Mental Health at the Intersection

Exploring Best Practices for Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Adults in the Criminal Justice System

CJCC 2nd Annual Criminal Justice Justice Summit

March 14, 2018

One Judiciary Square
Old City Council Chambers
441 4th St, NW
Washington, DC 20001
ABOUT CJCC

The mission of the CJCC is to serve as the District of Columbia’s forum for District and federal members to identify crosscutting local criminal and juvenile justice system issues and achieve coordinated solutions for the criminal and juvenile justice systems. CJCC also facilitates and supports member-identified priorities, strategies, and initiatives that will improve public safety and the related criminal and juvenile justice services for District of Columbia residents, visitors, victims, and justice-involved individuals.
WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council’s (CJCC) 2nd Annual Criminal Justice Summit (CJS). I am pleased you have joined us for a series of thoughtful action-oriented discussions about effective responses related to our theme “Mental Health at the Intersection: Exploring Best Practices for Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Adults in the Criminal Justice System.”

On a daily basis, the District’s justice and behavioral health stakeholders strive to address the needs of justice-involved clients who often experience the repetitive cycle of incarceration, supervision, and recurring mental health episodes. The challenges are vast.

Today, we are honored to have public officials and mental health practitioners discuss efforts underway to tackle the challenges faced by justice-involved persons with mental health needs. During the summit, we will better understand the scope of mental illness, explore best practices, and identify proactive responses and solutions that will result in reducing the scope of and stigma associated with mental illness among justice-involved individuals.

I am also pleased that we are honoring Nancy Ware, this year’s recipient of the Paul A. Quander, Jr., Leadership and Fair Administration of Justice Award. Ms. Ware is the former Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, immediate past CJCC Co-Chair and founding Executive Director of CJCC. Throughout her tenure of service within the District of Columbia’s justice system, she was committed to the fair and equitable administration of justice, nurtured system-wide collaboration and exemplified servant leadership.

Thank you for your commitment to collectively address the challenges associated with our program theme and your participation today.

Sincerely,

Mannone A. Butler
Executive Director
PURPOSE
The CJCC Criminal Justice Summit (CJS) is an annual gathering of criminal justice professionals and stakeholders from across the criminal justice continuum to engage in evidence-based training and collaboration. The objectives of the CJS are to:

• Conduct an in-depth exploration of emerging criminal justice issues affecting District of Columbia practitioners, advocates, and communities;
• Engage in cross-system training to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the District's criminal justice system, and;
• Promote collaboration and communication through interdisciplinary and interagency information exchange.

This year’s theme is "Mental Health at the Intersection: Exploring Best Practices for Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Adults in the Criminal Justice System." Mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders are highly prevalent among individuals throughout the criminal justice system continuum. Agencies and practitioners at all stages of the criminal justice system face the challenge of responding effectively to the needs of these persons. The CJS will:

• Shed light on work under way in the District to assist system-involved individuals with mental health needs;
• Explore alternatives to incarceration and criminal justice system involvement for people living with mental health needs, and;
• Build consensus around system-wide initiatives to improve behavioral health outcomes for the system-involved and maintain public safety.

AGENDA

8:00am – 8:25am  Registration/CEU Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30am – 8:45am  Welcome and Opening Remarks
Mannone A. Butler, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
The Honorable Danny Davis, Representative (IL-7, Chicago)

8:50am – 9:00am  Audience Survey

9:05am – 9:55am  Behavioral Health Services Available in the District
Dr. Tanya Royster, Director, Department of Behavioral Health

This introductory session will provide an overview of the continuum of behavioral health services available in the District, and will highlight the District's Department of Behavioral Health’s efforts to provide treatment for justice-involved individuals with mental health and substance abuse needs.

10:00am – 11:00am  The Face of Mental Illness in the Justice System
Moderator: Michele May, Executive Director, Deaf-REACH
Panelists:
Anthony Hopkins, DC Department of Corrections Reentry Champion Award Recipient
Bruce Reid, Director of Mental Health for Corrections, Unity Healthcare
Laura L. Rose, Mental Health Specialist, Trial Division, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

Justice-involved individuals suffering from mental illness have unique needs and face unique challenges throughout each stage of the criminal justice system. Panelists will discuss these needs and challenges, and will share personal stories that provide context to the realities of navigating the justice system with mental health needs.

