

## **The Hauser Policy Impact Fund Webinar Series, Winter 2023**

### **Webinar 1: Community-based Approaches to Building Safety**

#### **Panelist Bios**

**Eddie Bocanegra** recently joined the Department of Justice as a Senior Advisor for Community Violence Intervention in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs. He provides counsel and coordinates outreach on OJP's Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative, a centerpiece of the Biden Administration's public safety and violence reduction strategy.

Prior to joining the DOJ, he held many positions within the city of Chicago. He served on Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Commission for a Safer Chicago, and co-chaired Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Public Safety and Accountability Commission for a Safer Chicago. He was a committee member of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Leadership Council and a board member of Illinois' Juvenile Justice Initiative and The Public Welfare Foundation. He also served as a trustee for the Council of Criminal Justice.

Mr. Bocanegra was senior director of READI Chicago, where he oversaw the management and implementation of the evidence-based and trauma-informed program to reduce gun violence and promote safety and opportunity in the city. As executive director for the YMCA of Chicago's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention program, he was responsible for programs that focused on trauma-informed approaches, such as Urban Warriors and Bridging the Divide.

He has been the congregational organizer for Community Renewal Society, where he led FORCE (Fighting to Overcome Records and Create Equality), a coalition that advocates for increased opportunities for the formerly incarcerated and has worked as a violence interrupter for Chicago's CeaseFire. His work was featured in the award-winning documentary "The Interrupters," and has been highlighted on CBS, NPR, and other local and national media outlets.

Mr. Bocanegra holds master's and bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Chicago and Northeastern Illinois University, respectively. He has spoken at the United Nations, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and various academic institutions including Harvard, Yale and Columbia universities.

**Fredrick L. Echols**, the Chief Executive Officer for Cure Violence Global, is an accomplished physician and public health professional. He has experience in the public and private health sectors. Prior to starting his tenure with Cure Violence Global, he served as the Director of Health and Health Commissioner for the City of St. Louis. In these roles, Dr. Echols oversaw all public health regulations and departmental operations and led the City of St. Louis' COVID-19 pandemic response. Prior to serving as the director, Dr. Echols served as director of Communicable Disease, Emergency Preparedness, Vector and Veterinary Programs for the St. Louis County Department of Public Health, where he was responsible for overseeing daily operations, staff development and training, establishment of public-private partnerships, strategic planning, fiscal management of a multi-million-dollar budget and program development and implementation.

Prior to starting his position with St. Louis County, Dr. Echols served as Chief of Communicable Diseases for the Illinois Department of Public Health and as a physician in the U.S. Navy, where he managed a staff of medical and ancillary personnel. Furthermore, Dr. Echols has served as the principal investigator for local and federally funded public health research initiatives and provides guidance to national and international health workgroups.

**Nikki Jones** is Professor and H. Michael and Jeanne Williams Department Chair of African American Studies department at UC-Berkeley. Jones is the author of *Between Good and Ghetto: African American Girls and Inner-City Violence* (2010) and *The Chosen Ones: Black Men and the Politics of Redemption* (June 2018), which received the Michael J. Hindelang Outstanding Book Award from the American Society of Criminology in 2020. Jones is at work on a new book, *BRUTAL AND ROUTINE*, which draws on 20 years of research to crystalize a new and necessary understanding of the violence of policing, with a reasoned argument for the limits of reform and the potential of abolition, to be published by W.W. Norton Press. Professor Jones has shared her expertise with numerous print, radio, and television news media outlets, including NPR, BBC World Newshour, Minnesota Public Radio, Time Magazine, The Guardian, and CNN's "The Lead with Jake Tapper," among others. Currently, she co-leads, with James Burch, Anti Police-Terror Project Policy Director and inaugural member of the City of Oakland's "Reimagining Public Safety Task Force," Research for Reimagining Community Safety, a research-practice partnership that works to provide research-based recommendations to organizers who are on the frontlines of building community-led visions of safety, well-being, and justice in the Bay Area. Jones leads efforts at UC-Berkeley to generate recommendations on alternative responses to community safety and programs that address the root causes of violence in the Bay Area and across the country. This work has received funding from the Spencer Foundation, the William T. Grant Foundation and UC-Berkeley's Abolition Democracy Initiative.

**Robert J. Sampson** is the Woodford L. and Ann A. Flowers University Professor at Harvard University and Affiliated Research Professor at the American Bar Foundation. Previously he taught at the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois before that. Dr. Sampson is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Society of Criminology, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Political and Social Science. He served as president of the American Society of Criminology and received the Stockholm Prize in Criminology. Dr. Sampson was also elected as Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy and Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. Dr. Sampson's research and teaching cover a variety of areas including crime, disorder, the life course, neighborhood effects, civic engagement, inequality, and the social structure of the city. He is the author of three award-winning books and numerous articles. His last book, published by the University of Chicago Press, is *Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect*. This work is based on research from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN), for which Sampson served as Scientific Director. He received his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Albany.