

THE DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE
&
**THE NEW YORK
ACADEMY OF MEDICINE**

PRESENT

**NEW DIRECTIONS FOR NEW YORK:
A PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
APPROACH TO DRUG POLICY**

Thursday, January 22, 2009
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Friday, January 23, 2009
8:30 am – 5:00 pm

The New York Academy of Medicine
1216 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10029

DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE

Reason. Compassion. Justice.



**The New York
Academy of Medicine**

At the heart of urban health since 1847

Conference Program

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Evening Event [Hosack Hall]

Policy for the 21st Century: New Directions for New York 7:00 – 9:00pm

Friday, January 23, 2009

Registration / Coffee 8:30 – 9:15am

Welcoming Remarks [Hosack Hall] 9:15 – 9:30am

Jo Ivey Boufford, MD, President, The New York Academy of Medicine

Opening Plenary [Hosack Hall]

Where We Are Now: Drug Policy on the International,

Federal, State, and City Levels 9:30 – 11:00am

Morning Concurrent Sessions 11:15 – 12:45pm

1. Prevention Pillar – In More Places Than You Think [Rm. 440, 4th Floor]

2. Harm Reduction Pillar – Coordinating Strategies [Rm. 20, 2nd Floor]

Lunch [provided, second floor] 12:45 – 1:45pm

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 1:45 – 3:15pm

1. Treatment Pillar – Taking Provision and Access Seriously [Rm. 20, 2nd Floor]

2. Public Safety Pillar – Striking the Right Balance [Rm. 440, 4th Floor]

Closing Plenary [Hosack Hall]

Setting the Course for New York: Today's Stance,

Tomorrow's Policy 3:30 – 5:00pm

Closing Remarks [Hosack Hall] 5:00 – 5:15pm

Ruth Finkelstein, ScD, Vice President for Health Policy, The New York Academy of Medicine
gabriel sayegh, Director, State Organizing and Policy Project, Drug Policy Alliance

New Directions for New York: A Public Health & Safety Approach to Drug Policy

"Anybody who sees the devastating impact of the drug trade in the inner cities, or the methamphetamine trade in rural communities, knows that this is a huge problem. I believe in shifting the paradigm, shifting the model, so that we focus more on a public-health approach."

– President Barack Obama, July 2008

"Few public safety initiatives have failed as badly and for so long as the Rockefeller Drug Laws. ... We enacted modest reforms ... in 2004. Yet these reforms still did not go far enough to expand the availability of drug treatment programs, allow judges to order low-level offenders into mandatory treatment, and assure that prisons are used for the most serious drug offenders. ... Together, we should move forward to reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws – and institute a smart, safe and effective approach that keeps drugs off our streets."

– Governor David Paterson, State of the State Address, January 2009

For the past 35 years, New York's drug policies have been shaped by a criminal justice approach, most notably the Rockefeller Drug Laws. These policies come with a significant cost and have relatively modest effect in stopping substance misuse or reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with it. Meanwhile, New York City and State have emerged as national leaders in the fields of drug treatment and harm reduction—interventions that are often more effective and much cheaper than incarceration at reducing the death, disease, crime and suffering associated with drug use and addiction.

Many cities and countries in Europe, North America, and Asia have advanced coordinated health- and safety-based approaches to drug policies, notably the Four Pillars model (prevention, treatment, public safety and harm reduction) in Switzerland and in Vancouver and Toronto, Canada. New York, by contrast, possesses many fine prevention, treatment and related health programs, but drug policies in the state remain compartmentalized and disconnected. One key factor blocking coordination is that all service providers, policymakers, public safety personnel, and community advocates do not have a shared understanding of substance misuse and dependence as a public health problem.

The New York Academy of Medicine and the Drug Policy Alliance – organizations with decades of work clarifying issues of the predictors and community impact of drug use and misuse – invite policymakers, community members, and advocates to join a public discussion that will set the stage for understanding a public health approach to drug policy for New York.