11:00am – 11:15am  Morning Break

11:15am – 12:30pm  Breakout Groups: Approaches to Mental Illness at Each Stage of the Criminal Justice System
During each session, attendees will draw from their first-hand experiences to identify the most pressing issues and challenges related to addressing mental health needs at each stage of the justice system. Findings will be incorporated into the Exploring the Mental Health Criminal Justice Landscape session.

**Breakout 1:** Pre-Arrest and Court-Based Diversion (Conference Room 1114)
Michael Williams, Deputy Associate Director for Operations, Pretrial Services Agency

**Breakout 2:** Planning and Implementing Effective Mental Health in Jails (Conference Room 1117)
Beth Mynett, MD, Medical Director, Health Services Administrator, DC Department of Corrections

**Breakout 3:** The Impact of Trauma on Mental Illness and System Involvement (Conference Room 1107)
Wallace Kirby, Co-Founder, Hustlerz 2 Harvesters

**Breakout 4:** Community Reentry Solutions that Work (Conference Room 1112)
Ashley McSwain, Executive Director, Community Family Life Services

**12:30pm – 1:45pm**
**Lunch and Award Ceremony**
The 2nd Annual Paul A. Quander, Jr. Leader and Fair Administration of Justice Award recipient is Nancy M. Ware, former CSOSA Director. Ms. Ware’s legacy includes an unyielding commitment to promoting equity and compassion in the administration of justice system in the District of Columbia.

*Award Presentation:*
**Leslie Cooper,** Director, Pretrial Services Agency; Co-Chair, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
**Kevin Donahue,** Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice; Co-Chair, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

**1:45pm – 3:00pm**
**Identifying Effective Strategies that Support System-Involved Clients**
Regina Huerter, Senior Project Associate, Policy Research Associates, Inc.

This session will provide a contextual overview with supporting data and best practices to impact the prevalence of mental illness in the criminal justice system.

**3:00pm – 4:55pm**
**Exploring the Mental Health-Criminal Justice Landscape**
*Moderator: Kati Habert,* Deputy Program Director-Behavioral Health, Council of State Governments Justice Center

*Panelists:*
**Charles Allen,** Chairman, Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
**Leslie Cooper,** Director, Pretrial Services Agency
**Kisha Gordon,** Branch Chief, Mental Health Unit, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency
**Colleen Kennedy,** Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney’s Office - District of Columbia
**Robert Morin,** Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia
**Kelly O’Meara,** Executive Director-Office of Strategic Change, Metropolitan Police Department
**Dr. Tanya Royster,** Director, Department of Behavioral Health
**Patricia Smoot,** Chairwoman, United States Parole Commission
**Rhonda Tildon,** Assistant Chief, Mental Health Section, Office of the Attorney General

During this session, justice system and behavioral health leaders will explore institutional processes and interagency collaboration employed to respond to the myriad of challenges presented by justice-involved individuals.

**4:55pm – 5:00pm**
**Closing Remarks**
Mannone A. Butler, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
The CJCC Criminal Justice Summit Paul A. Quander, Jr. Leadership and Fair Administration of Justice Award recognizes the work of an individual working within the criminal justice system, or an organization that exemplifies the distinguished public service of Paul A. Quander, Jr. who worked tirelessly to improve the fair administration of justice within the District's criminal justice system. The recipient's work will exemplify the ideals Paul Quander championed, including institutional accountability, interagency coordination, responsiveness, innovation, and dedication to reducing the negative contacts DC residents have with the District's criminal justice system.

2018 HONOREE: NANCY M. WARE

Nancy M. Ware served as the Agency Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) from 2011-2017. In that capacity, she led the agency's 800 federal employees in providing community supervision for approximately 15,000 adults on probation, parole, and supervised release in the District of Columbia.

Nancy Ware has over three decades of experience in the management and administration of juvenile and adult criminal justice programs on the local, state and national level. Before assuming leadership of CSOSA, she served as the founding Executive Director of the DC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), Director of Technical Assistance and Training for the Department of Justice's Weed and Seed Program and as Director of National Programs for the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs.

