

MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE
17TH ANNUAL



SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Medgar Evers College Transition Academy and The Department of Social Work in collaboration with New York State Office of Mental Health, Bronx Psychiatric Center and New York City Children's Center



March 28, 2024 / 8am-3pm
AB1 Dining Hall
1638 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn NY, 11225



MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE

17TH ANNUAL

SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

Empowering Social Workers:
Readjusting the Lens of Society Through Social Work
Thursday, March 28, 2024
8:00am - 3:00 PM

Welcome

Edward Hernandez, Ph.D., Chair | Social Work Department, Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Greetings

Patricia Ramsey, Ph.D., President | Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Conference Theme and Purpose

Arlys Tineo, LMSW, Clinical Supervisor | Unaccompanied Children, Jewish Child Care Association

Special Presentation

The Impact of Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome
Amaya Carter, Student | Community Roots Charter School

Speaker

Martha Sullivan, DSW, Executive Director | NYS Office of Mental Health-Creedmoor Psychiatric Center

Panel Discussion

Understanding Trauma Across The Life Course: Youth and Young Adults

Moderator: Eva Gordon, LCSW, Director/Psychotherapist | Life Guide LCSW, P.C.

Panelists

Shirley de Peña, Ph.D., LCSW, University Associate Director | Foster Youth College Success Initiative, CUNY

Melissa Elliott, LCSW-R, CPC, SIFI, Founder and CEO | AGAPE Family Therapy and Coaching

Kenald Bernard, LCSW, Social Worker | Freeport School District

Durrell Washington, Ph.D. candidate | Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice, University of Chicago

Keynote Speaker

Latoya Delmadge, LCSW-R, Director | Social Work/Behavior Health, NYC Health and Hospital-Kings County Hospital Center

Break

Social Workers in Government

Manny De Los Santos, MSW | New York State Assemblymember 72nd Assembly District

Panel Discussion

Unaddressed Trauma: Understanding the Sign, Symptoms, and Impact of Trauma Among Formerly Incarcerated People.

Moderator: Gloria Seay, LMSW, Clinical Manager | NYC Administration for Children's Services

Panelists

Shari Richardson, DSW, LCSW, Assistant Professor | Department of Social Work, Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Kevin Haynes, Legal Coordinator | North Star Youth Initiative

Christopher Rodgers, Program Director | MHANY CPC, MHC, Adult Home Initiative

Divine Pryor, Ph.D., CEO/President | People's Police Academy, Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Panel Discussion

Inequities in Health Care: Re-traumatization as an Implication of Health Care Service Delivery

Moderator: Elaine Reid, LCSW-R

Panelists

Seanna Kaye Denham-Wilks, Ph.D., Chief Experience Officer | NYC Health + Hospitals/ Kings County

Mathylde Frontus, Ph.D., LMSW, interim Executive Director | Coney Island Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation

Kelsey Louie, MSW, MBA, CEO | The Door and Broome Street Academy

Student Awards Presentation

Zoe Clark • Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick Academic Achievement Award

Casey Ortiz • Professor Elaine Reid Spirit Award

Award Presenters: Edward Hernandez, Ph.D., Chair | Social Work Department, Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Fabienne Snowden, Ph.D., Assistant Professor | Social Work Department, Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Closing Remarks

Allison Niles, LMSW, School Social Worker | PS 116 Mary Lindley Murray

SPEAKERS

Patricia Ramsey, President, Ph.D.



Dr. Patricia Ramsey was appointed the sixth president of Medgar Evers College by the City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees. Dr. Ramsey, who officially took office on May 1, 2021, is the first woman and the first scientist to serve in the position of President of the College.

As the thought leader for a \$20 million grant award, just six weeks after Dr. Ramsey arrived, two new programs, Cultivating Holistic Academic Mindsets to Promote Student Success (CHAMPSS) and the Brooklyn Recovery Corps (BRC) programs were created. Both programs provide funding to assist participants in paying for their education.

A biologist by training, Dr. Ramsey has a research interest in the biological activity of plants used in folklore, has collected 110 species of Agave in the Sonoran Desert, and traveled a 450-mile span of highway collecting *Sapium sebiferum* (popcorn tree) leaves in the southeastern United States. Dr. Ramsey earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology (Education) from Norfolk State University, a Master of Science in Botany from Howard University, a Master of Arts in Biology from Harvard University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Biology from Georgetown University.

**Edward Hernandez,
Ph.D.**



Dr. Edward Hernandez is an Associate Professor at Medgar Evers College and serves as Chair of the Social Work Department. He also teaches online classes in Social Work, Human Services, and Sociology at several universities.

