STIMULANT USE:
HARM REDUCTION, TREATMENT, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

September 25th
9 AM – 5:30 PM

Japanese American National Museum
100 North Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

We are the Drug Policy Alliance.

#STIMULANTSCONF
PROGRAM

8 – 9 AM
REGISTRATION AND SIGN-IN

9 – 9:10 AM
WELCOME
Lindsay LaSalle, Drug Policy Alliance
Jules Netherland, Drug Policy Alliance
Ricky Bluthenthal, University of Southern California

9:10 – 9:25 AM
STIMULANT USE: TRENDS IN THE US AND ABROAD
Thomas E. Freese, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs

9:25 – 9:40 AM
STIMULANT USE & CONSEQUENCES: LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Gary Tsai, County of Los Angeles Health Agency & Department of Public Health

9:45 – 11:15 AM
PEOPLE WHO USE STIMULANTS: A DIVERSE POPULATION

Through discussing the different populations that encompass the category of people who use stimulants and the epidemiology of use, this panel will set the foundation for our subsequent discussion of harm reducing strategies. In particular, panelists will explore which groups use which stimulants, motivations for and benefits of different stimulant use, and risks related to different kinds of stimulant use.
MODERATOR
Jules Netherland, Drug Policy Alliance

PANELISTS
Kaston Anderson-Carpenter, Michigan State University
Ricky Bluthenthal, University of Southern California
Jennifer Lorvick, RTI International
Elise Szabo, Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Melynda “Mindy” Vincent, Utah Harm Reduction Coalition

11:15 – 11:30 AM
BREAK WITH SNACKS PROVIDED

11:30 – 11:45 AM
OVERVIEW OF HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES FOR STIMULANTS IN US AND ABROAD
Katie Stone, Harm Reduction International (via video recording)

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM
WHAT WORKS? HARM REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE STIMULANTS

Given the potential harms associated with use of stimulants, services to reduce health risks are paramount to ensuring the safety of those who use them. On this panel, panelists will explore known harm reduction strategies in the US and abroad and their efficacy with regard to stimulants. Service providers and people with lived experience will also describe cutting edge strategies they are using on the ground.

MODERATOR
Sheila P. Vakharia, Drug Policy Alliance
TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE STIMULANTS

Most traditional treatment approaches for substances were developed for people who use alcohol or for people who use opioids, and extensive studies have been conducted on these approaches. However, not enough attention is given to whether these approaches attend to the unique needs of people who use stimulants. This panel will discuss which types of treatments are best indicated for people who use stimulants. What the current status of medication assisted treatment for stimulants? Which types of outpatient approaches are helpful? Can substitution treatments work for stimulants? These questions and others will be explored within this panel.
For all the research that has been conducted on harm reduction, there still exist sizable gaps in knowledge on the best practices with regards to stimulants. In light of these knowledge gaps, some researchers, service providers, policymakers and people who use stimulants have proposed promising avenues for stimulant harm reduction moving forward. What are these opportunities for new approaches to harm reduction? What can we learn from the practices and strategies of people who use stimulants? Through answering these questions, panelists will seek to improve harm reduction knowledge and provide a pathway for more efficacious harm reduction practices in the future.

MODERATOR
Magalie Lerman, Reframe Health and Justice Consulting

PANELISTS
Isaac Jackson, Urban Survivors Union
Terrell Jones, New York Harm Reduction Educators
Charles McWells
Michael Siever, Stonewall Project
Mat Southwell, Co-Act (via video recording)

CLOSING REMARKS
Lindsay LaSalle, Drug Policy Alliance
Steven Shoptaw, University of California Los Angeles
SPEAKERS

ANNA PALMER

@BURNETINSTITUTE

Anna completed her honours project with the Burnet Institute in 2016, which explored methamphetamine use amongst people who inject drugs (PWID) in Melbourne. She now works as a research assistant in the Viral Hepatitis working group, modelling the cost-effectiveness of community-based hepatitis C treatment and care. Anna is also currently studies mathematics part time and is interested in the field of health economics.