Nancy Ware is a native Washingtonian who has devoted her professional career to public service and has spent her professional life working to ensure that the nation's capital remains safe for residents, workers and visitors. She has endeavored to ensure 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.
BIOGRAPHIES

Charles Allen, Chairman, Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
Councilmember Charles Allen began his career in the District as a graduate fellow with the federal Department of Health and Human Services, working on expanding community-based health options across the nation. Two of his signature efforts: bringing physicians, dentists, nurses and other healthcare providers to medically underserved communities and creating a District-owned captive insurance company to provide free and low-cost medical malpractice insurance to nonprofit providers – remain a vital part of the city’s health care safety net nearly a decade after he helped create them. He serves as First Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ Transportation Planning Board and was named an Early Learning Fellow by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Charles graduated from Washington and Lee University and he holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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. Ms. Butler began her career with 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 served as the Deputy Executive Director where she was responsible for managing the implementation of the agency’s strategic priorities and day to day operations. 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. 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. 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 and in partnership with the Eastern Correctional Facility, 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.

Leslie Cooper, Director, Pretrial Services Agency
Ms. Cooper began her federal career as a Program Analyst with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) in 1998. From there, she advanced to Program Manager and Deputy Associate Director for Community Justice Programs. During her time with CSOSA, she established the Treatment Management Team and was a key leader in the activation and opening of the Re-Entry and Sanctions Center (RSC). In 2008, Ms. Cooper accepted a senior leadership position with the US Department of Labor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, where she handled a diverse portfolio of regulatory and programmatic policy, and completed work on a number of the initial regulations to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“Obama Care”). Leslie received her Bachelor of Science degree from Howard University and her Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. She is a member of the bar associations of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

The Honorable Danny K. Davis, Representative (IL-7, Chicago)
Danny K. Davis was chosen by the people of the 7th Congressional District of Illinois as their Representative in Congress on November 5, 1996. He has been re-elected by large majorities to succeeding Congresses. In the 115th Congress, Congressman Davis serves on the House Ways and Means Committee: Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Human Resources and a member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Trade. Congressman Davis is a member of several Congressional Caucuses including the Congressional Black Caucus, the Progressive Caucus, the Urban Caucus, the Community Health Center’s Caucus, and the Congressional Sugar Caucus. Born in Parkdale, Arkansas, on September 6, 1941, Congressman Davis moved to the Westside of Chicago in 1961, after having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Arkansas A.M. & N. College. He subsequently earned both Masters and Doctorate degrees respectively from Chicago State University and the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is married to Vera G. Davis, has two sons, Jonathan and Stacey.
Kevin Donahue, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
Appointed by then Mayor-elect Muriel Bowser in December 2014, Kevin Donahue serves as the Deputy City Administrator and the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. In both roles, he brings an analytical approach that utilizes data to deliver tangible results to the residents of the District of Columbia. Prior to joining the Bowser Administration, Mr. Donahue served as the Executive Director of the Federal government's Performance Improvement Council. In this role, he continued his data-driven approach to create accountability in order to streamline government functions. Originally from Miami, Mr. Donahue moved to the DC area in 1990 to earn his bachelor's degree in government at Georgetown University. He also holds a master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University. Mr. Donahue has lived in Washington, DC for the past 14 years with his wife, Amy. He has two children, Owen and Dylan, who both attend the Inspired Teaching Public Charter School.

Kisha Gordon, Branch Chief, Mental Health Unit, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency
Kisha Gordon serves as the Branch Chief for the Behavioral Health Supervision and Support Branch of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA). She provides leadership to staff who are responsible for community supervision of adults on probation, parole and supervised release with a diagnosed serious mental illness (SMI) and co-occurring disorders. Branch Chief Kisha Gordon has 19 years of experience in the field of criminal justice, with 14 years of leadership experience. Specialty areas include Behavioral Health, Re-entry, and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Kisha Gordon received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Administration of Justice from Howard University, and a Master’s degree in Information Systems Management. She is currently enrolled in the Doctoral program at Walden University as a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy and Administration with a dual concentration in Criminal Justice and Public Policy Analysis.

Kati Habert, Deputy Program Director-Behavioral Health, Council of State Governments Justice Center
Kati Habert is currently a Deputy Program Director in the Behavioral Health Division at the Council of State Governments Justice Center. She manages Stepping Up, a national initiative to reduce the prevalence of adults with mental illnesses in jails. Prior to Stepping Up she worked mainly with the National Reentry Resource Center to support grantee activities at the state and local levels focused on reentry, correctional practices, family substance use treatment and co-occurring substance and mental health disorders. She previously worked as a senior associate with the National Association of Counties on criminal justice technical assistance to counties. She graduated from the University of Maryland with a BA and a MA in criminal justice/ criminology.

Anthony Hopkins, DC Department of Corrections Reentry Champion Award Recipient
Anthony Shawn Hopkins was born, raised, and educated in Washington DC. From an early age he had a passion for sports and demonstrated uncanny abilities in basketball. However, raised in the inner city without a father figure or male mentor-ship, Anthony fell prey to unsavory consequences-some he inflicted and others that were afflicted. Anthony found himself in a series of unfortunate events with the law, incarceration and drug abuse. He is a Deacon in training, a member of the Youth Ministry and as Head Coach of the 5 time champions EBC Knights Basketball Ministry. He has also served as interim coach in the DC Public School system and DC Department of Parks and Recreation. Anthony is a disciple, devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He treasures family as a gift from God and makes everyone he comes in contact with feel the same.

Regina ‘Regi’ Huerter joined Policy Research Associates, Inc. in 2017 as Senior Project Associate to provide training and technical assistance to counties engaged in the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge and in particular, those addressing the intersection of behavioral health and justice. Regina Huerter is the former Executive Director of the Office of Behavioral Health Strategies for the City and County of Denver. All together Regina has worked in the fields of behavioral health and criminal justice since 1978. Ms. Huerter holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master’s degree in Counseling from the University of Colorado. Regina is the recipient of several awards.
including those she is most proud of, the Channel 9 “9 Who Care”, and 2008 NAMI Colorado “Hero’s in the Fight” for advocacy and creating changes in the mental health/criminal justice system.

**Colleen Kennedy, Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney’s Office - District of Columbia**

Colleen Kennedy has been the Assistant U.S. Attorney at the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia since 1980. In her capacity as an AUSA, Ms. Kennedy serves as Senior Counsel for Mental Health Litigation; as such, she specializes and advises other AUSAs in competency, insanity, and all mental health matters. Colleen has conducted over 200 trials and hearings during her 38 years as an attorney. She is also a member of numerous organizations, and is a sought after presenter.

**Wallace “Shubaka” Kirby, Co-Founder, Hustlerz 2 Harvesters**

Wallace “Shubaka” Kirby is the co-founder of Hustlerz 2 Harvesters, which is a social entrepreneurial venture designed to address the essentially needed workforce development needs of the typically marginalized, stigmatized and economically denied returning citizens from incarceration segments of society, through eco-green career pathways out of poverty enterprises. Shubaka has spent well over half of his adult life in some form of incarceration, yet; has managed to develop and establish several reentry focused non-profits and H2H. Shubaka also is a Certified Master Gardener and Composter, as well as a Carpenter/Woodworker apprentice. He is a reentry focused motivational speaker and trauma informed care group facilitator. His journey from the traumatizing impact of the three (3) P’s: Poverty, Projects, and Prisons has served to awaken in him an evolved sense of self and serving others.

**Michele May, Executive Director, Deaf-REACH**

Michele May has lived and worked in the District of Columbia since 1985. Michele initially worked in homeless services for close to twenty years starting her career in social services in a small not for profit organization providing overnight shelter and support services for women who are homeless. Michele subsequently served in the Adult Systems of Care division as the Director of Forensic Services. She also co-founded Open Arms Housing, Inc a small not-for-profit organization in the District of Columbia providing low barrier permanent housing for women with histories of homelessness and health concerns. Michele now serves as the Executive Director of Deaf Reach Inc, a non-profit organization providing independent and supported housing, social services, day services, and interpreter services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The agency is unique in the U.S in that it provides direct services to this population and is staffed by an almost exclusively deaf or hard of hearing staff.

**Ashley McSwain, Executive Director, Community Family Life Services**

Ashley is the Executive Director for Community Family Life Services, an organization serving homeless and low income families and offers case management, release planning and navigation services for homeless individuals and families and women who are returning home following a period of incarceration. Ashley is also adjunct faculty for Catholic University's Graduate School of Social Work. Ashley is licensed to practice Social Work in Maryland and the District of Columbia and holds a Master of Social Work from Temple University, a Master of Organizational Development from American University and a bachelors in Criminal Justice from Temple University. Ashley has worked in the human services field for over twenty-five years and served six years as a probation officer in Philadelphia. Ashley is passionate and committed to represent the voice of those who feel voiceless and those living on the margins of society.

**The Honorable Robert Morin, Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia**

Chief Judge Robert E. Morin was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1996. In June 2016, he was designated for a four-year term as Chief Judge, beginning his term on October 1, 2016. Chief Judge Morin graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in Sociology in 1974. He received his law degree from Catholic University Law School in 1977. In 1980, he accepted a position as a Clinical Supervisor in the Criminal Division of the DC Law Students in Court Program in Washington, DC In 1982, Chief Judge Morin assisted in establishing and worked at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia. Since 1986, Chief Judge Morin has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Georgetown Law Center, teaching Evidence and Capital Punishment. Since joining the
Court, Chief Judge Morin has served on a variety of committees of the Court including the Criminal Justice Act and Family Court Panel Committees, the CJA Plan Implementation Committee, the Criminal Rules Advisory Committee, and the Superior Court Rules Committee. He has served in the Criminal Division, Civil Divisions and Family Court. From 2010 through the end of 2015, he served as Deputy Presiding Judge and then Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division.

Beth Mynett, MD, Medical Director, Health Services Administrator, DC Department of Corrections
Dr. Beth Mynett has over 20 years as a clinician and administrator and has been with the D.C. Department of Corrections (DOC) since 2013. She serves as DOC’s Medical Director and Health Services Administrator. Her medical training is in Internal Medicine and she practiced at the Mayo Clinic prior to coming to D.C. in 2001 to engage in national advocacy work on healthcare issues.

Kelly O’Meara, Executive Director, Office of Strategic Change, Metropolitan Police Department
Kelly O’Meara serves as the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Police Department’s Strategic Change Division in the Executive Office of the Chief of Police. As the Executive Director, Kelly develops and coordinates legal, operational, political, and fiscal strategies to address diverse topics, and advises the Chief of Police and city executives on high profile issues. Kelly oversees the Special Liaison Branch, which supports communities that have been historically underserved, including the African, Asian, deaf and hard of hearing, Latino, and LGBTQ communities. With over 20 years working in Public Administration, Kelly first came to the District government in 2001 as a Capital City Fellow, a program that positions individuals with advanced degrees to meet the challenges of local government management while developing talent for the District of Columbia. She was a recipient of MPD’s Bureau Employee of the Year in 2011, Meritorious Service Medals in 2009, 2004, 2006 and 2009, and Department Commendations in 2002 and 2004. Kelly moved to the District in 1989 to attend the American University. She holds a Master of Public Administration from their School of Public Affairs, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the School of International Service.

Bruce Reid, Director of Mental Health for Corrections, Unity Healthcare
Bruce G. Reid Sr. Born and raised in Annapolis Maryland and graduated high school at Annapolis High school. Bruce received his BA degree in Psychology from Louisiana State University in 1990 and completed his master’s degree in Social Work in 1992 from the same University. He has worked at the DC Jail since 1996 as a Mental Health Clinician. Mr. Reid has been the Director of Mental Health for Unity Health Care at the DC Department of Corrections from 2008 to the present.

