

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION
Committee on Law and Justice
Committee on Reducing Racial Inequalities in the Criminal Justice System

Workshop on Addressing the Drivers of Criminal Justice Involvement to Advance Racial Equity
SPEAKER BIOSKETCHES



Aisha Canfield is a Director at Ceres Policy Research. Since earning a Master of Public Policy from Mills College, she's conducted research on the disproportionate detention of LGBTQ/GNCT youth of color and their pathways into the justice system. She provides training and technical assistance to juvenile probation departments to improve data collection processes that allow agencies to give youth an opportunity to disclose their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) in order to make holistic, data-driven decisions that support young people at the intersections of their multiple identities. In addition to supporting detained youth, she serves as an evaluation partner to community-based organizations who are serving as healing and transformative alternatives to traditional justice system responses for youth of color. Aisha seeks to reclaim research as an accessible advocacy tool for youth, their families, communities and the practitioners working towards liberation. Aisha is reminded of the importance of thriving and liberated communities through her own journey of parenting her empathic and unashamedly confident three-year-old daughter.



Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD, a child psychologist by training, is a Presidential Professor who directs the Indian Country Child Trauma Center within the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Since 1994 she has directed Project Making Medicine, a clinical training program to training mental health providers in the treatment of child maltreatment using culturally based teachings. In 2020 she was awarded the National Suicide Prevention Resource Center, providing training and technical assistance throughout the country on suicide prevention efforts. With the establishment of the Indian Country Child Trauma Center in 2004, she was instrumental in the cultural adaptations of evidenced-based child treatment protocols. Under her guidance, four Evidenced Based Treatments were enhanced for American Indian and Alaska Native families in Indian Country, titled the Honoring Children Series. One of the four is Honoring Children – Mending the Circle, a cultural enhancement of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy, for use with American Indian and Alaska Native children and their families. She currently serves on the federal Commission on Native Children, whose mission is to make recommendations to improve conditions affecting American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children and their families. Dr. BigFoot has over 30 years of experience and is knowledgeable about the concerns of implementation and adaptation of evidenced based practices being introduced into Indian Country. Dr. BigFoot is a member of the national TF-CBT Trainer Network. Dr. BigFoot is an enrolled member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma with affiliation to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana where her children are enrolled members.



Layel Camargo is an indigenous descendant of the Yaqui and Mayo tribes of the Sonoran Desert and is an advocate for the better health of the planet and its people. Layel is a transgender and gender non-conforming person. They graduated from UC Santa Cruz with dual degrees in Feminist Studies and Legal Studies. Layel has been involved with performance art in both theater and video since 2008, and has collaborated in video production. Their artistic work was through their participation in the artist-in-residency

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'Las Hociconas Lab' & Soundwave SF 'biennial'. Layel is an organizer with the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective and is also the founder of Woke n Wasteless an online platform on waste reduction and people of color issues.

They were a cultural strategist to Movement Generation and Impact Producer for "The North Pole Show" season two. At The Center for Cultural Power they bring their passion for the environment, zero waste and 'veganismo para el planeta' to their impact on climate justice & work with artists as well as with frontline communities. Layel is one of the founders of Shelterwood a Black, Indigenous, and lgbtq led forest community and educational center healing our ecosystems through active stewardship. Shelterwood was founded on the fact that ecosystem restoration can only be achieved by reconnecting people to the land. They are also a board member with the Bay Area Community Land Trust.

Layel is a builder & a novice carpenter by way of taking classes in the Carpentry department at Laney Community College and has worked on building tiny homes for homeless people in the bay area, CA. Layel is also a big advocate of spreading the Just Transition Framework in the arts and an advocate of both low waste/low impact lifestyles. Most recently, Layel was name don the Grist 2020 Fixers List.



Kim Johnson is a policy analyst at the National Low Income Housing Coalition, where she handles the Coalition's policy portfolios related to appropriations, reentry housing, evictions, and housing protections for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Before joining NLIHC in July 2019, Kim worked with Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future, the Senate Minority Health Committee, and held a fellowship with the National Network to End Domestic Violence while pursuing her master's degree in public policy from George Washington University.



Micere Keels is an Associate Professor in the Department of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on understanding how sociodemographic characteristics (race, ethnicity, and poverty, in particular) structure the supports and challenges that children and youth experience. She is particularly invested in developing systems-change interventions. She is the principal investigator of a K-12 project and a postsecondary project, both of which aim to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of students from historically marginalized communities. She is the founding director of the Trauma Responsive Educational

Practices Project, which is a research-translation and research-practice-partnership that aims to connect the research on the science of trauma with the realities of school and classroom management. The TREP Project works to develop the individual and organizational capacity of educators and schools serving children growing up in neighborhoods that have high levels of toxic stress, such as violent crime, concentrated poverty, concentrated foster care involvement, and housing instability. Her longitudinal study of a cohort of over 500 Black and Latinx students who entered college in 2013 aims to advance our understanding of postsecondary persistence.

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Serena Liguori serves as executive director of New Hour for Women and Children—Long Island, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting women and children impacted by incarceration. New Hour provides direct-service programming in the Suffolk County jails and reentry support to women across the state returning to Long Island. Prior to leading New Hour, she was the executive director of Herstory Writers Workshop, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing marginalized voices into the public arena. Serena served as associate director of policy at the Correctional Association of New York’s Women in Prison Project, where she spearheaded legislative initiatives and policy advocacy addressing prison reform. She was the key organizer of a successful effort to create the Adoption and

Safe Families Act Expanded Discretion Law, which works to secure parental rights for incarcerated parents as well as the Anti-Shackling Law, which prohibits the shackling of incarcerated mothers during labor. Serena is a survivor of isolated confinement, received her associate’s degree in the College Bound Program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and her bachelor’s degree from Adelphi University. Serena co-leads the Justice for Women COVID-19 Task Force along with WCJA, serves on the Suffolk County Police Reform and Reinvention Task Force and co-chairs the NYS Governor Cuomo’s NYS Domestic Violence Long Island Regional Council. She is a recipient of the 2018 Citizens Against Recidivism award. She enjoys preparing her family’s favorite traditional Puerto Rican meals.



Henrika McCoy is an Associate Professor and the Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services at Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois Chicago. She received her Ph.D. from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, her Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania, and her Master of Jurisprudence from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Dr. McCoy’s research has predominately focused on strengthening the screening of mental health needs for justice system involved youth and examining the intersection of mental health and

juvenile delinquency, particularly for African American males. She served as the principal investigator of SURVIVE, a \$1.5 million nationwide study funded by the National Institute of Justice which focused on better identifying and understanding the violent victimization experiences of young Black males ages 18 to 24. Her research is influenced by her experience as a clinician working with children, youth, and their families, who were experiencing a myriad of challenges including struggling with mental health concerns while negotiating multiple systems such as education, child welfare, and juvenile justice. She has additionally received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities. Currently she serves as a Director-at-Large for the Society for Social Work and Research, as an Executive Counselor for the Division on People of Color and Crime for the American Society and Criminology, and on the Editorial Board for Child and Adolescent Social Work.



John MacDonald is a Professor of Criminology and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminology, and past recipient of the David N. Kershaw Prize from the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management for contributions to public policy. His recent research on racial disparities in criminal justice and the effect of changing places on crime appears in American Journal of Public Health, Annual Review of Criminology, Criminology & Public Policy, and Journal of Experimental Criminology. He received his Ph.D. in

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criminology from the University of Maryland.



Page May is a Black, queer woman originally from rural Vermont. She has lived in Chicago since 2010 working as an educator, gardener, and community organizer. She is the co-founder of several abolitionist community organizations and projects, including Assata's Daughters and The Lit Review podcast. Her work focuses on developing young Black people's power to end violence, dismantling the prison industrial complex, and abolishing anti-blackness in all its forms.



Desiree (Des) Mims is a mother, Community Activist & Communications Coordinator with Black Organizing Project- who has dedicated herself to the work of abolishing school police to disrupt the school to prison pipeline and provide students and community with transformative justice.