BRANDIE WILSON

Brandie Wilson is the Founder and Executive Director of the Humboldt Area Center for Harm Reduction (HACHR) in Eureka, CA. She came to this work via poverty, Christian school, drug use, homelessness, sex work, drug court, and other encounters with the criminal justice system. She received her Master’s degree in Sociology from Humboldt State University and uses her experiences and education to bring Harm Reduction education and practices to rural Northern California since 2014. HACHR is a community based program, led by people who use substances, peer educators, activist, volunteers and community leaders mobilizing around harm reduction on the North Coast.

CHARLES MCWELLS

Charles McWells is Co-Principal Investigator/Project Director of the Passport to Wellness research project and Program Manager of the Many Man, Many Voices program at L.A. CADA. Charles oversees HIV prevention, intervention and health literacy services for Black men who have sex with men. In addition, he is an instructor with the Community Faculty Program at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, where he conducts research on the impact of HIV/AIDS and related health disparities in communities of color. Charles is Lay Leader and Chair
of the HIV/AIDS Education and Empowerment Project of Grace United Methodist Church in South Los Angeles. He is also co-host of Good News Radio Magazine, a weekly program focusing on healthcare, broadcast on Wednesdays from 1-2 pm on acceleratedradio.net. Charles has a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Claremont McKenna College.

**DIANA VALENTINE**

Harm Reduction Therapy is a revolutionary client-therapist collaboration that combines substance use treatment with psychotherapy to address substance misuse and the issues underlying it. The Center for Harm Reduction Therapy provides services in a variety of community locations, hospital HIV clinic and a fee for service practice in the San Francisco Bay Area. Diana Valentine is a staff therapist, clinical supervisor and trainer with The Center. She provides individual and group therapy in a homeless drop in center in Tenderloin district of San Francisco and in the fee for service practice. In addition, she provides clinical support and community training for the frontline staff of harm reduction agencies including the Homeless Youth Alliance and St. James Infirmary. Her therapeutic approach is rooted in a social justice past. Harm reduction therapy captivated her because of the loving pragmatism and inherent politics.

**ELISE SZABO**

[@ELISEMSZABO • @SSDP](#)

Elise is the Outreach Coordinator for Students for Sensible Drug Policy’s (SSDP) Pacific region, building and guiding the chapters in the region and connecting them to SSDP’s network. Elise also oversees SSDP’s Diversity Awareness Reflection and Education (D.A.R.E.) committee, which endeavors to ensure that the range of perspectives & personal experiences of all communities and individuals negatively impacted in the War on Drugs are represented and integrated into SSDP and the drug policy reform movement at large. Before joining the SSDP staff, Elise served on SSDP’s Board of Directors and studied Philosophy at Kent State University in Ohio.
Gary Tsai, M.D. is the Medical Director and Science Officer for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, a division of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. He is board certified in both general adult psychiatry and addiction medicine, and continues clinical practice at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Having experienced the stigma and criminalization that often accompanies serious mental illness as the son of a mother with schizophrenia, Dr. Tsai is a passionate advocate for improving our behavioral health systems. In his pursuit of meaningful change, Dr. Tsai is also the founder of Forgotten Films, a film production company focusing on social issue projects, specializing in behavioral health. Its first film, Voices, premiered on public television in May 2015 for Mental Health Awareness Month and was awarded a 2016 SAMHSA Voice Award, Honorable Mention.

Glenn-Milo Santos, PhD, MPH is a Senior Research Scientist in the San Francisco Department of Public Health and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Systems in the University of California San Francisco. His research foci involve the development of pharmacologic and behavioral interventions to reduce substance use and HIV-related sexual risk behaviors among key populations at risk for HIV, including men who have sex with men, transgender individuals, and people who use drugs.

