DAY 1 PROGRAM

8:30 – 9:00 AM | Registration and Breakfast
9:00 – 9:10 AM | Welcome
9:10 – 10:05 AM | Keynote: How Did We Get Here? A Historical Perspective of Coerced Treatment in the U.S.
The speakers will provide an overview of the drug war and the institutionalization of disabled people, particularly those diagnosed with various behavioral health conditions. They will explore the ways in which the institutionalization framework set the stage for the mass imprisonment of people who use drugs as well as coerced drug treatment. The speakers will explore the history of asylums in the United States and their conversion into correctional and drug treatment facilities, the impact of deinstitutionalization, and how drug war proponents and the treatment system alike capitalized on stereotypes of race, class, and mental health to push policies and profit incentives to warehouse and otherwise control so-called “social deviants.”
Speakers: Ari Ne’eman, ACLU, MySupport.com
Maia Szalavitz, Author & Neuroscience Journalist

10:05 – 11:35 AM | Panel 1: The Spectrum of Coercion—Manifestations of Coercive Treatment for People Who Use Drugs
Panelists will unpack the current scope of forced drug addiction treatment, the various ways it manifests, and the underlying dynamics that allow coercive policies to continue to flourish. Panelists will explore the expansion of civil commitment, drug treatment courts, conservatorship, the emerging use of extended release and injectable opioid addiction treatment medications in coercive environments, and forced detoxification as well as the coercive factors at play even in “voluntary” settings such as residential rehabilitation facilities and outpatient care. Finally, the pro-institutionalization currents in the national landscape, including erosion of privacy and patient rights, will be examined.
Panelists: Leo Beletsky, Northeastern University School of Law
Jennifer Friedenbach, Coalition on Homelessness
Bethany Lilly, The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Shain Neumeier, Attorney at Law
Denise Tomasini-Joshi, Open Society Foundations
Moderator: Dara Baldwin, Center for Disability Rights, Inc.
Panel 2: Drivers of Coercion—Vulnerable Populations, Stigmatization, and Economics

Panelists will review how certain populations diagnosed with substance use disorder and/or mental health conditions, including people of color, youth, people experiencing homelessness, LGBTQIA people, and trans people are particularly vulnerable to coercion in its many forms. Panelists will also explore the narratives connecting these marginalized populations to violence, dishonesty, and lack of autonomy. They will discuss the stigmatization that undergirds popular perception that coercion and forced treatment are an appropriate response to the perceived harms that stem from addiction and mental health conditions. The economic drivers of coerced treatment, including fiscal incentives related to court-ordered and private pay care, and the co-option of the treatment system by the criminal justice system will be also be discussed.

Panelists: Erin Kerrison, School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley
            Talita A. Lewis, Harriet Tubman Collective and Helping Educate to Advance the Rights of Deaf communities
            Jennifer Murphy, Penn State Berks
            Rebecca Tiger, Middlebury College

Moderator: Dionna King, Drug Policy Alliance

Lunch

Panel 3: Impact of Coercion—Research and Lived Experience

Researchers and survivors of coerced treatment will discuss the various impacts of coercion. Is coerced treatment effective? If so, by what measures and for whom? Panelists will nuance our interpretation of the research, unpack the meaning of “evidence-based,” and explore various consequences of forced treatment related to trauma, disengagement with the health care system, family, finances, and housing. Lastly, this panel will elevate the stories of people with lived experiences of drug use or psychiatric diagnoses who were coerced into treatment in order to illuminate how we define harm and its root causes and what harms
actually need to be reduced.

Panelists: Imade Nibokun Borha, Mental Health Association of San Francisco and Depressed While Black
           Cyndy Etler, Author
           Teresa Gowan, University of Minnesota
           David Lucas, Center for Court Innovation
           Dinah Ortiz-Adames, Bronx Defenders

Moderator: Laura Thomas, Drug Policy Alliance

Break

Panel 4: Beyond Coercion—Where Do We Go From Here?

As we move away from the criminalization of drugs and toward the removal of criminal penalties for drug use and possession, how can we ensure that people are not merely transferred from jail and prison to forced detox, treatment centers, or other coercive interventions?

