as the Regional Medical Examiner for the Northern Regional Medical Examiner Office in Newark, NJ. Dr. Mitchell has served in large cities such as New York City, Houston, and Newark, NJ.

Dr. Mitchell has great interest in violence as a public health issue. He believes the medical examiner serves a critical role in public health prevention initiatives and continues to be at the forefront of issues relating to Elder Abuse & Neglect and Youth Violence. He is recently published for his work on “Forensic Markers Associated with a History of Elder Mistreatment and Self Neglect” in the Academic Forensic Pathology journal.

He is also well versed in Mass Fatality Management and pledges his commitment to the preparedness of Washington DC.

Dr. Mitchell is no “new comer” to the District. In addition to receiving his undergraduate degree in biology from Howard University, Dr. Mitchell performed his pathology residency at George Washington University Hospital where he served as Chief Resident.

Dr. Roger A. Mitchell, Jr. is dedicated to the service of our community and is excited to serve our nation’s capital as its next Chief Medical Examiner.

He is married to a DC native and has three wonderful children.

Dr. Geoffrey Mount Varner

Chief of Emergency Medicine

Howard University Hospital

Dr. Geoffrey Mount Varner is the Chief of Emergency Medicine at Howard University Hospital – a Level 1 Trauma Center, Stroke Center, and Heart Attack Center – located in Washington, District of Columbia. The head of the Emergency Department since May 2007, Dr. Mount Varner leads a highly-skilled medical team that treats over 60,000 patients yearly.

Dr. Mount Varner earned his Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Hampton University, his medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine, and his Master's in Public Health from Harvard University. He also served as the Medical Director for the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department two (2) years.

Dr. Mount Varner was raised in the Washington, DC, area and maintains strong ties in the area. His older sister, the Honorable Daneeka Cotton, presides on the bench in Prince George's County; and his younger sister, Donnaka Lewis, is a prosecutor in Prince George's County. Dr. Mount Varner currently resides in Mitchellville, Maryland, with his wife, Angela, an attorney for the Department of Homeland Security, and their two children – Brooke, 11, and Geoffrey, 8.

In his spare time, Dr. Mount Varner participates in marathons and triathlons.

Matt Orlins

Legislative and Public Affairs Officer

Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Matt Orlins is the Legislative and Public Affairs Officer at the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. In that role, he manages the agency's legislative and regulatory portfolio and is the agency's spokesman for the media. Prior to joining DCRA, Matt served as Senior Legislative Counsel to a member of the Council of the District of Columbia, where he focused on environmental, energy, education, and business issues. He also taught middle school in the Atlanta Public Schools before attending law school. Matt holds a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School and a B.A. from Denison University.

Vincent Parker

Program Manager, Office of Business Compliance

District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Vincent Parker is the Program Manager of the Office of Business Compliance at the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). In this role he manages enforcement of DCRA rules and regulations for businesses, and conducts outreach with the business community in DC to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Mr. Parker previously served as Manager of the Vending and Special Events Section at DCRA. Mr. Parker also worked as an ABC Investigator for the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA). Mr. Parker holds a Bachelor of Science from Frostburg State University, in Political Science and Criminal Justice.

Wendy Pohlhaus

Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for External Affairs

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia

Wendy Pohlhaus is the Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for External Affairs for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. In that capacity, she is responsible for implementing that office's community outreach, youth intervention and reentry programming.

Ms. Pohlhaus was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in Spanish from the University of the District of Columbia in 1987, and her law degree from the University of Miami School of Law in 1990. After law school, Ms. Pohlhaus served as a public defender with the Dade County Public Defender's Office and the Federal Public Defender's Office in Miami, providing both trial and appellate representation to indigent defendants. In November 1998, Wendy joined the Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Section (NDDS), and was detailed to Puerto Rico during her first two years with NDDS.

In August 2003, Wendy joined the United States Attorney Office for the District of Columbia as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. While in the United States Attorney Office, Wendy served with distinction in the Grand Jury Section, General Felony Section, and Felony Major Crimes.

Lisa Pryor

Group Supervisor

Drug Enforcement Administration

SA Lisa Pryor entered service with DEA on June 21, 2003. After graduation from the DEA academy on January 23, 2004, SA Pryor was assigned to the Washington Division Office (WDO), Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) until February 2006. In February 2006, SA Pryor was assigned to the WDO, Financial Investigations Group (FIG) until October 2008. From October 2008 until July 2009, SA Pryor was assigned to the WDO Diversion Group, and on July 20, 2009, SA Pryor was transferred to the newly formed WDO, Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS). During her time in the Diversion Group and the TDS, SA Pryor educated herself on the many facets of diversion investigations. She conducted investigations on physicians, pharmacists and “street” dealers who were in the business of diverting pharmaceuticals. In August 2011, SA Pryor was promoted to the position of Group Supervisor of the WDO TDS. SA Pryor earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from the College of William and Mary in 1990 and a Juris Doctor from the George Mason School of Law in 1993. She became a member of the Florida Bar in February 1998.