Isaac Jackson is the President of the San Francisco chapter of Urban Survivors Union, a grassroots coalition of drug users dedicated to insuring respect, dignity and social justice for the drug using community. Jackson was also a founding member and Senior Peer Organizer at the San Francisco Drug Users’ Union. He is an experienced organizer, educator and thought leader within the harm reduction and drug user activist community.
JENNIFER LORVICK
Jennifer Lorvick, DrPH, has over three decades of experience conducting policy-relevant research with marginalized populations on topics of critical importance such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C virus, health care access and harm reduction interventions. Her current work focuses on the impact of criminal justice system involvement on the health and well-being of impoverished women, with a focus on community supervision.

JOE SCHRANK
Joe Schrank is the Program Director for High Sobriety. He founded High Sobriety as a response to the minimal choices for people who reject the idea that total abstinence in AA is the only valid path to recovery. He worked as a residential therapist at Promises in Malibu, California, established the first recovery program in a NYC high school where he continues to serve as a board member, and founded ‘TheFix.com’ which provides news and information about addiction and recovery. Joe continues in media as a frequent contributor in print and television, commenting on issues related to addiction and drug policy.

JULES NETHERLAND
Julie “Jules” Netherland, PhD, is the Director of the Office of Academic Engagement for the Drug Policy Alliance. In that role, she advances drug policy reform by supporting scholars in doing advocacy, convening experts from a range of disciplines to inform the field, and strengthening DPA’s use of research and scholarship in developing and advancing its policy positions. Dr. Netherland previously served as the Deputy State Director of DPA’s New York Policy Office, where she was instrumental in passing two laws to legalize the use of medical marijuana in New York and advancing a number of harm reduction and public health approaches to drug policy. Dr. Netherland is the editor of Critical Perspectives on Addiction (Emerald Press, 2012). More recently, her work with Helena Hansen, MD, PhD on the racialization of the opioid epidemic has appeared in the American Journal of Public Health, Biosocieties, and

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KANNA HAYASHI

Dr. Kanna Hayashi, PhD, is the St. Paul’s Hospital Chair in Substance Use Research and Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University, and a research scientist at the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use and British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS in Vancouver, Canada. She is a substance use epidemiologist and currently leads the Vancouver Injection Drug Users Study (VIDUS), a U.S. NIH-funded prospective cohort study of > 1000 people who inject drugs in Vancouver.

KASTON ANDERSON-CARPENTER

Dr. Kaston Anderson-Carpenter is an Assistant Professor of Ecological-Community Psychology at Michigan State University. He earned his Ph.D. in Behavioral Psychology from The University of Kansas and a Master of Public Health degree from the KU School of Medicine. Additionally, he holds doctoral-level certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. His research focuses on social and structural determinants of health in underserved communities. Since 2010, Dr. Anderson-Carpenter has worked with community organizations and policymakers to address socially important issues affecting marginalized populations, including intimate partner violence, underage drinking, substance use, and HIV/STI prevention, and health care access and retention.
Kat Humphries serves as the Programs Director for the Harm Reduction Action Center (HRAC) in Denver, CO. After nearly 4 years working in marijuana regulatory compliance, she hopes to bring her knowledge of policy and her development experience to help the HRAC grow. As Programs Director it is Kat’s responsibility to conduct HIV/HCV testing for participants, assist in administering group-level interventions, and assist in facilitating our syringe access program. As Director of Data Evaluations, it is her responsibility to track and analyze all syringe access data, evaluate program outcomes, write reports to funders, and create compelling data visualizations.

Katie Stone is a Research Analyst at Harm Reduction International, a leading non-governmental organisation based in London. Katie has written the last two editions of the Global State of Harm Reduction, the only report to provide independent analysis of global data and responses to health-related harms for both injecting and non-injecting drug use.