Mike Mueller-Smith is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Michigan and Faculty Associate at the Population Studies Center. His research focuses on measuring the scope and prevalence of the criminal justice system in the U.S. as well as its broadly defined impact on the population. He is the Director of the Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS), a new data infrastructure project joint with the U.S. Census Bureau that seeks to collect and link extensive amounts of criminal justice microdata with social and economic data held at the Census Bureau. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University in

2015, and completed a NICHD Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Michigan's Population Studies Center between 2015-2017.



Theshia Naidoo is Managing Director, Department of Legal Affairs, with the Drug Policy Alliance and an expert and strategist in the area of criminal justice reform as it relates to drug policy. Naidoo has pushed for the creation and adoption of drug policy reforms, including playing a pivotal role in the advancement of policies and practices to reduce the role of the criminal legal system and promote a health approach to drug use. Naidoo crafts criminal justice reform legislation and policies across the country and supports campaigns related to eliminating or reducing criminal penalties for drug offenses, protecting immigrants from deportation based on drug offenses, and minimizing

the collateral consequences of criminal convictions. Naidoo presents regularly on drug policy reform issues across the country and internationally, including presenting at an Obama White House convening and at the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. She has testified before state legislatures and other government bodies on criminal justice reform and drug policy and often serves as a guest speaker at law schools, universities and other institutions. Naidoo also serves as a member of the San Francisco Sentencing Commission. Naidoo received her B.A. in political science from the University of California Berkeley and she received her J.D. from the UCLA School of Law. Prior to joining DPA, she worked at a

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law firm for representing clients in civil litigation matters. She left private practice to join the struggle to make drug laws and policies more just, more compassionate, and more effective.



Brendan O'Flaherty is a professor of economics at Columbia University. His research mainly concerns homelessness, race, crime, and urban economics generally. He has also been an aide to the mayor of Newark, a consultant for the Newark Police Department on the scheduling of duty tours, and acting finance director of the City of Newark.



Anthony A. Peguero is a Professor of Sociology and Criminology in the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics and School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University and the Director of the *Laboratory for the Study of Youth Inequality and Justice*. His research interests involve youth violence, socialization and marginalization, schools, and the adaptation of the children immigrants. Dr. Peguero is also a member of *Latina/o/x Criminology* and *Racial Democracy, Crime, and Justice Network* and which hold the goals of advancing research on the intersection of race, crime, equity, and justice.



Jennifer Rodriguez, J.D., has served since 2012 as the Executive Director of the Youth Law Center (YLC), a national legal advocacy organization focused on transforming foster care and juvenile justice systems so youth can thrive. Jennifer spent many years of her childhood in foster care and juvenile justice facilities, and has spent all of her adult life advocating to ensure justice, compassion and opportunity for system involved youth. Jennifer's advocacy has resulted in significant national policy, practice and culture changes around the fundamental needs of youth and formally including system involved youth as part of all policy processes. Jennifer's leadership at YLC has a special focus on ensuring youth in both child welfare and juvenile justice receive the parenting necessary to heal and thrive and live in conditions that meet their developmental and emotional needs. Before joining the Youth Law Center as an attorney in 2010, Jennifer served for eight years at the California Youth Connection, a nationally-recognized foster youth advocacy organization, leading efforts resulting in major legislative and policy accomplishments for California foster and probation youth, including establishing educational rights, higher education funding, increased funding for transition services and housing, and promotion of normalcy and permanence. Jennifer received her G.E.D. from San Jose Job Corps, her B.A. from UC Davis, and her J.D. from UC Davis Law School and is mother to two beautiful children who teach her daily about the power of love, high expectations and opportunities.