Prior to Medgar Evers College, Dr. Hernandez served as Deputy Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Social Services from 2004 until 2012. His career includes over 30 years of government and not for profit agencies positions in largely administrative and management capacities. Dr. Hernandez received his MSW and PhD in Social Welfare from Stony Brook University.

**Fabienne Snowden,
Ph.D.**



Dr. Fabienne Snowden is an Assistant Professor with the Social Work Department at Medgar Evers College, CUNY. Dr. Snowden is a graduate of the doctoral program in Social Welfare at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Dr. Snowden's research interests include investigating the relationship between contextual factors and individual level experiences, and how it informs effective HIV/AIDS prevention in the U.S and Germany. Dr. Snowden's signature pedagogy focuses on operationalizing intersectionality in social work education.

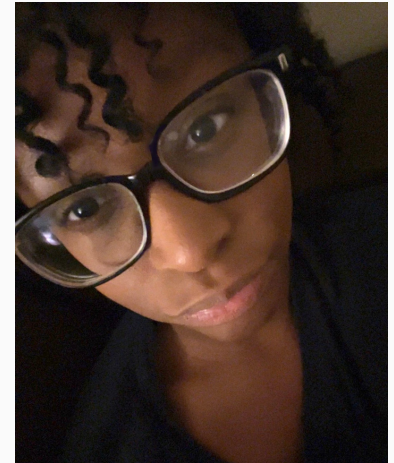
Arlys Tineo, LMSW



Arlys Tineo is a Native Spanish speaker and Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) with a background working with diverse populations and a strong advocate for language access and cultural humility. Arlys is currently employed as the Lead Clinician for an Unaccompanied Minor's program at JCCA in Westchester, NY. In her role, she supports and supervises clinicians with service delivery, documentation, and client-related issues in addition to providing direct therapeutic services to Unaccompanied Youth. Before working in child welfare, Arlys worked with various populations and areas such as immigrants, homelessness, college students, medical, psychiatry and victims of natural disaster.

Arlys received a Bachelors of Science in Social Work (BSSW) from Medgar Evers College in 2020 and a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from NYU Silver School of Social Work Advanced Standing Program in 2021. Arlys is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) with a concentration in Public Policy Analysis at John Jay College and will be completing an Advanced Certificate in Trauma and Disaster Mental Health from SUNY New Paltz in the summer of 2024.

Amaya Carter



Amaya is a 13 year old female who was born in Brooklyn, NY at Long Island College Hospital. Amaya is currently an 8th grader at Community Roots Charter School.

Amaya, enjoys reading, with her latest book being "Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome" by Dr. Joy DeGruy, self-reflecting, hanging with friends, Anime, sciences, and unique fashion. While Amaya may not have a long list of talents, what sets her apart is her ability to communicate effectively. Amaya's biggest attribute is her voice, using it to share stories and knowledge with others.

Amaya's goal is to attend college after High School, where she can utilize her voice and talents within areas of law, politics, and science. Amaya is young, motivated and destined to be a change agent.

Martha Sullivan, DSW



With a background that includes key positions in government, city and state agencies, and the voluntary sector, Dr. Sullivan has a wealth of experience in healthcare leadership (primary care, acute and long-term care), education, policy, planning and program development. She is dedicated to developing and increasing access to culturally competent, quality health and behavioral health services for underserved and minority populations, including older adults, women, people of color and people who are seriously mentally ill or homeless.

As Executive Director of Creedmoor Psychiatric Center, Dr. Sullivan oversees the largest state operated psychiatric

center in New York City and the second largest in New York State which includes inpatient, residential and an array of outpatient services.

Previously, as Health + Hospitals/ Gouverneur's Executive Director, Dr. Sullivan lead the largest Diagnostic and Treatment Center in New York and a large Skilled Nursing Facility. It was there that Dr. Sullivan previously developed the innovative and pioneering Center for Older Adults and Their Families and the Women's Comprehensive Mental Health Program at Gouverneur, where she later served as Director of Behavioral Health. She is the only social worker to have held such a position in H+H.

Dr. Sullivan has served as Deputy Commissioner of NYC DOHMH, overseeing chemical dependency, mental health promotion and community liaison. As Executive Director of the Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center (St. Barnabas Hospital), she developed specialty services, including the Men's Mental Health Service, and produced the documentary film Men of Color and Mental Health: Moving from Alienation to Hope.