Lindsay LaSalle is a senior staff attorney in DPA’s Office of Legal Affairs where she engages in litigation, legislative drafting, and public education in support of drug policy reform. She is particularly active in the areas of harm reduction and overdose prevention, including Good Samaritan and naloxone distribution laws, expanded access to medication-assisted treatment in both community and criminal justice settings, and supervised consumption services. LaSalle has published work in the Northeastern University Law Journal and the Harm Reduction Journal among other outlets. LaSalle received her B.A. and J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, where she served as an editor of the California Law Review. Prior to joining DPA, LaSalle worked at Morrison & Foerster LLP for three years on commercial litigation matters while maintaining an
active pro bono practice representing incarcerated individuals at parole hearings and assisting clients with expunging their criminal records.

**LIZ EVANS**

@NYHARMREDUCTION ● @CORNERPROJECT

Liz Evans is currently the Executive Director of the Washington Heights Corner Project (WHCP) and New York Harm Reduction Educators (NYHRE) in New York City. She trained as a nurse and worked for 23 years alongside a dedicated team to transform the approach being taken to active drug users in Vancouver, Canada: Developing low-barrier housing, a community bank, health care, harm reduction services and the first supervised injection site in North America, Insite. She is a former OSF Fellow (2015/6).

**MAGALIE LERMAN**

@MAGALIELERMAN

Magalie Lerman is a Partner with Reframe Health and Justice Consulting. She combines her personal and community organizing experiences with formal education to provide high quality customized support to health and justice systems. Previously, Magalie provided direct and indirect services to people in the sex trade as Director of Outreach and Organizing at Prax(us) and people who use drugs as Development Director at the Harm Reduction Action Center in Denver, Colorado. She supported governmental drug user health infrastructure development as the Drug User Health Fellow with the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors. Magalie currently serves on the board of directors of the Sex Worker Outreach Project (SWOP) USA. She received her BA in Self Determination and Social Change from the Metropolitan University of Denver.
MAT SOUTHWELL

Mat is a harm reduction specialist, drug user activist and technical advisor with a special interest in stimulants. Mat investigated crack cocaine both experientially as one of the early generation of self-freebasing cocaine chasers and professionally drawing on his professional network. Mat founded the peer-based initiative the Crack Squad in East London and with his peers provided training to the Royal College of General Practice (RCGP) which led to the highly influential RCGP ‘Guidance for Working with Cocaine and Crack Users in Primary Care’. Mat is currently co-leading a team of peer writers in the developing of the UNODC ‘Tool on Preventing HIV among People who Use Stimulants’.

MELYNDA “MINDY” VINCENT

Mindy is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker specializing in mental health and addiction treatment and is the founder and Executive Director of the Utah Harm Reduction Coalition and Vice President of TRUCE (Together for Responsible Use and Cannabis Education). Mindy received her bachelor’s degree from Utah Valley University and earned her Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Utah. She is currently enrolled in the Executive Masters of Public Administration at the University of Utah. Mindy started the first legal syringe exchange in Utah and continues to work to educate the community about harm reduction and expand services throughout the state.

MICHAEL SIEVER

Michael Siever works with the SF Drug Users Union which provides needle exchange in SF’s Tenderloin and with the SF Safety & Wellness Coalition which advocates for Supervised Injection Facilities. He was Director of Behavioral Health Services at SF AIDS Foundation where he oversaw mental health, substance use, and HIV services. He founded The Stonewall Project that has provided harm reduction counseling to gay men in SF who do methamphetamine and other substances for nearly 20 years. He was also a founder of Magnet, a sexual health center for gay men in operation for over 15 years.
PETER HIGGS

@HIGGSPG

Peter has a background in community development and has worked with marginalised populations for over 20 years. His field based research has been focused on risk and people who inject drugs. Peter is teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students in Public Health at La Trobe University. He maintains involvement in various studies of cohorts of injecting drug users in Melbourne.

RICK ANDREWS

Rick Andrews is the Program Manager for PROP (Positive Resource Opportunity Project) at The Stonewall Project, a program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. PROP is a 12 week incentive-based contingency management program for gay, bi, trans- identifying and all other MSM interested in stopping or reducing their use of stimulants (methamphetamine/cocaine). Rick has worked at Stonewall for 7 years and has a history of working with HIV, substance use, health and wellness and spiritual communities. Stonewall is a harm reduction-based substance use program for gay, bi, trans-men and all other men who have sex with men and has been in operation for almost 20 years.