Panelists will explore lessons learned from historical and parallel movements in the mental health and disability spaces that could be applied to drug use and drug treatment, including how we can begin the shift the narrative. Panelists will also elevate truly voluntary, people-centered alternatives to coerced treatment such as supported housing and harm reduction measures, including safer consumption spaces, low-threshold, on-demand buprenorphine, Soteria houses, and peer respites.

Panelists: Sera Davidow, Western Mass RLC
           Patt Denning, The Center for Harm Reduction Therapy
           Leah Warner, San Francisco Homeless Outreach Project
           Wilda White, Vermont Mental Health Crisis Response Commission

Moderator: Charles Hawthorne, Harm Reduction Coalition

Closing

Networking Reception

(4) #BEYONDCOERCION
### Registration and Breakfast
- **Time:** 8:30 – 9:00 AM

### Facilitated Group Discussion
- **Time:** 9:00 – 10:15 AM
- This moderated discussion session is an opportunity to build community across disciplines—harm reduction, mental health, disability, and others—to discuss points of similarity and difference, to identify common goals, interests, and areas for future collaboration, to explore troubling or exciting trends, and to learn from each other.
- **Facilitator:** Sterling Johnson, ACT UP Philadelphia

### Break
- **Time:** 10:15 – 10:25 AM

### Alternatives to Suicide: Mental Health Harm Reduction in the Drug Harm Reduction Setting
- **Time:** 10:25 – 11:40 AM
- This training, provided by Western Mass RLC, empowers providers and peers to support people experiencing thoughts of self-harm within a harm reduction drug framework, such as syringe exchange programs. Participants will walk away with concrete skills to apply to their day-to-day work.
- **Facilitators:** Sera Davidow, Caroline Mazel-Carlton, Cindy Marty Hadge

### Break
- **Time:** 11:40 AM – 11:45 AM

### Conservatorship and San Francisco Organizing over Brown Bag Lunch
- **Time:** 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM
- This breakout will provide a space for people interested in exploring a case study—pending California legislation related to conservatorship and other measures of forced care—to brainstorm practical strategies for building community and effectively pushing back against coerced treatment policies.
- **Facilitator:** Laura Thomas, Drug Policy Alliance
Dara Baldwin, Director of National Policy, Center for Disability Rights, Inc.

Dara Baldwin is the Director of National Policy for the Center for Disability Rights, Inc. (CDR), a not-for-profit, community-based advocacy and service organization for people with all types of disabilities. She is the Campaign Manager for the passage of the Disability Integration Act and works on other policy issue areas. She has extensive knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and other disability laws. She has organized and facilitated several national meetings with the White House, Congress, and civil and human rights organizations resulting in recommendations for immediate actions.

Dara worked on 12 bills that passed in Congress and were signed by President Barack Obama during his term in office, as well as budget bills. Dara was a Senior Public Policy Analyst at National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), an ADA Compliance Specialist in the DC Government, a Policy Analyst at The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), a Child Advocate in New Jersey, and an Advocacy Manager at TASH. She serves on the Board of Directors for the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLHIC). Dara has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey and was a Pi Alpha Alpha honors Graduate with a Masters of Public Administration from Rutgers University the School of Public Affairs and Administration, Newark, New Jersey. She has received many awards. She serves as an Associate Member of the National Academy of Public Administration’s Standing Panel on Social Equity. Dara believes that it is her duty to move forward with her career goals and at the same time, create a pathway for others. Twitter: @NJDC07

Leo Beletsky, Associate Professor of Law and Health Sciences, Northeastern University School of Law

Professor Leo Beletsky holds a joint appointment with the School of Law and Bouvé College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University. He is also on faculty of the University of California at San Diego School of Medicine. His expertise is in the public health impact of laws and their enforcement, with special focus on drug overdose, infectious disease transmission and the role of the criminal justice system as a structural determinant of health. One of the nation’s preeminent experts on North America’s opioid crisis, Professor Beletsky is a frequent media commentator on drug policy, health equity and criminal justice issues. Those issues define the project portfolio of the School of Law’s Health in Justice Action Lab, which he directs. Throughout his career, Professor Beletsky has applied his skills and expertise in service to governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations, US Department of Justice and the City of New York. He received his undergraduate training in geography from Vassar College and Oxford University, a master’s in public health from Brown University, his law degree from Temple University School of Law and his post-doctoral training at the Yale University Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS. He is a member of the New York State Bar. Twitter: @LeoBeletsky

Imade Nibokun Borha, Communications Coordinator, Mental Health Association of San Francisco

Imade Nibokun is a writer and communications professional living in the Bay area. As a mental health advocate, Imade originally wrote Depressed While Black for her 2015 Columbia University MFA thesis. Imade later expanded Depressed While Black into an online community and an in-progress book that explores race, religion, and romance all while popping Prozac and navigating therapy. Twitter: @DepressedWBlack

Patt Denning, Director of Clinical Services and Training, The Center for Harm Reduction Therapy

Dr. Patt Denning is one of the primary developers of Harm Reduction treatments for alcohol and other drug problems. The 2nd edition of her first, groundbreaking book, Practicing Harm Reduction Psychotherapy was released in the Fall of 2012 (with co-author Jeannie Little). This book is also currently available in Spanish and soon in Chinese. Her book for the general public was just published as a 2nd edition. (Over the Influence: The Harm Reduction Guide for Managing Drugs and Alcohol. Guilford Press, 2017.) Over the Influence has recently been translated into Chinese, and soon in Japanese as well. Dr. Denning worked as a clinician and program director in residential and outpatient Community Mental Health in San Francisco from 1978 through 1993, developing specialties in differential diagnosis, psychopharmacology, psychotherapy, HIV, and substance use disorders. Dr. Denning has completed the Diplomat-Fellow training in Psychopharmacology and also was named to the Drug Policy Resources Directory for the Media in the area of Dual Diagnosis. She is a certified addiction specialist through the American Psychological Association’s College of Professional Psychology.

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Sera Davidow, Director, The Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community
Sera Davidow is a filmmaker, activist, author, advocate, chocolate lover, and mother of two very busy kids, ages 7 and 16. She spends much of her time working with the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community, serving on the board of Hearing Voices USA, and blogging at MadinAmerica.com (www.madinamerica.com/author/sdavidow/). You can learn more about her and her work in an April, 2018 article in Sun Magazine: thesunmagazine.org/issues/496/an-open-mind. Twitter: @WesternMassRLC

Cyndy Etler, Author
Cyndy Etler was homeless at 13, locked up at 14, and suicidal at 15. Today she is the award-winning author of two “troubled teen” program memoirs and a board-certified teen life coach. Her mission is to support struggling young adults with respect and deep listening, while teaching other adults to do the same. Twitter: @cdetler

Jennifer Friedenbach, Executive Director, Coalition on Homelessness
Jennifer Friedenbach is currently the Executive Director of the Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco. She has worked for the Coalition for 23 years, as Executive Director, as organizing director, substance abuse and mental health work group coordinator and fundraiser. Previous to coming to San Francisco, Jennifer was Director of The Hunger and Homeless Action Coalition of San Mateo County. Jennifer has a long history of community organizing, and has worked on a range of poverty-related issues including welfare rights, housing, homeless prevention, health care, disability, and human and civil rights. During her tenure, she has achieved several significant victories alongside homeless people including most recently crafting and leading a winning campaign for Our City Our Home, Prop C which appeared on the November 2018 ballot, and will double San Francisco’s current efforts to solve homelessness. Other accomplishments include the creation of a local housing subsidy serving hundreds of homeless families, the addition of thousands of housing exits for homeless people, the major expansion of prevention efforts resulting in the halting of displacement of more than 1,000 households, expansion of substance abuse treatment resulting in decreased overdoses and shorter waits, spearheaded numerous legislative reforms protecting the rights of homeless people, and garnered funding for programs that have saved countless lives. Jennifer has co-authored several reports for the Coalition on Homelessness including The Runaround, Shelter Shock, Housing First for Families, Locked Out, Five Year Roadmap and more. She is also a tireless advocate for a fair city budget, as founding member of the People’s Budget Collaborative, a group dedicated to redirecting city funding towards ending poverty in San Francisco. Jennifer is a former member of the San Francisco Ten Year Implementation Council, Local Homeless Coordinating Board, and was a founding member of the Treatment on Demand Planning Council. Jennifer has been the recipient of several awards including “Woman of the Year” by the California State Assembly in 2014, San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 2008, and Democratic Women in 2012, Lifetime Achievement Award from Eviction Defense in 2017 and from San Francisco Tomorrow, Community Hero award from St. Francis Hospital, Open Palm Award from Dolores Street Community Services, and Tenderchamp from Central City Hospitality House. Twitter: @fbach4