Patrick Sharkey is Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at the Princeton School of Public & International Affairs. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology and Social Policy from Harvard. Sharkey was formerly Chair of Sociology at New York University, served as Scientific Director at Crime Lab, New York, and is the founder of AmericanViolence.org

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Ebony Underwood, Founder & CEO of WE GOT US NOW - the first of its' kind, national nonprofit (501c3) advocacy organization built by, led by and about children and young adults with incarcerated parents. As a social entrepreneur, content creator and Soros Justice fellow, Ebony's interest in this advocacy work is personal and pivotal. As a directly impacted daughter, Ebony was traumatized and emotionally devastated by her father's incarceration, silently suffering for years. In 2014, Ebony began to speak publicly and share her story through film, television and social media advocacy. She directed and produced the digital campaigns and documentary shorts,

Hope for Father's Day, and #FreeBillUnderwood about her family's ordeal. Since 2016, she has spearheaded and produced 3 iterations of the Google- initiated digital campaign, #LoveLetters, to demonstrate the unbreakable bond between a child & their incarcerated parent on Mothers & Fathers Day. She co-authored the chapter, About Us, For Us, With Us: Collaboration as a Key to Progress in Research, Practice & Policy in the 2nd Edition Handbook on Children with Committee on Law and Justice Committee on Reducing Racial Inequalities in the Criminal Justice System Speaker Data Form Workshop #2 – March 2021 Incarcerated Parents: Research, Policy, and Practice and has published op-ed articles in Mic, Huffington Post, Vibe, and The Appeal. Speaking nationally at criminal justice reform summits, conferences and universities, including Yale Law School, Columbia Law School, NYU Law School, American Law School, SXSW, John Jay School of Criminal Justice, Sing Sing State Prison & Google, Underwood is a leading voice for the millions of children and young adults impacted by parental incarceration and has been invited to the White House several times on their behalf. In 2018, she joined the Board of Directors of the Sentencing Project In 2021, she was awarded the Arizona State University Champion of Child Well-Being.



Emily Wang is a Professor in the Yale School of Medicine and Public Health and directs the new SEICHE Center for Health and Justice. The SEICHE Center is a collaboration between the Yale School of Medicine and Yale Law School working to stimulate community transformation by identifying the legal, policy, and practice levers that can improve the health of individuals and communities impacted by mass incarceration. She leads the Health Justice Lab research program, which receives National Institutes of Health funding to investigate how incarceration influences chronic health conditions, including cardiovascular disease, cancer, and opioid use disorder, and uses a participatory

approach to study interventions which mitigate the impacts of incarceration. As an internist, she has cared for thousands of individuals with a history of incarceration and is co-founder of the Transitions Clinic Network, a consortium of 45 community health centers nationwide dedicated to caring for individuals recently released from correctional facilities by employing community health workers with histories of incarceration. Dr. Wang co-chaired the National Academy of Sciences consensus report on Decarcerating Correctional Facilities During COVID-19, the Steering Committee on Improving Collection of Indicators of Criminal Justice System Involvement in Population Health Data Programs, and workshops on Health and Incarceration and Means of Violence. Her work been published in the Lancet, JAMA, American Journal of Public Health, and Health Affairs, and showcased in national outlets such as the New York Times, NPR, and CNN. Dr. Wang has an AB from Harvard University, an MD from Duke University, and a MAS from the University of California, San Francisco.

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Daniel Webster, ScD, MPH is the inaugural Bloomberg Professor of American Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where he directs the Center for Gun Violence Prevention and Policy and serves as co-lead of the Violence Prevention Workgroup of the Bloomberg American Health Initiative. Dr. Webster is one of the nation's leading experts on the prevention of gun violence and has published widely on gun policy, violence prevention, youth violence, intimate partner violence, suicide, and substance abuse. He is the lead editor and a contributor to *Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013). Dr. Webster's research has informed policies to reduce gun violence at the local, state, and federal level. He previously led Baltimore's Homicide Review Commission and the Johns Hopkins-Baltimore Collaborative for Violence Reduction. His awards include the American Public Health Association's David Rall Award for science-based advocacy (2015), Baltimore City's Health Equity Leadership Award (2016), Pioneer Award from the Injury Free Coalition for Kids (2017), and Johns Hopkins University Distinguished Alumni Award (2017).