RICKY BLUTHENTHAL

@DRPTW

Ricky N. Bluthenthal is a Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and the Institute for Prevention Research at the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California. His research has established the effectiveness of syringe exchange programs, tested interventions and strategies to reduce HIV risk and improve HIV testing among injection drug users and men who have sex with men, and documented how community conditions contribute to health disparities. His current studies include research on people who initiated drug injection in their thirties, community-based participatory research to reduce health risk among Latinos, and a randomized controlled trial to test the efficacy of a single session intervention to reduce injection initiation risk behaviors.
RYAN MCNEIL

@RS_MCNEIL

Dr. Ryan McNeil, PhD, is a Research Scientist with the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use and Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of British Columbia. Through his qualitative and ethnographic research, he seeks to identify social, structural, and environmental influences on risk, harm, and health care access among people who use drugs (PWUD). Dr. McNeil also engages in community-based participatory research in partnership with drug user organizations focusing on housing and harm reduction programs. He is supported by a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar Award and Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator Award.

SHEILA P. VAKHARIA

@MYHARMREDUCTION

Sheila P Vakharia is the Policy Manager of the Office of Academic Engagement for the Drug Policy Alliance and an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Long Island University in Brooklyn. Dr. Vakharia’s research and teaching interests include harm reduction therapy, drug policy reform, drug user stigma, overdose and overdose prevention, and social work education. Dr. Vakharia earned her doctorate at Florida International University’s School of Social Work. She received her Master’s in Social Work from Binghamton University and a Post-Master’s Certificate in the Addictions from New York University.

SHILO MURPHY

@SHILOJAMA  @PHRAMEDIA

Shilo Hassan Jama is a former homeless person and long-time resident of Seattle’s University District neighborhood. He has worked at the University District Needle Exchange Program for the past 21 years and is a co-founder and executive director of The People’s Harm Reduction Alliance. Shilo is also a co-founder of the Urban Survivors Union a National drug user union. Most importantly, he is a proud drug user.
STEVE SHOPTAW

Steven Shoptaw, PhD is a licensed psychologist and Executive Director of the Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine (CBAM) at UCLA. He is also a Professor in the UCLA Departments of Family Medicine and Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences and is Vice Chair of Research in Family Medicine. His work focuses on the treatment of addiction and HIV prevention in the context of addiction in the Western U.S., where stimulant use is the single strongest predictor of HIV transmission. For the past 20 years, he has conducted a series of clinical studies in community clinic settings, primarily on topics involving the development of medical and behavioral interventions to treat substance abusers.

TERRELL JONES

@TERRELLPNNY

Terrell Jones is the Outreach and Advocacy Program Manager at New York Harm Reduction Educators (NYHRE). Terrell is a passionate advocate, activist, and inspiration for drug users, sex workers, the homeless, and other marginalized communities. Terrell Jones is a former drug user who, like many other people of color, was incarcerated because of his drug use. Terrell has now been in the harm reduction field for over 12 years and worked his way up from participant, to peer educator, to staff, and now to the management team. Terrell is also Senior Co-Chair of the Peer Network of New York where he emphasizes the professional and personal development of peers working in the field of harm reduction.

THOMAS E. FREESE

Thomas E. Freese (Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, California School of Professional Psychology, 1995) is Co-Director and Director of Training for UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs. Dr. Freese is Director of the SAMHSA-funded Pacific Southwest Addictions Technology Transfer Center. He has conducted trainings on a wide variety of topics including, SBIRT, medication assisted treatment, addressing the opioid epidemic,
and culturally responsive treatment for LGBT clients. Dr. Freese has been a featured presenter at conferences nationally and internationally, and has worked in the addiction field since 1983. tfreese@mednet.ucla.edu.
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