Laura L. Rose, Mental Health Specialist for the Trial Division, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
Laura L. Rose has been the Mental Health Specialist for the Trial Division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) since 2010. As PDS’s Mental Health Specialist, she assists with and consults on trial cases involving mental health issues, such as competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, witness competency, expert witness retention and other related matters. Ms. Rose has been with PDS since 1990, during which time she has served in the agency’s Trial, Appellate, Special Litigation and Mental Health Divisions. As Chief of the Special Litigation and Programs Division in 2001, Ms. Rose established a new litigation branch of the agency to provide comprehensive representation of clients’ facing parole revocation. Prior to her (seemingly interminable) tenure at PDS, Ms. Rose was a fellow in Georgetown’s E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship Program. Ms. Rose was also a Visiting Professor with the Georgetown Criminal Justice Clinic from 2008 to 2010.
Tanya A. Royster, MD, Director, Department of Behavioral Health for the District of Columbia
Dr. Royster is the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health, the single state authority for mental health and substance use disorders services. She is a clinician, administrator, teacher, researcher, innovator, legal consultant and media expert. As leader of the District’s behavioral health services, Dr. Royster oversees a community based network of 75 private providers, directs 1400 employees, and manages a $273 million annual budget. Before coming to DC in August 2015, she served in Illinois state government and worked in public sector, private sector and academic medical settings. She earned tenure at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and taught in the departments of medicine, nursing, social work and Honors college of UIC. Dr. Royster graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and completed both her General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry residencies at New York University/Bellevue Hospital Medical Center in New York City.

Patricia Smoot, Chairwoman, United States Parole Commission
J. Patricia Wilson Smoot was nominated to the United States Parole Commission by President Barack Obama. She was confirmed by the United States Senate on September 16, 2010. On January 29, 2015, Chairwoman Smoot became Vice Chairman of the agency. She was designated as Chairwoman effective May 29, 2015. Before her appointment, Chairwoman Smoot served as Deputy State’s Attorney for Prince George’s County, Maryland, one of the largest prosecutor’s offices in the State of Maryland. Chairwoman Smoot also served as a Public Defender in Prince George’s County, Maryland, and as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Susan R. Holmes Winfield in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. As a result of her work in and outside of the office, Chairwoman Smoot was named one of Maryland’s Top 100 Women by the Daily Record for 2011, an honor she also received in 2008. Chairwoman Smoot holds a B.A. in English and Sociology with a concentration in Legal Studies from Bucknell University and a J.D. from Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America.

Rhonda Tildon, Assistant Chief, Mental Health Section, Office of the Attorney General - District of Columbia
Ms. Rhonda Phoenix Tildon obtained her J.D. from American University’s Washington College of Law, having earned her B.A. from Howard University as an English major. Ms. Tildon began her legal career as a judicial clerk for the Office of Magistrate Judges in the D.C. Superior Court. In 1998, she joined the U.S. Department of Justice in the Office for Civil Rights, where she investigated federally-funded agencies to ensure compliance with civil rights laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Ms. Tildon subsequently joined the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (“OAG”) in 2006 where she served as a trial attorney in the Juvenile Section. In 2012, Ms. Tildon became a trial attorney the Mental Health Section of the Public Safety Division of OAG, and briefly served as the Acting Assistant Section Chief in 2017. Ms. Tildon currently serves on several committees in the District of Columbia to collaborate with mental health stakeholders.

Michael Williams, Deputy Associate Director for Operations, Pretrial Services Agency
Michael Williams began his public service career in 1992 as a caseworker for the D.C. Department of Corrections Work Release Program. Michael came to the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) in 1999 as Supervisory Pretrial Services Officer, responsible for developing and implementing programs that supervised defendants placed into local halfway houses pending trial. Michael was promoted to Deputy Operations Director in 2006 and was responsible for managerial oversight of DC PSA operations. In 2008, Michael became Director of Court Services at PSA. In July 2015, Michael took over PSA’s Treatment Program where he was responsible for providing oversight and leadership to the agency’s substance abuse and mental health programs. In March, 2016, Michael assumed the role of Deputy Associate Director for Operations at PSA. In this role Michael is responsible for overseeing all aspects of PSA Operations including the Diagnostic, Supervision and Treatment programs. Michael is a native Washingtonian. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and a Master of Public Administration degree from American University in Washington D.C.