Dr. Sullivan holds a master's degree from the Silberman School of Social Work of Hunter College at CUNY where she also has served as an adjunct professor. She earned a Doctor of Social Welfare degree from the CUNY Graduate School. She also holds a Master of Theology degree from St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoody, NY. Some community and professional activities include: former trustee, St. Charles Borromeo Church, where she developed the Lazarus Project, a ministry of consolation serving parish and community and where she leads the Anti-Violence Project for the Social Justice Committee. Dr. Sullivan is a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine where she also serves as vice chair of the Healthy Aging section. Dr. Sullivan chairs the Advisory Board of the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Center in Harlem. She is founder and CEO of the Citywide Behavioral Health Coalition for Black Elders, Inc.

As a past president of the NYC Chapter of NASW, Dr. Sullivan spearheaded the Social Work Equity Project including the published report: Worse Than You Think. The Dimensions of Poverty in NYC: What Social Workers See.

Eva M. Gordon, LCSW



Eva M. Gordon, LCSW, has been a social worker in the New York City area for over 19 years. Ms. Gordon is currently the Director of Life Guide, LCSW. P.C., providing mental health services in the New York City area. The goal is to promote healing from past and current pain through psychotherapy for individuals and groups. Many clients are treated for depression, anxiety, bereavement, family, and marital issues. Prior to this, she was a psychotherapist at the Center For Psychotherapy in Brooklyn, NY. The Center provides mental health services to the Black community within a cultural framework. She previously served as the Program Coordinator for the Community Partnership Program (CPP) of East New York,

a referral network of 40+ organizations strengthen children and families with services in the East New York area. The CPP's work focused on providing and training community workers for child welfare conferences, foster parent recruitment and support, workshops, health fairs and training events.

A native of Brooklyn, NY, Ms. Gordon is a graduate of the New York City public school system. After high school, Ms. Gordon continued her studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where she received her BA in Sociology in 2000. Ms. Gordon's work with families began in 2001 at Seamen's Society for Children and Families Brownsville Preventive Services Program, which also provided respite services. Ms. Gordon continued her work as a substance abuse prevention and intervention specialist in the SPARK program at John Adams High School. Ms. Gordon then completed her Masters in Social Work from Columbia University School of Social Work in 2007.

She was also the coordinator for the Young Adult Supportive Services program at Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI). The program provided supportive housing services for youth aging out of foster care. In addition to her professional experience, Ms. Gordon volunteers as Chairperson of Your Body Is a Temple (YBIT) Health Ministry at Siloam Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, NY. The health ministry provides information on health topics, especially providing HIV outreach events, health fairs, and workshops. In her spare time, Ms. Gordon spends time with her family and friends in Brooklyn, NY. She enjoys live music events and movies, as well as creative writing.

Shirley de Peña, Ph.D.



Dr. Shirley de Peña is a dedicated professional committed to fostering success and well-being, particularly among foster youth in the academic setting. Currently serving as the Director of the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) at the City University of New York (CUNY), she brings over 20 years of invaluable experience to her role.

In her capacity as the Director of FYCSI, Dr. de Peña spearheads a program designed to empower foster youth at CUNY, ensuring they not only navigate the challenges of college life but thrive academically. Her approach involves personalized support, both individually and in small group settings, with the goal of enhancing retention and graduation rates.

Prior to joining CUNY, Dr. de Peña's professional journey included a significant tenure at the Jewish Board. Over the course of 15 years, she transitioned from a social worker to an administrative supervisor in the Preventive Services Division, ultimately serving as the Internship Coordinator and Master Trainer in the Martha K. Selig Educational Institute. Her passion for holistic student development was evident as she managed JBFCS' Bicultural Institute, providing educational support for social work interns of color.

Dr. de Peña's commitment extended beyond her roles, as she actively participated in voluntary professional service within the Jewish Board and the broader community. She emerged as one of the Jewish Board's prominent leaders in advancing Anti-Racist Policy and Practice, providing consultation and training to the NYC Administration for Children Services (ACS) and other major social service agencies on matters of race and the Latino experience.

As an organizational consultant, Dr. de Peña imparts her expertise in areas such as social work licensure preparation, understanding the impact of race and culture on clinical and case work practice, and fostering positive race relations in the workplace. Her influence extends to academia, where she holds teaching posts as an adjunct professor at NYU Silver School of Social Work and Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. Dr. de Peña earned her social work degree at Stony Brook University and furthered her academic journey with a Doctoral Degree in Social Welfare at Yeshiva University. Her multifaceted experience, coupled with a genuine dedication to social welfare and education, underscores Dr. Shirley de Peña's impactful contributions to her field.

**Melissa Elliott,
LCSW-R, CPC, SIFI**



Melissa Elliott is the founder and CEO of AGAPE Family Therapy and Coaching, a group private practice serving New Yorkers in maternal mental health, family therapy, group counseling, and national and international coaching clients, provides consultation and training on corporate wellness, employee engagement, and leadership development to organizations, and provides clinical supervision to LMSW, LMHC, LMFT, LCAT, and LCSW in the state of New York.

Melissa is a Board Member of the Association for Nonprofit Specialists, and Adjunct Professor at NYU.

She is the former accomplished Not-for Profit Senior Director with 10+ years of success in education, workforce development, mental health, and child welfare. Creates and manages multiple high-quality, productive programs that meet agency policies and procedures, resulting in positive outcomes that achieve stakeholder goals. Melissa cultivates and fosters trusting relationships with staff, colleagues, community organizations, public/private educational institutions, K-12 schools, mental health and medical clinics, administrations, adults, families, and children. She is a dedicated and proactive change agent for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) professional recognized for leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills.

Kenald Bernard, LCSW



Kenald Bernard is a dedicated Licensed Clinical Social Worker offering comprehensive life coaching and counseling services. With academic honors, Kenald earned his bachelor's degree in Sociology and Anthropology from CUNY Queens College. His professional journey began with NYC Children Services, where he served as a Child Protective Specialist, gaining invaluable experience in preventive services, law enforcement collaboration, and the family court judiciary system.

In his postgraduate career, Kenald transitioned to a hospital-based Mental Health Clinic, assuming the role of a psychotherapist. His expertise extended to both inpatient and

outpatient substance use programs, showcasing a diverse skill set. Kenald's proficiency encompasses working with individuals navigating challenges such as low motivation, depression, anxiety, addiction, and milder forms of psychosis. He also specialized in working with adolescents and families, addressing issues like oppositional defiance, parent guidance, and providing individual, family, and couples counseling. Recognizing the importance of advanced education, Kenald pursued and obtained a master's degree in social Welfare from SUNY Stony Brook University. Following successful licensure, he joined the NYC Department of Health, focusing on nonviolent forensic populations grappling with various mental health illnesses.

Kenald's career trajectory led him back to NYV Children Services, where he embraced a new role as a Child Family Specialist. Here, he worked closely with children and families in crisis, facilitating child safety conferences.

Currently, Kenald serves as a school social worker in the Freeport school district, actively contributing to changing lives one student at a time. Lastly, I would love the acknowledgment of my children's Affirmation book "KJ He is a reflection of me." Which can be found on Amazon and Barnes & Nobles.

Stay connected with Kenald to engage in insightful panel discussions on mental health and much more.

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"CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE THINGS & THE THINGS YOU SEE WILL CHANGE"

**Durrell Washington,
Ph.D. candidate**



A Native New Yorker from the Bronx Durrell Malik Washington Sr. is an Abolitionist Social Worker and PhD Candidate at the University of Chicago School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. Durrell is an interdisciplinary scholar whose research draws from social work, sociological, criminological, developmental, and legal theories and perspectives. His research interest lies at the intersections between P.I.C. Abolition, Juvenile legal law and policy, Black families, and Health. Durrell is a former mental health clinician and policy analyst with years of experience supporting formerly incarcerated young people, adults and their families.

His current dissertation is a Narrative study that investigates how a period of juvenile incarceration shapes Black family life in the United States through the perspective of siblings of formerly incarcerated Black boys and girls. Durrell is a 2022 American Society of Criminology Ruth D Peterson Fellowship Award Recipient, Received his MSW from Columbia University in 2018 and BSW from CUNY York College in 2017.

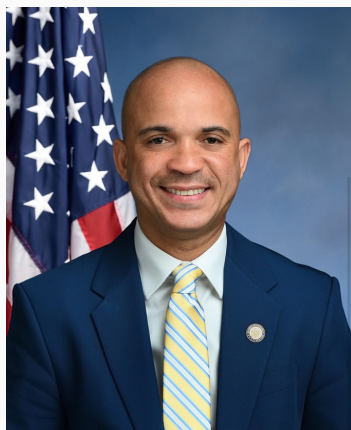
Latoya Delmadge, LCSW-R



Latoya A. Delmadge is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, who functions as the Director of the Social Work Behavioral Health Department at Kings County Hospital Center, leading over 80 staff in providing patient-centered care. Before her career at Kings County, Mrs. Delmadge developed and oversaw an Article 31 and 822-satellite community-based clinic in Brooklyn, treating children and adults with serious mental illness and co-morbid conditions. With more than fifteen years of clinical mental health experience, Latoya is well-versed in various evidence-based practices and trauma-informed care.