Paul A. Quander Jr.

Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

Paul A. Quander Jr. is a native Washingtonian and resident of Ward 7. He has spent nearly his entire career in the criminal justice sector, working to improve public safety in the District of Columbia. He has served in a variety of capacities, including serving as the presidentially appointed Director of Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency. In that capacity, he was responsible for approximately 15,000 men and women who were being supervised on probation, parole or supervised release.

Mr. Quander was also appointed as the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). The CJCC serves as the forum for identifying issues and their solutions, proposing actions and facilitating cooperation that will improve public safety in the District of Columbia for its residents, visitors, victims and offenders.

Prior to that, Mr. Quander served as an Assistant United States Attorney for more than seven years, investigating and trying the most serious and violent criminal offenders and organizations. He has also served as the Deputy Director of the DC Department of Corrections where he was responsible for the day-to-day operations of 8 prisons, 2 detention facilities and several community correctional centers. In addition, he served as an Assistant in what is now the Office of the Attorney General for the District of

Columbia where he prosecuted juvenile offenders and represented District of Columbia agencies and personnel in civil actions.

Currently, he serves as the Deputy Mayor for Public and Justice to District of Columbia Mayor Vincent C. Gray.

Eric Rogers

Administrator of the Business and Professional Licensing Administration

District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Eric Rogers is the Administrator of the Business and Professional Licensing Administration at the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). In this role he oversees DCRA's divisions related to business licensing, occupational and professional licensing, business compliance, incorporation, regulatory investigations, small business resources, and weights and measures. Mr. Rogers has served at DCRA since 2005; previously he served as the Chief of Staff to DC Councilmember Kevin Chavous and as a Legislative Assistant to DC Councilmember Sharon Ambrose. Mr. Rogers holds a Bachelors of Political Science from the College of Wooster in Ohio.

Rabbiah "Robbie" Sabbakhan

Interim Director

Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Rabbiah "Robbie" Sabbakhan has devoted much of his professional career to local government. He served more than a decade with the City of Richmond's building department. While there, Mr. Sabbakhan played a key role in the completion of several major projects including the Richmond Convention Center, VCU School of Engineering, MCV Biotech Park, Phillip Morris Research & Technology, and the Stony Point Mall.

In 2007, Mr. Sabbakhan relocated to the District, where he'd spent most of his childhood, to serve as a Construction Project Manager with Forest City Washington for The Yards. Mr. Sabbakhan returned to his roots in local government in 2009 when he assumed the role of DCRA's Deputy Chief of Permitting. In January 2011, DCRA's Director, Nicholas Majett, promoted Mr. Sabbakhan to Chief Building Official to oversee and synergize both the Permitting & Inspections Divisions.

As Chief Building Official, Mr. Sabbakhan created efficiencies and initiated streamlining efforts for the permitting and inspections processes, including the launch of ProjectDox, DCRA's web-based electronic

plan submission and review program, and creation of the Green Building Program. During his time at DCRA, Mr. Sabbakhan has also been a member of the Construction Codes Coordinating Board and Chair of the Building Code Technical Advisory Group (TAG). His efforts were instrumental in the development and adoption of the 2013 DC Construction Codes.

In addition to CCCB, he is also a member of the Green Building Advisory Council, ex-officio on the Commission of African American Affairs, and a contributor to the Business and Regulatory Reform Task Force. He has an established record as a leader committed to fostering good agency working relationships with developers, designers, housing advocates, sister agencies, and key stakeholder groups.

Mr. Sabbakhan earned his Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, including a semester studying Egyptian architecture abroad at the American University in Cairo. He resides in Ward 4 with his wife and daughters.

Melvin Scott

Commander

Metropolitan Police Department

On October 1, 2011 Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier positioned Commander Melvin L. Scott charge over the Metropolitan Police Department's Narcotics & Special Investigations Division (NSID). This unit encompasses the Major Crimes Unit, Drug Interdiction, Human Trafficking, Asset Forfeiture, Strike Force, Gun Recovery units in addition to eight (8) task forces which act in partnership with the ATF, DEA, FBI, IRS, USSS and other federal agencies. The command decision to place Commander Scott in this position was to give him charge over the complete functions of the NSID. Commander Scott has brought vigor to the NSID and has challenged all members of his command to remain committed to the mission Metropolitan Police Department and to continuing to work "...to safeguard the District of Columbia and protect its residents and visitors by providing the highest quality of police service with integrity and compassion as well as a commitment to innovation that integrates people, technology and progressive business systems."

Commander Scott joined the Metropolitan Police Department in 1981 as an officer in the Fifth District. In 1982 he quickly moved up the ranks to investigator out of the Criminal Investigations Division working as an undercover and personally led the investigation and arrest of the infamous and murderous R Street Crew. He also played a vital role in the murder of Catherine Fuller which ended with 17 convictions.

In 1986, Commander Scott was promoted to sergeant and was assigned to the 2nd District. He did not remain a sergeant too long in the Second District, for in 1987 he was chosen to lead 15 detectives in

major criminal investigations including commercial and bank robberies, but was notably cited by the MPD Chief, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement for the successful resolution of the well-known “Halloween Kidnapping” of a six year old in 1998.

After being promoted to lieutenant in 1989, Commander Scott initiated a community policing model centered on foot patrols in the Third District at the request of his superiors while at the same time managing the Community and Youth Services Unit. As a an Acting Captain in 1993 he became the Deputy Director of the Youth and Family Services Division and continued to act as the Director of the Police Boys & Girls Clubs raising \$100,000 for the Clifton Street Boys and Girls Club.

Commander Scott remained an acting captain at the Youth Division until he was promoted to the Homicide Division in 1997 as captain, where he increased the unit’s closure rate to 77 percent, a nearly 300% improvement.

In 1998, he was promoted to commander and commanded the Fourth District where there a crime reduction there approximately 16% in a year. He was then transferred to the First District in 1999 until 2003 where he won Manager of the Year in 2002.

He left the First District to assist with the Fifth District where he planned and implemented a highly successful community policing approach.

In 2007, Commander Scott was chosen to assist and bring restoration of on Assistant Chief heading a bureau. He was the Executive Officer and Commander of all seven patrol districts, Special Liaison Division, Central Cell Block and School Security Division. After the recreation of the Patrol Services & School Security Bureau, Commander Scott then went on to become the Commanding Officer of the NSID.

He has more than 31 years of law enforcement experience and management. He has gained the trust of individuals and organizations with often divergent views and interests to effect positive change within a highly traditional work culture.

Commander Scott attended the University of the District of Columbia where he studied Criminal Justice.

Michen Tah

Policy Analyst

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Michen M. Tah joined the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) as a Policy Analyst in December of 2012. Ms. Tah’s areas of focus at CJCC include reentry, substance abuse, and mental health. She is also the Project Manager for the CJCC Resource Locator.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Tah practiced civil and criminal law as an associate attorney at Dudley, Topper, and Feuerzeig, LLP. She has also served as a law clerk to the Honorable James S. Carroll III, Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands.

Ms. Tah received her A.B. in Politics and a Certificate in African-American Studies from Princeton University in 2005 and her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 2008. She is licensed to practice law in Maryland and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Nancy Ware

Director

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia

Director Nancy M. Ware serves as the Agency Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA). In that capacity, she leads the agency's 800 federal employees in providing community supervision for over 15,000 adults on probation, parole, and supervised release in the District of Columbia.

Nancy Ware has over three decades experience in the management and administration of juvenile and adult criminal justice programs on the local, state and national level. Prior to assuming leadership of CSOSA, Ms. Ware guided the Agency's compliance with the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRA), focusing on strategic planning and performance measurement. Her organizational experience includes serving as the first Executive Director of the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), where for eight years she developed the infrastructure to promote collaboration between the District of Columbia government and the executive and judicial branches of the federal government on critical public safety issues. One of Ms. Ware's proudest accomplishments at the CJCC was the development of the technical capability to support criminal justice information sharing among CJCC member agencies.

Ms. Ware's other professional experience includes serving as Director of Technical Assistance and Training for the Department of Justice's Weed and Seed Program and as Director of National Program for the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs. Early in her career she also served as Executive Director of the Rainbow Coalition, Executive Director of the Citizenship Education Fund and Executive Director of the District of Columbia Mayor's Youth Initiatives Office.

Nancy Ware is a native Washingtonian who has devoted her professional career to public service and has spent the last several years working to ensure that the nation's capitol remains safer for residents, workers, and visitors, and that juveniles and adults who have become involved in the criminal justice system are provided opportunities to contribute and thrive. Ms. Ware holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Howard University and has three children and three grandchildren.