Thursday, January 22, 2009

7:00 – 9:00pm

Hosack Hall

Drug Policy for the 21st Century: New Directions for New York

Welcome (7:00 – 7:10)

- Jo Ivey Boufford, MD, President, The New York Academy of Medicine

Why Are We Here? A Public Health Approach (7:10 – 7:15)

- gabriel sayegh, Director, State Organizing and Policy Project, Drug Policy Alliance

Remarks from the Assembly (7:15 – 7:20)

- Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the NYS Assembly
Hon. Joseph Lentol, Chair, NYS Assembly Committee on Codes
Hon. Jeffrion Aubry, Chair, NYS Assembly Committee on Corrections
Hon. Keith Wright, Chair, NYS Assembly Social Services Committee

Remarks from the Senate (7:20 – 7:25)

- Hon. Malcolm Smith, Senate Majority Leader

Remarks from the Governor's Office (7:25 – 7:30)

- Joseph Baker, JD, NYS Deputy Secretary to the Governor for Health and Human Services

Remarks from the New York City Council (7:30 – 7:35)

- Hon. Leroy Comrie, NYC Council, Majority Whip
Melissa Mark-Viverito, NYC Council
Bill de Blasio, NYC Council
Inez Dickens, NYC Council
Erik Martin Dilan, NYC Council
Letitia James, NYC Council
G. Oliver Koppell, NYC Council
Thomas White, Jr., NYC Council

Remarks from the New York City Department of Corrections (7:35 – 7:40)

- Martin Horn, Commissioner, NYC Department of Corrections

Roundtable Discussion (7:40 – 8:45)

Moderated by Ruth Finkelstein, ScD, Vice President for Health Policy, The New York Academy of Medicine

- Donald MacPherson, Drug Policy Coordinator, City of Vancouver, British Columbia
- Pilar Maschi, Membership and Leadership Development Director, Critical Resistance
- Ethan Nadelmann, PhD, JD, Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance
- Cheri O'Donoghue, Steering Committee Member, Families Rally for Emancipation and Empowerment
- Russell Simmons, Chairman, Rush Community Affairs
- Monica Sweeney, MD, MPH, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Anne Swern, JD, First Assistant District Attorney, Kings County
- David Vlahov, PhD, RN, Senior Vice President for Research, The New York Academy of Medicine

Closing: Goals for the Conference & Beyond (8:45 – 9:00)

- gabriel sayegh, Director, State Organizing and Policy Project, Drug Policy Alliance

Friday, January 23, 2009

Opening Plenary (9:30 – 11:00am)

[Hosack Hall]

Where We Are Now: Drug Policy on the International, Federal, State, and City Levels

What's happening with drug policy today on the city, state and federal levels? What are our successes to build upon and the remaining obstacles to creating more effective public health-oriented drug policies? Panelists will discuss the challenges to creating a public health approach to drug policy when many neighborhoods are faced with high concentrations of co-morbidities, fragile neighborhood infrastructure, and continued emphasis on public safety interventions. Each sector will assess its current position and think about strategies for change.

Moderator

- David Vlahov, PhD, RN, Senior Vice President for Research, The New York Academy of Medicine

Panelists

- Hon. Jeffrion Aubry, Chair, NYS Assembly Committee on Corrections
 - Hon. Velmanette Montgomery, Chair, NYS Senate Committee on Children and Families
 - Alan Leshner, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science
 - Daliah Heller, MPH, Assistant Commissioner, New York City DOHMH
 - Eric Cadora, Director, Justice Mapping Center
 - Donald MacPherson, Drug Policy Coordinator, City of Vancouver
 - Ramon Velasquez, Member, New York City AIDS Housing Network
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Morning Concurrent Sessions (11:15 – 12:45pm)

1. Prevention Pillar – In More Places Than You Think

[Rm. 440]

Effective community-based prevention requires more than simple information or fear tactics. What happens when we take a fresh, evidence-based approach to preventing drug misuse? Panelists will approach this question from multiple perspectives, addressing issues of community development; jobs and economic opportunity; access to information, health care, and treatment.