Latoya specializes in mindful-based trauma treatment and has obtained extensive training from Harvard University on trauma-based treatment and mindfulness practices. Mrs. Delmadge is a proud graduate of Touro University, where she received her master's degree in social work, and is currently a Doctoral candidate at Liberty University, in Lynchburg, Virginia. Mrs. Delmadge has spent her career, addressing gaps in treatment for vulnerable populations and providing education on mental health needs and services, through various speaking engagements throughout New York City. As a member of the SW Director's Council for New York City Health and Hospital, Latoya is a devout advocate for the social work profession, social justice, health equity, and behavioral health.

Manny De Los Santos, NYS Assemblymember



Manny De Los Santos is a dedicated public servant who has devoted his life to advocating and fighting for New Yorkers. He was raised in Northern Manhattan, attended public schools and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University at Albany (SUNY).

After graduating, Manny embarked on a 13-year career as a Social Worker and Community School Director in New York City public schools. During this time, he helped students overcome academic challenges, homelessness, and substance abuse by advocating for and securing vital resources for families and students that were in need.

Manny's dedication to his community did not stop there. He is actively involved in several community

organizations, including as a member of the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) and Community Board 12. He has prioritized voter engagement and education as tools to empower the lives of residents in Northern Manhattan. He has coordinated voter registration and census drives, facilitated tenant, housing, and immigration forums, as well as organized annual turkey giveaways, coat drives, toy drives, and backpack giveaways in conjunction with tenant associations and dozens of minority-owned small businesses.

As an Assembly Member, he has worked to provide record funding for public schools and was proud to see the passage of his legislation to reduce class sizes throughout the state. Manny believes that every voice in the community deserves to be heard. He and his constituent service team have worked with thousands of residents on issues impacting District 72. In addition to working with residents to resolve government related concerns, his office also takes a

proactive approach of working with constituents to tackle more long-term issues – including, spearheading networking events for young professionals, which aim to open doors for those that all too often don't have a seat at the table.

Manny is committed to ensuring that we have more funding for public schools, promoting public safety, creating more affordable housing options for working New Yorkers, and ending our reliance on fossil fuels to protect our natural environment and our health. These are issues that Manny has been passionate about for a long time, and he is determined to make a positive impact on them during his time in the Assembly. Manny's story is one of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. He is committed to continuing to work with the community to make the city a better place for everyone. He believes that by working together, we can make a real difference for our community and the people that call it home.

Gloria Seay, LMSW, CASAC-t



Gloria Seay is a Brooklyn native. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Clinical Psychology from the nation's premier black institution, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania. It was there that she joined one of the most prestigious organizations, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Upon graduation, Gloria began her career in child welfare within private nonprofit organizations as a Case Planner and Sociotherapist for Preventive and Foster Care Programs, respectively. Engaging in this work helped her discover her true passion for the helping profession. She went on to earn a master's degree through Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service with a concentration in Clinical Social Work. Gloria has earned additional certification from the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College-CUNY.

Gloria possesses 14 years of Child Welfare experience working in public and private sectors. During this time, she worked in various roles and made several advancements in her career. For the last 10 years, she has remained a civil servant committed to helping build a New York City that is safer, more just, and more equitable for children and families, working for the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). Gloria began her career at ACS as a Child Protective Specialist for the Protective Diagnostic Unit but quickly moved on to the ACS Child Advocacy Center as part of the Instant Response Work Group. Gloria spent the last 5 ½ years as a Child and Family Specialist, remaining committed to strengthening and stabilizing families in crisis by facilitating emergency conferences for the boroughs of Staten Island, Manhattan, and the Office of Special Investigation. While there, she participated in the Family Team Conference Advisory Board.

She currently assumes the role as the Clinical Manager of Social Work at the Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center. Her newer responsibilities include providing enduring solutions that lead to timely permanency, safe

stable placements, and quality trauma-informed care for children with complex needs.

Throughout her career, Gloria has provided compassionate and evidence-based interventions to individuals, families, and groups. She became adept at addressing diverse mental health challenges and fostering resilience in clients. This allowed her to also pursue a more therapeutic approach grounded in evidence-based practices and integrating psychodynamic principles. As a Psychotherapist for NYC's seasoned citizens, Gloria maintains a safe and empathetic space where her clients can explore their unique narratives, unravel challenges, and cultivate resilience. Gloria continues to support the field of Social Work and Social Work education as a Field Instructor and Mentor. She currently supports interns from Medgar Evers College and Hunter College. She is also an active member of the ACS Professional Development Program's Scholarship Selection Committee. In all her roles, Gloria maintains a commitment to the values and ethics of the social work profession. She understands the vital and multifaceted role the profession plays in society by contributing significantly to the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. She endeavors to remain an agent of change.

Shari Richardson, DSW



Shari B. Richardson, DSW, LCSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a Doctorate in Social Work from the University of Southern California (USC). She is an Assistant Professor in the Social Work Department at Medgar Evers College (CUNY). Dr. Richardson completed her Master's degree in Clinical Social Work at Fordham University and Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Human Services at City College (CUNY).

Dr. Richardson has more than 20 years of experience working with individuals and families involved in the child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, criminal justice, and homeless services fields. She began her career working with children and families in the foster care system in New York.

She went on to work in a specialized behavioral health foster care program, a residential program, and an in-home individual/family therapy program.

Dr. Richardson was also served in several administrative positions, including Director of Quality of Assurance, and Vice President of Foster Care Services. In 2016, she was hired at the College of Staten Island (CUNY) as an adjunct lecturer and field education liaison in the Master of Social Work program. She joined Medgar Evers College in 2019 as a substitute lecturer and was then promoted to Assistant Professor in 2021. Dr. Richardson was also the Field Education Coordinator and assisted the Field Education Director with field placements and other administrative responsibilities. In 2022, she began in private practice providing individual, couples, and family therapy and clinical consultation. She is a mental health normalizer that specializes in trauma, formerly incarcerated or individuals facing incarceration, family of origin and relationship issues,

stress management, anxiety, depression, grief and loss, and personal growth utilizing an eclectic variety of treatment approaches.

Dr. Richardson serves on several college committees including: the Academic Standards and Regulations, Social Work Conference Planning and Technology committees. She has redesigned several social work courses to be more inclusive of Open Education Resources (OER) thereby reducing overall textbook costs for students. She enjoys teaching a variety of social work courses and hopes that students leave her class feeling heard and valued. Dr. Richardson also strives to ensure students learn first and foremost to gain the competencies and skill sets they will need to be successful in their chosen field of social work practice and become social justice warriors.

Kevin Haynes, Legal Coordinator



Kevin Haynes is a paralegal and staunch advocate for prison and sentencing reform. He currently works at North Star Youth Initiative as a Legal Coordinator, working closely with the CEO, community stakeholders, and young people to reduce violence and provide assistance navigating the criminal justice system.

Mr. Haynes' advocacy work includes collaborating with The Holloway Project, led by former federal judge and current partner at Debevoise and Plimpton, LLC, John Gleeson. The Holloway Project advocates on behalf of prisoners, largely men of color, against unjust, mandatory stacked prison sentences, pro bono.

The project has shaved more than 1,100 years in prison time for more than 34 prisoners. Mr. Haynes has done presentations on prison and sentencing reform at Yale, Harvard, and New York Universities as well as the New York State Bar Association.

In addition, Mr. Haynes worked with the founders of Mercy Me to create legislation that would reform mandatory minimum sentences. He also collaborated with representatives from Destine Advocacy Project (DAPA) to write senators, congressional leaders, and judges to advocate for social change within the criminal justice and penal systems. Furthermore, Mr. Haynes has drafted motions and briefs and served as legal advisor on behalf of 30 people nationwide. Mr. Haynes also serves as a panelist on a number of podcasts that informs listeners

of injustices happening across the country and educates them on steps, they can take to become advocates for social change. Mr. Haynes also served as a volunteer at John Wesley Methodist Church Food Pantry with pastor Sheila Beckford.

Mr. Haynes has dedicated his life to helping and serving others in any capacity he can but has a true passion for reforming laws that disproportionately effect individuals and communities of color.

Christopher Rogers



Christopher Rogers is a platform facilitator in and around the mental health conversational space, an NYS Peer Specialist, an MHANYS CarePath Coach, an MHCP (Mental Health Community Partner) affiliate, a Program Director, and an Executive Board Member for Baltic Street AEH, Inc., as well as a New York City Peer Conference Board Member and facilitator for the Healing through Hip Hop paneling committee supported by OMH (The Office of Mental Health). For the last 15 years, Christopher Rogers has been working with collaborating, supporting, and moving people and communities forward with his ideas for a better way to live and do things.

From 25 years in fashion as a men's wear designer to 20 plus years touring the world as an entertainer in Hip Hop to becoming the COO of the community-based F.O.O.D. Foundation to becoming the Director of the Adult Home Initiative program for Baltic Street AEH, Inc. and facilitating the monthly men's support groups for Autismandwe.org, all while living with and journeying through my mental health concerns, battling ESRD (End Stage Renal Disease) on Dialysis and undergoing a kidney transplant mid pandemic to this forum and stage.

Allison Niles, LMSW



Allison Niles -LMSW is employed as a School social worker at a NYC Department of Education Public School. She is currently the second Vice President and Chairperson of the Education Committee of the Association of Black Social Workers Inc, NYC Chapter. Ms. Niles is an alumnus of the Medgar Evers College (BSSW-class of 2019) and the Adelphi University (MSW-class of 2020). Ms. Niles aspires to be continuously of service to and advocate for marginalized and underprivileged members of society.

Divine Pryor, Ph.D.



Dr. Divine Pryor is currently the Co-Founder, CEO & President of the People's Police Academy. The People's Police Academy (PPA) is a non-profit, community based and lead, training, education, research and direct service organization that is now being incubated in the Dubois-Bunche Center for Public Policy at Medgar Evers College (MEC) in the City University of New York. The Academy will draw on and combine institutional and community-based resources and expertise to offer specialized training and direct services to all community stakeholders throughout NYC's five boroughs and beyond. The training cohorts will be comprised of law enforcement,

local community and faith leaders, public health and safety personnel, city probation and corrections officers, youth and young adults, public school safety and school crossing guards, faith and civic leaders, long-term community residents, college faculty and researchers, students, local merchants and service providers in both the public and private sectors. Dr. Pryor was also the Executive Director of the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions, an independent, activist, human justice think tank and training center, also formerly at Medgar Evers College in the City University of New York (CUNY). Its staff was comprised of academic professionals with prior experience within the criminal punishment system. It is the first and only public policy center of its kind in the country. Dr. Pryor is a social scientist with extensive knowledge and expertise in the criminal justice, health and social service fields,

having spent over half his career administering HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, substance abuse and other social service non-profits. Dr. Pryor also provides on-going TA to Community Capacity Development, Osborne, Fortune and other non-profits who are working in the area(s) of criminal justice and public safety.

**Elaine Reid,
LCSW-R**



Elaine E. Reid is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a retired Assistant Professor at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York (MEC/CUNY). She holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Service from Hofstra University; a Paralegal Certificate from Adelphi University and a Masters in Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work. She holds a Certificate in Field Instruction (SIFI) from Hunter College School of Social Work.

She has over thirty years experience in the field of social work including program planning development and administration, psychotherapy, parent training, field instruction for graduate and undergraduate social work students,

community health education particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS and domestic violence, and has been involved with HIV Prevention campaigns since the early 1990's

On the international level, she has extensive professional related travels and undertaking throughout the Americas, the Caribbean and Africa. During these tours she has conducted HIV/AIDS prevention education designed to encourage behavior change. Her work has focused on the impact of circulatory migration on immigrant health, particularly as a contributing factor to the transmission of HIV/AIDS. She is the recipient of several awards for her community service.

**Seanna Kaye
Denham-Wilks,
Ph.D.**



Dr. Seanna-Kaye Denham Wilks is an accomplished visionary, clinical psychologist, and the Chief Experience Officer at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County, in Brooklyn, NY. She directs the hospital's patient experience and employee engagement activities based on transformational and person-centered approaches, and is nationally recognized for her work in this space. Her mission in this phase of her professional career, is to leverage healthcare strategies to advance equitable community wellness. Dr. Denham Wilks is an America's Essential Hospitals Fellow, and a Planetree Fellow in Person-Centered Care.

**Mathylde Frontus,
Ph.D.**



Dr. Mathylde Frontus is a Brooklyn native and currently serves as the interim Executive Director for the Coney Island Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation. She has had a distinguished social work career spanning over 25 years, during which time she's held various positions as a case manager, mental health clinician, medical social worker, non-profit executive director, community organizer and founder of multiple coalitions and organizations, principal owner of a consulting firm and most recently as a New York State Assemblywoman.

As a member of the New York State Assembly, Mathylde represented

the 46th District of southern Brooklyn from November 2018 to December 2022. She served on six committees including Aging, Children & Families and Mental Health and was honored to serve as the first chair of the Minority Mental Health Subcommittee in the New York State Assembly.

Dr. Frontus earned her BSW and MSW from the New York University Silver School of Social Work; her MA from the Clinical Psychology program at Teachers College, Columbia University; her Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School; and her PhD from the Columbia School of Social Work, with a concentration in Social Policy and Administration.

Dr. Frontus is proud to hold appointments as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work where she teaches Social Welfare Policy, and at the NYU Silver

School of Social Work where she teaches Political Social Work for Advocacy and Social Change, a course which she created in 2019 and has taught for the last five years.

Kelsey Louie, MSW



Gold Medal Winner for Organizational Excellence from the Non-Profit Coordinating Committee and New York Community Trust.

Additionally, Kelsey has received many personal accolades, including being honored by the National Association of Social Workers with the Mid-career Achievement Award (2017), Notable LGBTQIA+ Leaders, Crain's New York Business (2022, 2023); Pride Power 100 Honoree, City and State (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021); Judith Peabody Humanitarian Award from GMHC (2022); Above and Beyond: Gen X, City and State (2023)—and many more.

Kelsey has appeared in the media on NY1, ABC News, WCBS Radio, and 1010 WINS Radio. He has been featured in articles for Crain's New York, POZ magazine, and Plus magazine, and has written op-eds for the New York Daily News, The Advocate, and other New York City and national publications.

Kelsey also served as the COO and Chief Program Officer of Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc. from 2007 to 2014. Before that, Kelsey spent his early career in youth services, managing a foster care prevention program at the NY Foundling, running a community-based substance use prevention program for adolescents at Veritas Therapeutic Community, and practicing as a children's therapist at the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services.

Kelsey holds an MBA from Columbia University and an MSW from NYU, where he is presently an adjunct assistant professor.

A native New Yorker and the proud son of immigrant parents, Kelsey Louie serves as the Chief Executive Officer for The Door and Broome Street Academy (BSA) Charter High School. He oversees the organizations' combined \$40 million budget, as well as the vision for strategy, operations, fundraising, policy, and programmatic initiatives. Prior to his tenure at The Door and BSA, Kelsey served as CEO of GMHC, the world's first HIV and AIDS service organization, from 2014 to 2021. His leadership approach combines a rigorous data-driven management style, sophisticated evaluation processes, and commitment to staff development.

Under Kelsey's leadership, his organizations have garnered numerous awards, such as the

Awardees

Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick Academic Achievement Award

Zoe Naomii Clarke, BSSW Student



Zoe Naomii Clarke, was born and raised in Flatbush Brooklyn, New York. She is a senior at Medgar Evers College with a major in Social Work, Child Welfare.

Over the past five years, she has had the privilege of serving the communities of East New York and Brownsville, as a parent coordinator and Food Pantry Manager. Within these positions, she provided necessary resources to families. She also ran a food pantry to combat Food Insecurity. Zoe's journey has fueled her passion to embark on a professional career in social work. Zoe is driven by the desire to be a catalyst for positive change, both for individual clients and the broader communities they belong to.

The Professor Elaine Reid Spirit Award

Casey Ortiz, BSSW Student



Casey Ortiz is a senior at Medgar Evers College studying Social Work with a focus on child welfare. As a first-generation Afro-Latina American, she is the first in her family to earn a bachelor's degree. Casey Ortiz is a passionate and dedicated social work student who has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to improving the lives of others.

With a strong sense of empathy and a tireless work ethic, she has made a tangible impact in the community through their exceptional volunteer efforts and academic achievements. Throughout her educational journey, Casey Ortiz has excelled academically, consistently earning top grades, and receiving recognition for her outstanding performance. Casey's dedication to social work is evident in her active involvement in various community outreach programs, like Medgar Evers College Transition Academy, and in her field practicum at Allen Women's Resource Center where she has provided support and care to vulnerable populations.

Casey Ortiz has demonstrated a natural ability to connect with people from diverse backgrounds, showing empathy and understanding in every interaction. She possesses exceptional communication skills, enabling them to build strong relationships with clients and colleagues alike.

**City University of New York
Medgar Evers College
2024 17th Annual Social Work Conference Pledge**

**“The Stand”
by Dr. Kimberly Moore**

Today, we celebrate the profession of social work!

Our commitment to social justice, service, and love.

Today, we celebrate the profession of social work!

*Strengthening and uplifting the voices of the silenced,
with our heads and hearts seeking guidance from above!*

Today, we celebrate the profession of social work!

*Through the active practice of health promotion and
advocacy.
Calling for equity and equality! Demanding fairness and
access for services of quality.*

Today, we celebrate the profession of social work!

*As we readjust our lens, our clarity and discernment help our
world’s heavy heart to mend.*

Today, we celebrate the profession of social work!

*Using ourselves as vessels for change.
Through every specialty, discipline, and methodology
we deserve an increased wage.*

Today, we celebrate the profession of social work!

*You’ll find us everywhere.
We are sought out for information, empathy, comfort and care.*

Today, we celebrate the profession of social work!

We’re empowered now!

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- JENEA ROBERTS** LMSW
- CASEY ORTIZ** BSSW Student
- MARGARET WANG** MSW Student

RESOURCE TABLES

Bronx Psychiatric Center



New York City Children's Center



Agape Family Therapy and Coaching



HWB Healing Project Mobile Clinic



Latino Social Work Coalition





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