Teresa Gowan, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Minnesota
Professor Teresa Gowan teaches sociology at the University of Minnesota. Her book Hobos, Hustlers, and Backsliders: Homeless in San Francisco (2010) won the American Sociological Association’s Robert Park and Mary Douglas awards in 2011. In Hobos Teresa drew on several years of street fieldwork, embedding a rich description of the different lives pursued by homeless San Franciscans within the bigger story of the criminalization and medicalization of poverty at the turn of the 21st century. After seeing the homeless men of San Francisco indiscriminately required to admit to addictions and attend 12-step groups in exchange for shelter, she shifted her following research towards a broad qualitative study (with Sarah Whetstone) of different addiction interventions with poor Americans. Using ethnography and interview research, their current book project explores the interpretation of addiction, treatment, and recovery in an urban drug court, a related “strong-arm” facility using cognitive behavioral therapy, and various faith-based facilities working closely with criminal justice.

Charles Hawthorne, Capacity Building Coordinator, Harm Reduction Coalition
Charles Hawthorne works as a trainer for the Harm Reduction Training Institute and Outreach Project in partnership with the
San Francisco Department of Public Health. He works passionately delivering training and technical assistance to organizations in the bay area and the greater San Francisco region that impacts the lives of people with HIV/AIDS, people who use drugs, people of color, and LGBTQ+ communities. Mr. Hawthorne works to foster partnerships with other organizations in the Bay Area that do social justice and harm reduction work while helping to expand reach and capacity to communities experiencing disproportionately punitive impacts of racialized drug policies. Twitter: @Charles_Hwthrne

Cindy Marty Hadge, The Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community and Hearing Voices
Cindy Marty Hadge spent many years lost in the chaos of childhood trauma, voices, and visions. They are now creating a life they find worth living through the healing environment of the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community and the Hearing Voices movement, and by finding avenues to share all they have learned along the way with others. Cindy is a nationally recognized trainer for Hearing Voices. At the 2018 Intervoice Congress in The Netherlands, Cindy received an award recognizing their work in education and training for the Hearing Voices Movement. Twitter: @WesternMassRLC

Sterling Johnson, ACT UP Philadelphia
Sterling Johnson is a lawyer and geographer and a person in recovery. He has worked in the recovery and housing arenas in Philadelphia for the last 5 years and has been a part of leadership for several organizations: ACT UP Philadelphia, Creative Resilience Collective and Philadelphia Tenants Union. He currently sits on the advisory board of Safehouse, Philadelphia's first sanctioned safe injection site as well as on Angels in Motion, a harm reduction organization focused on direct service for families. His past experiences include working at the U.S. Department of State, the Human Rights Campaign and the AIDS Housing Alliance/ SF. He has a Juris Doctor from the University of California Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, a Masters in Geography from George Washington University and a Bachelors degree from American University in International Relations. Twitter: @Lb_Sterling

Erin Kerrison, Assistant Professor, School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley
Erin Kerrison is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley. Her work extends from a legal epidemiological framework, wherein law and legal institutions operate as social determinants of health. Specifically, through varied agency partnerships, her mixed-method research agenda investigates the impact that compounded structural disadvantage, concentrated poverty, and state supervision has on service delivery, substance abuse, violence, and other health outcomes for individuals and communities marked by criminal justice intervention. Professor Kerrison has analyzed large longitudinal administrative datasets and collected ethnographic and interview data across policing, criminal court, and correctional contexts. Her work has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Justice, the Ford Foundation, and the Sunshine Lady Foundation. Professor Kerrison’s recent empirical research has been published in Social Science and Medicine, Race & Justice, Punishment & Society, and the Journal of Developmental and Life Course Criminology. She holds a BA in Sociology and Philosophy from Haverford College, an MA in Criminology, Law and Society from Villanova University, and a PhD in Criminology from the University of Delaware. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley, Erin was awarded a Vice Provost’s Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Twitter: @emkerrison

Dionna King, Policy Manager, New York, Drug Policy Alliance
Dionna King is a policy manager with the New York Policy Office of the Drug Policy Alliance. As policy manager, Dionna is assisting in the development of the reparative justice campaign and will work to repair the harms caused by the drug war in New York State. Prior to joining DPA, Dionna worked as a community organizer for the Education from the Inside Out Coalition. There she led successful campaigns to ban the box at SUNY and increase funding for in-prison higher education programs. Coming from a family of Rattlers, Dionna is a proud alumna of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and a graduate of The New School. Twitter: @kimorocka7

Talila A. Lewis, Co-Founder, Harriet Tubman Collective and Helping Educate to Advance the Rights of Deaf Communities
Named one of Pacific Standard Magazine’s Top 30 Thinkers Under 30 and a 2015 White House Champion of Change, Talila A. Lewis is a social justice engineer who uses lawyering, organizing, popular education, and multi-modal data visualization to disrupt cycles of violence and systemic inequity. Lewis’ advocacy primarily focuses on prison abolition, decriminalizing disability, ending
wrongful convictions of deaf and disabled people, and providing support to multiply-marginalized deaf and disabled people affected by mass incarceration. Lewis co-founded and serves as the volunteer director of HEARD, a volunteer-dependent nonprofit organization that works to end incarceration of and violence against deaf and disabled people. A recent graduate of American University Washington College of Law, Lewis also co-founded the Harriet Tubman Collective and co-developer of the Disability Solidarity praxis; serves as a consultant on various topics including racial, economic, gender, and disability justice; and previously served as the Givelber Public Interest Lecturer at Northeastern University School of Law and as a visiting professor at Rochester Institute of Technology. Talila is a 2018 Roddenberry Fellow and 2018 Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity. Twitter: @talilalewis

Bethany Lilly, Deputy Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy, The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Bethany Lilly works primarily on federal policy impacting people with mental illnesses, with a particular focus on health care, including Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Bethany serves as a co-chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Health Task Force and represents the Bazelon Center on other national coalitions, promoting and advocating for the needs and rights of people with mental illnesses. Prior to joining the Bazelon Center, Bethany was a law clerk with the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions where she worked on Medicaid, pharmaceutical regulation, and civil rights issues. Ms. Lilly also worked as a legal fellow at the Center for Medicare Advocacy where she researched and wrote about the Affordable Care Act and Medicare. She was a co-recipient of the 2014 National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys’ John J. Regan Writing Award for her article discussing long-term Medicare financing issues. While completing her J.D. from Duke University School of Law, Bethany worked at the AIDS Policy Project advocating on behalf of people living with HIV in North Carolina and the Southeast. Twitter: @bethanylilly

David Lucas, Senior Program Manager, Center for Court Intervention
David Lucas is a Clinical Advisor/Senior Program Manager, Technical Assistance, at the Center for Court Innovation in New York. In this role, David specializes in the areas of substance use, harm reduction, and court-supervised treatment. Previously, David was a clinical lead at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health – Drug Treatment Court Program (Toronto, Canada), a course director at York University’s School of Social Work, and a volunteer at Toronto’s Overdose Prevention Site. David has spent the past two decades providing counseling, education, advocacy, program development, and case management for a variety of complex client populations, in community, legal, and clinical settings. Twitter: @daveewlucas

Caroline Mazel-Carlton, Director of Training, The Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community and Hearing Voices
Caroline Mazel-Carlton, Director of Training, Western Mass RLC, has laid her head in a number of places, from Indiana jail cells to Texas psychiatric units, but now enjoys a freer existence as Director of Training for the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community. She has been redefining peer roles in diverse settings and disparate parts of the world for over a decade. Her work with Alternatives to Suicide and the Hearing Voices Network has been featured in publications such as The New York Times, Foreign Policy, and O, The Oprah Magazine. She is passionate about reclaiming cultural and spiritual wisdom traditions for navigating extreme states, and is studying to become a rabbi. Twitter: @WesternMassRLC

Jennifer Marie Murphy, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Penn State Berks
Jennifer Murphy is Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Penn State Berks. Her research examines the overlap of the medicalization and criminalization of drug addiction and the framing of addiction in drug policy. Her book Illness or Deviance? Drug Courts, Drug Treatment, and the Ambiguity of Addiction examined the relationship between drug courts and drug treatment programs. She is currently working on a project that identifies addiction frameworks and stigma among police officers.

Ari Ne’eman, Advisor, ACLU and CEO, MySupport.com
Ari Ne’eman is the co-founder of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network and served as its President from 2006 to 2016. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of MySupport.com, an online platform designed to empower seniors and people with disabilities to self-direct their own services. In 2009, President Obama nominated Ari to the National Council on Disability, a federal agency charged with advising Congress and the President on disability policy issues. He was confirmed by the Senate in July 2010 and served until 2015, during which time he chaired the Council’s Committee on Entitlements Policy. From 2010
to 2012, he served as a public member to the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, a Federal advisory committee that coordinates all efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services concerning autism. Ari also served as an adviser to the DSM-5 Neurodevelopmental Disorders Workgroup convened by the American Psychiatric Association. He previously served as a member of the National Quality Forum’s Workgroup on Measuring Home and Community Based Services Quality and the Department of Labor’s Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment of People with Disabilities. He also previously served as Vice Chair of the New Jersey Adults with Autism Task Force, where he represented autistic adults in reviewing the state’s autism services. He previously served on the New Jersey Special Education Review Commission, where he authored a minority report on the topic of aversives, restraint and seclusion. He is also a board member of the American Association of People with Disabilities and the World Institute on Disability. In addition, he was named by the New York Jewish Week as one of their “36 by 36” in 2010. He has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, where he studied political science in the Sondheim Public Affairs Scholars Program. Twitter: @aneeman

Shain M. Neumeier, Attorney at Law
Shain M. Neumeier is an attorney and activist for disability, youth and queer justice and liberation, as well as a survivor of coercive medical treatment. They are a solo practitioner in Western Massachusetts whose practice focuses on disability and transgender law, including defense against civil commitment, obtaining court-ordered name changes, and seeking justice for survivors of institutional abuse and neglect. Shain has written articles and spoken at numerous conferences and colleges about issues of bodily autonomy and freedom from coercive medical treatment over the past decade. They have also received the 2018 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the Massachusetts Bar Association, the 2015 Leadership in Advocacy Award from the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, and the 2017 Self-Advocate of the Year Award from the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State. Twitter: @disjusticelaw

Dinah Ortiz-Adames, Parent Advocate Supervisor, Family Defense Practice, Bronx Defenders
Dinah is the Parent Advocate Supervisor with the Family Defense Practice at The Bronx Defenders. For over seven years, she has been advocating for vulnerable women, specifically women of color in a variety of contexts from substance use to incarceration. Dinah has appeared on dozens of panels nationwide to discuss harm reduction strategies and the unique challenges facing parents involved with the child welfare system who happen to use illicit substances. She served as a member of several not-for-profit organizations focusing on educating doctors, lawyers, and social workers – specifically those in the child welfare arena – with the necessary tools to better serve women and mothers battling addiction. She has spoken on “Families and Social Workers: What are we not doing?” at Columbia University, “Prejudice and Punishment, the Child Welfare Response to Mothers who Use Drugs” at Fordham University, “What About the Children?” at the Drug Policy Reform conference, and “Police Violence Against Black Women/Women of Color” at Invisible No More. Dedicated to her clients and community, Dinah prides herself in ensuring her clients’ voices are always heard. Twitter: @BronxDefenders

Maia Szalavitz, Author and Neuroscience Journalist
Maia Szalavitz is the author of the New York Times bestseller, Unbroken Brain: A Revolutionary New Way of Understanding Addiction, which is widely recognized as an important advance in thinking about the nature of addiction and how to cope with it, personally and politically. Her book, Help at Any Cost: How the Troubled Teen Industry Cons Parents and Hurts Kids was the first to expose the damage caused by the “tough love” business that dominates adolescent addiction treatment. She has written for numerous publications from High Times to the New York Times, including TIME, the Washington Post, the Guardian, VICE, Scientific American, and the Atlantic- and she is author or co-author of five other books. With Bruce D. Perry, MD, PhD, she co-wrote the classic work on child trauma, The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog and also Born for Love: Why Empathy Is Essential—And Endangered. She has won awards from the New Institute on Drug Abuse, the Drug Policy Alliance, the American Psychological Association and the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology for her 30 years of groundbreaking writing on addiction, drug policy and neuroscience. Twitter: @maiasz

Laura Thomas, Deputy State Director, California, Drug Policy Alliance
Laura Thomas is the deputy state director, California, based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She oversees the organization’s municipal drug strategy work in San Francisco and leads DPA’s California harm reduction and public health legislation. She is a (10) #BEYONDCOERCION
national leader on supervised consumption services (SCS) advocacy for DPA, heading up the legislative campaign in California as well as the local effort to open programs in San Francisco. She has over 30 years of experience in HIV and public health policy, along with a strong commitment to community advocacy, thoughtful policy analysis, and coalition building. She first became involved in AIDS activism with ACT UP in San Francisco. Before joining DPA, she was a consultant specializing in HIV policy and planning, with clients ranging from the California State Office of AIDS to the National Association of People with AIDS. She has also worked for Tenderloin Health, a nonprofit health and social service provider serving a predominantly homeless population in San Francisco’s Tenderloin neighborhood, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the San Francisco Department of Public Health. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Masters in Public Health and a Masters in Public Policy. Laura has been a syringe access volunteer for more than 20 years, and helped organize a successful 2007 symposium on safe injection facilities in San Francisco. She is a proud recipient of the AIDS Hero Award from the 2000 AIDS Candlelight Memorial, and the Unsung Hero Award on World AIDS Day 2010 from the National AIDS Memorial Grove. She serves on the San Francisco HIV Community Planning Council and the Methamphetamine Task Force and previously sat on the San Francisco Cannabis State Legalization Task Force and the Supervised Injection Services Task Force. She is a member of the San Francisco Entertainment Commission. Twitter: @lthomas

Rebecca Tiger, Associate Professor of Sociology, Middlebury College
Rebecca Tiger is Associate Professor of Sociology at Middlebury College, co-editor of *Bioethical Issues, Sociological Perspectives*, and author of *Judging Addicts: Drug Courts and Coercion in the Justice System*.

Denise Tomasini-Joshi, Division Director, Open Society Public Health Program, Open Society Foundations
Denise Tomasini-Joshi is a division director with the Open Society Foundations (OSF), Public Health Program, working to realize the right to health as a public good by dismantling barriers to access for the most marginalized. Her work focuses on combating coercive and abusive treatment in healthcare. She has served as Co-Acting Director of OSF’s Women’s Rights Program helping craft a strategy to reduce feminist over-reliance on criminal justice systems, and overseeing a portfolio on sexual health and rights. An attorney by training, Denise’s experience has touched upon issues of mental health, homelessness, academia, criminal justice reform, children, women and marginalized populations. Her work has appeared in journals, books, policy briefs and blogs. She contributes internationally to conferences and working groups, and as an expert on radio and print media. Denise holds a law degree (JD, Juris Doctor) from Columbia University School of Law, a Master’s in International Affairs (MIA) from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, and a Bachelors of Art (BA) in Sociology from Purdue University. She was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and speaks Spanish. Twitter: @DMTJoshi

Leah Warner, Nurse Practitioner, San Francisco Homeless Outreach Project
Leah Warner is a Nurse Practitioner in the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Since 2014, she has worked on the Street Medicine Team providing health care for the city’s most vulnerable patients experiencing homelessness. She obtained her X-waiver shortly after President Obama signed legislation in 2016 enabling NPs and PAs to become waivered. Since then, she has been treating patients with opiate use disorders in clinics and other nontraditional settings. Other interests include caring for women experiencing homelessness, intimate partnerships in the setting of substance use, and transgender medicine. Prior to becoming a clinician, Leah worked in Public Health in the field of reproductive justice.

Wilda White, Chair, Vermont Mental Health Crisis Response Commission
Wilda White imagines a more just world in which everyone is valued and devotes her life to using words and ideas to make it so. Wilda writes and lectures on the intersection of psychiatric oppression and racism. Currently, she is Chair of the Vermont Mental Health Crisis Response Commission, a state agency whose mission is to review police killings of people who at the time of their death were in a mental health crisis. From 2015 to 2018, she served as Executive Director of Vermont Psychiatric Survivors (VPS), an advocacy organization whose mission is to end psychiatric coercion, discrimination and oppression. Before joining VPS, she was Executive Director of the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice at the University of California Berkeley School of Law, where she convened groundbreaking symposia focused on the intersection of race, sex and gender. Wilda makes her home in Poultney, Vermont. Twitter: @racingjustice