Dr. Eric Wish

Director

University of Maryland Center for Substance Abuse Research

Dr. Eric Wish received his Ph.D. in psychology from Washington University in St. Louis in 1977. He subsequently completed a NIDA post-doctoral fellowship in psychiatric epidemiology in the Department of Psychiatry at the Washington University School of Medicine. Between 1986 and 1990, Dr. Wish served as a Visiting Fellow at the National Institute of Justice in the Department of Justice, where he supervised the development and launching of the Drug Use Forecasting (DUF, later ADAM) program. Most recently, Dr. Wish has been developing a new system for detecting emerging drugs by expanded testing of urine specimens obtained from criminal justice drug testing programs. Dr. Wish has published numerous articles and spoken widely about such issues as relapse to heroin use by Vietnam veterans, the identification of drug use in offenders, and the validity of self-reports of drug use. Since 1990, Dr. Wish has been Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Wish is also a professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

feedback

the real deal on SYNTHETIC DRUGS

a symposium presented by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's
Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration Taskforce

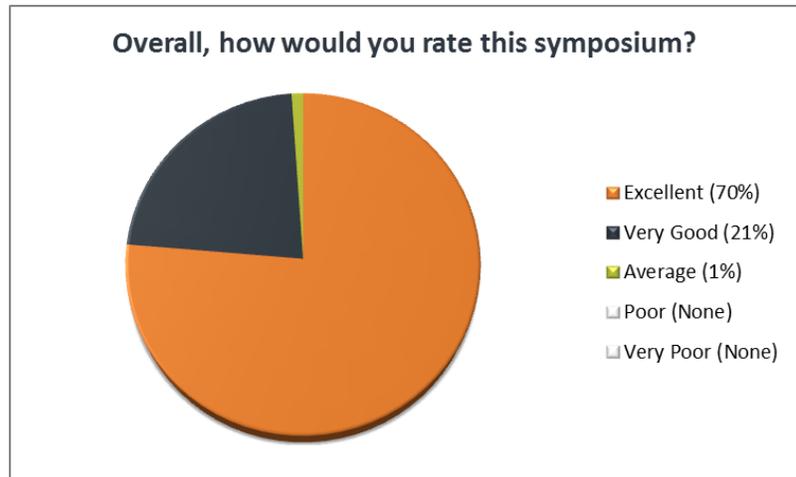
the real deal on SYNTHETIC DRUGS

a symposium presented by the Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration Taskforce

feedback

On behalf of CJCC's SATMHSIT, thank you for attending and enthusiastically participating in The Real Deal on Synthetic Drugs. Thanks also to those of you who took the time to provide feedback by way of the symposium evaluation, comment cards, emails, and verbally.

This year's symposium attendance more than doubled last year's turnout. We are very pleased to have received overwhelmingly positive feedback about both the substance and the form of the symposium. More than two-thirds of those



surveyed rated the overall symposium as "Excellent" and another 21% indicated that the symposium was "Very Good."

Some suggestions for improving future symposia included:

- more opportunities for in-depth audience participation.
- a more comprehensive case study that calls for input from more agencies and provides more background information.
- minimize overlap in speaker's presentations.

"Outstanding and very informative symposium!"

Moving forward, there was a consensus that our efforts to address the emerging issues related to synthetic drug use in the District of Columbia should continue beyond this symposium.

"I think the audience was thoroughly engaged and active throughout the entirety of the conference due to the breadth of knowledge presented. Well done!"

about the CJCC

the real deal on **SYNTHETIC DRUGS**

a symposium presented by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's
Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Integration Taskforce



ABOUT US

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

As an independent agency, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) for the District of Columbia is dedicated to continually improving the administration of criminal justice in the city. The mission of the CJCC is to serve as the forum for identifying issues and their solutions, proposing actions, and facilitating cooperation that will improve public safety and the related criminal and juvenile justice services for District of Columbia residents, visitors, victims and offenders. The CJCC draws upon local and federal agencies and individuals to develop recommendations and strategies for accomplishing this mission. The guiding principles are creative collaboration, community involvement and effective resource utilization. The CJCC is committed to developing targeted funding strategies and the comprehensive management of information through the use of integrated information technology systems and social science research.

The CJCC is committed to:

- Facilitating systemic changes across the District's juvenile and criminal justice systems through shared commitment and collaboration.
- Evaluating and promoting continuous improvements within the juvenile and criminal justice agencies in the District of Columbia.
- Increase communication among criminal juvenile and criminal justice agencies to eliminate duplication and maximize available resources.

The Executive Director of the CJCC is Mannone A. Butler.



THANK YOU!

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL'S POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES INTEGRATION TASKFORCE, MICHEN M. TAH, ESQ., CAN BE REACHED BY EMAIL AT MICHEN.TAH@DC.GOV.