Moderator

- Danielle Ompad, PhD, Associate Director for the Center for Urban Epidemiologic Studies, The New York Academy of Medicine

Panelists

- Hon. Keith Wright, Chair, NYS Assembly Social Services Committee
- Hon. Eric Adams, Chair, NYS Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs
- Karen Carpenter-Palumbo, Commissioner, NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
- Todd Clear, PhD, Distinguished Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Liz Sullivan, Human Right to Education Program Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
- Kyung Ji Rhee, Director, Institute For Juvenile Justice Reform and Alternatives, Medgar Evans College

Morning Concurrent Sessions (11:15 – 12:45pm)

2. Harm Reduction Pillar – Coordinating Strategies

[Rm. 20]

While the term “harm reduction” remains controversial for some, the concept of addressing drug users “where they're at” in order to minimize harm has gained much more currency in practice and research. Panelists will consider how a harm reduction approach would apply in the contexts of prevention, treatment and public safety.

Moderator

- Sharon Stancliff, MD, Medical Director, Harm Reduction Coalition

Panelists

- Hon. Tom Duane, Chair, NYS Senate Health Committee
 - Anita Marton, JD, Vice President, Legal Action Center
 - Jill Reeves, Member, Voices of Community Activists and Leaders
 - Frederick L. Altice, MD, Professor of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine
 - Crystal Fuller, PhD, Investigator, Center for Urban Epidemiologic Studies, The New York Academy of Medicine
 - Peter Moskos, PhD, Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and former Baltimore police officer
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Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (1:45 – 3:15pm)

1. Treatment Pillar – Taking Provision and Access Seriously

[Rm. 20]

If we took treatment access as seriously as we take primary care, what would it look like? Speakers will discuss the range of treatment options available, which types work best for specific populations, and where there is room for expansion, innovation and further research as well as integration between drug treatment and other health services.

Moderator

- Robert Newman, MD, Director, The Baron Edmond de Rothschild Chemical Dependency Institute of Beth Israel Medical Center

Panelists

- Hon. Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Chair, Majority Conference; Chair, Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections
- John Coppola, Executive Director, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers
- Carl Hart, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology (in Psychiatry), College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University
- Shreya Mandal, JD, LMSW, Mitigation Specialist, The Legal Aid Society
- Howard Josepher, Executive Director, Exponents
- Tina Reynolds, MSW, Co-founder, Women on the Rise Telling HerStory

2. Public Safety Pillar – Striking the Right Balance

[Rm. 440]

Effective public health-oriented drug policies include a public safety approach that focuses on agreed-upon goals and priorities. Individuals in the fields of criminal justice and public health will talk about finding common ground and implementing coordinated programs and policies to promote public safety and well-being.

Moderator

- Michael Jacobson, PhD, Director, Vera Institute of Justice

Panelists

- Hon. Joseph Lentol, Chair, NYS Assembly Committee on Codes
- P. David Soares, Albany County District Attorney
- Terrance Wansley, Co-Founder, 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care and retired NYPD
- Marsha Weissman, MPA, Executive Director, Center for Community Alternatives
- Harry Levine, PhD, Professor, Queens College
- Raquel Algarin, LPN, Interim Executive Director, Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center

Closing Plenary (3:30 – 5:00pm)

[Hosack Hall]

Setting the Course for New York: Today's Stance, Tomorrow's Policy

What should drug policy look like in New York going forward? Where could we be one year from now? Five years from now? After a day of sessions, we will discuss how to best increase the likelihood of implementing public health-based drug policies in New York City and State. Speakers will address policy needs, organizing needs, gaps in research and how to take crucial next steps.

Moderator

- Glenn Martin, Vice President of Development and Public Affairs, The Fortune Society

Panelists

- Hon. Richard Gottfried, Chair, NYS Assembly Health Committee
- Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH, Commissioner, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Kash Heed, Chief Constable, West Vancouver Police Department, British Columbia
- Dana Diamond, CASAC, Director of Client Support Services, Exponents, Inc.
- Jo Ivey Boufford, MD, President, The New York Academy of Medicine
- Ethan Nadelmann, PhD, JD, Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance