

MACARTHUR FOUNDATION SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEMBER BIOS
OCTOBER 31, 2019

Anthony Dickerson

Anthony Dickerson returned home in 2010 after serving 10 years in the Pennsylvania state prison system. Since then, Anthony has been working in reentry for various organizations conducting prison outreach, leading workshops, advocating for legislative change, and serving in various consultative roles. Over this period, Anthony has become well known and respected throughout the greater Philadelphia area reentry community. He currently resides in Philadelphia and shares custody and care of his young daughter.

Anthony is currently working with Temple University's Tyler School of Art & Architecture to develop an urban plan that will erase decades of blight and provide wealth transference and cooperative models as restorative justice measures for Returning Citizens and communities decimated by the system of mass incarceration.

Josh Glenn

Josh Glenn is an Activist, Mentor, and the Co-founder/ Co director of Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project. Josh is also a member of the No215Jail Coalition and the Alliance for Just Philly. Josh started working as a prison abolitionist after being formerly incarcerated.

Connie Grier

Connie Grier is the Founder of The RESPECT Alliance an organization focused on effective mentoring, parental engagement at home and school, and social justice issues. She works with youth, adults, families, schools, and organizations in the areas of justice, self-efficacy, dismantling mass incarceration pathways, equity, and advocacy. Connie is a public school educator with 28 years of classroom and school administration experience. She has served as an Adjunct Professor of Education, Criminal Justice and Women's Studies for Temple University, and currently serves as an Adjunct Professor in Social Work and Criminal Justice for Alvernia University. Connie received her BS from Temple University, and her MS degrees in Educational Administration and Curriculum and Instruction from Arcadia University.

Connie has for the last 8 years served directly in correctional facilities and on 4 organizational boards for youth and adults in the areas of education, empowerment, and redemption. She advocates for justice and educates society on the realities of mass incarceration and the criminal justice system, the school to prison pipeline, and reentry. Her hashtag, #JusticeAlways, is not only a reminder that we should always seek justice, but that there are many pathways and voices required for its attainment.

Marcus Hall

Marcus returned home to Philadelphia after serving as Deputy Director of Community Engagement for the New York City Department of Education. Upon returning to Philadelphia, Marcus started teaching elementary science for Mastery Charter, eventually moving into the adult education space. Marcus serves as an instructor for Community Learning Center where he has successfully assisted over 100 learners in reaching the academic requirement for transitioning into vocational skills training programs. Marcus also serves as the academic instructor for JEVS Looking Forward program that works specifically with participants directly impacted by the criminal justice system.

In 2019, Marcus was selected to join the COABE Literacy Behind and Beyond the Walls Committee and was also one of the two inaugural fellows for the Philadelphia Reentry Coalition Re-Entry Month Initiative organized by the Office of Criminal Justice for Philadelphia. Marcus earned his B.A. from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, Elementary Education Certificate from the University of Pennsylvania and has an MBA in data analytics from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA, and Marcus has published articles for the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Philadelphia Public School Notebook.

Eileen Horgan

Eileen Horgan is the Supervising Criminal Advocacy Attorney at the Women Against Abuse Legal Center in Philadelphia where she has worked for over eight years. She practices family law with a focus on providing trauma-informed legal representation to domestic violence victims in Protection from Abuse (PFA) and child custody matters. She also trains community members and organizations on the dynamics of working with domestic violence victims. In addition, she oversees the criminal advocacy program which provides in-court support to domestic violence victims involved in the criminal justice system. Eileen graduated from Rutgers-Camden School of Law in 2010. In her spare time, she serves on the board of CASA of Philadelphia.

Anthony Johnson

Anthony Johnson is a Philadelphia native and a dedicated educator with over 20 years of experience. He is an instructor in the fields of Political Science, African American, American and European History, Human Services, and GED/HISET preparation. In addition to his work at Graduate! Philadelphia as a College Advisor assisting adults in returning to school to earn a college degree, Anthony is an Adjunct Professor at Lancaster Bible College, Alvernia University and Thomas Jefferson University. He is the C.E.O. of Dream Field Academy, a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization that provides mentoring, academic enrichment, employment opportunities and GED preparation to youth, adults and returning citizens. He's also a Fencing instructor. He has experience working with agencies and the judicial system by providing academic services to returning and currently incarcerated through RISE: Mayor's Office of Reintegration Services, the STAR Program: Supervision to Aid Re-Entry, and the Philadelphia Department of Prisons.

He is the author of 7 books including: "The Bunker" and "A War on All Fronts Revisited: 2005-2019 (2020)" and has written more than 25 articles published in newspapers (Philadelphia Inquirer: Letters to the Editor, Metro), magazines (TIME) in America and Europe. He has also written two bills addressing mass incarceration and child poverty entitled: "The for Profit-Prison Inmate Education and Rehabilitation Program" and "Feed the Children."

Anthony received his B.A. in Political Science from Cheyney University, his M.A. in Central Eastern European Studies from La Salle University and has earned a certificate in American Government from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is planning to return to school to complete a Ph.D. in History in 2020. In 2012 and 2018, Anthony ran for state representative for the Juniata Park/Fultonville section of Philadelphia (180th District).

Aundria Johnson,

Aundria Johnson was born and raised in the city of Philadelphia. During her life, she has witness family members and friends deal with the delays, poor communication, and lack of compassion within our current criminal justice system.

Over the past years, she has worked with pastors, social justice advocates, and PPD to raise awareness and become a solution to the extreme gun violence within our city. She has also led Taylor Memorial Baptist Church's community engagement ministry to provide men and women with a variety of resources needed to foster a healthy lifestyle. Audria is passionate about addressing and resolving the number of individuals in jail awaiting trial that have not been convicted of their open cases, especially if everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Brittney Keith

Brittney Keith is from West Philadelphia. She has always felt that we must work as a community and establish a sense of unity in order to get anything done in our communities. She was raised in Philadelphia and attended her primary school years in Philadelphia. Brittney received a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Temple University. She has always been in community work in some type of way. She has been a Youth Advocate Worker, a Forensic Intensive Recovery Case Manager, and a Child Welfare Worker. She currently works for the Philadelphia Public School system. She has been afforded the many opportunities to work with children, youth, adults, families etc. throughout our city, some of the very people that are affected the most by the problem of criminal justice.

Dr. Chris Kimmenez

Dr. Chris Kimmenez is a dynamic, sought after ordained Baptist minister, pastor, chaplain, psychologist, trainer, public speaker, consultant and a medically retired marine combat veteran. After a car accident, struggling with addiction, physical disability, PTSD, and a criminal record, he entered recovery in 1995 and ministry in 1996. He is President of Recovery Christian Centers Urban Community Development Corporation, a faith based nonprofit specializing recovery support, pastoral care and counseling, behavioral health, trauma, capacity building and leadership training. He is also the Supply Pastor of Lombard Central Presbyterian Church, Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Reentry Council Restorative Justice Committee, National Director of Advocacy for Healing Communities USA, a faith-based prison reentry initiative, Chaplain of Delaware Valley Stand Down, a homeless veterans initiative, a contract Mental Health First Aid Instructor, Trauma Instructor and member of the Faith & Spiritual Affairs Advisory Board with the City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities, a member of the Philadelphia FIGHT Faith Leaders Network and the Co-Chair of the Philadelphia Reentry Coalition Community Engagement Committee. He is a JustLeadershipUSA Leading with Conviction 2018 Cohort Alumni Fellow and currently serves on the #SolidarityNotSolitary, #PAProbationReform and the #EndDeathByIncarceration Campaigns. He holds a B.S. in Human Resources, a M.S. in Health Education, and Psy. D and is pursuing a D. Min. He married the Rev. Paula Burnett-Kimmenez with six children (one deceased) and twelve grandchildren.

Aja King

In a desire to further service her community, Aja King continued her education after her employment with the Philadelphia Police Department. She has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Services. Aja King is currently a social worker with the Philadelphia Department of Human Services.

As a co-victim of homicide, Aja King assisted with the establishment of E.M.I.R. Healing Center after the loss of her brother to homicide in 1997. E.M.I.R. Healing Center is a non-profit organization that services families that have been affected by homicide and violent crimes. In her capacity as Community Coordinator with E.M.I.R. Healing Center, Aja has conducted several focus groups with the youth and incarcerated males regarding gun violence. Aja is very active in her community and connected to several community-based resource agencies which aids her in thoroughly servicing her community. She is



committed to giving a voice to her community that have been exposed or directly affected by gun violence and homicide.

Sam Lufi

As a minister in Kensington, Rev. Samuel Lufi began to see the human toll of the criminal justice system in the lives of those in his church and broader community. Looking for a way to care for and support congregants and friends, he started volunteering with the Participatory Defense Hub movement, eventually joining a coalition of neighbors to launch a hub at K&A. Sam is passionate about seeing a justice system that honors the humanity in all members of our community believing that when we dehumanize others we dehumanize ourselves.

Eric Marsh

Eric Marsh a Father, Mentor, Entrepreneur, Community supporter and advocate for men and families. He has been active helping others flourish for over 15 years. Having extensive experience as a facilitator for adult and youth programs with organizations such as PASCEP, Frontline Dads, The Frator Heru Institute and The Fathering Circle as well as a decade operating his own business, Eric brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to his mission of inspiring and informing men and boys. He has served as a workshop presenter, panelist and planning committee member for The Black Male Development Symposium (BMDS). Active in the Nicetown community, he has led teams of volunteers for events including the Kevin Hart Community Day and Mural Unveiling and the Annual Nicetown CDC "Give Back" Festival. He is a founding member of Stand Up Nicetown, a community led collective of residents and stakeholders providing resources and support services to neighbors through rallies held in communities experiencing violence.

A long-time education advocate, Eric has been a parent volunteer at Mary McLeod Bethune and Cleveland Elementary schools and most recently Edward T Steel school where he also served as President of the School Advisory Council. He currently serves as the President of the Neighborhood Advisory Subcommittee for the Nicetown CDC NAC. Mr. Marsh is one of the founding members of the Know Bullying Coalition, a community-based emerging nonprofit that focuses on reducing bullying, violence, and suicides. In addition, he is also a founding member of The Fathering Circle, a peer support organization where fathers examine male socialization, its impact on them and its effects on their children and families. Eric is a member of the Code Red PA working group made up of health care providers and stakeholders whose goal is to prevent injury before it ever occurs, reduce the impact of gun violence that has already occurred, and mitigate the long-term impact and collateral consequences of gun violence.

Malik Neal

Malik Neal is the co-founder and director of the Philadelphia Bail Fund, a non-profit organization that prevents the pre-trial jailing of low-income Philadelphians by posting bail and advocating for systemic reform. In his capacity as a volunteer, Malik served for three years as director of the Pennsylvania Prison Society's Philadelphia Official Visitors program, where he oversaw a network of citizens tasked with addressing the concerns of individuals incarcerated and monitoring conditions in the Philadelphia jails. Currently, Malik serves on the boards of Pennsylvania Prison Society, where he sits on the policy committee, and La Salle Academy. He is also a member of the District Attorney's 17th Police District Youth Aid Panel, a community diversion program for juveniles charged with a first-time, nonviolent offense. Malik's work in criminal justice is driven and shaped by his own personal experience. Members of his immediate family – in addition to being victims of crime – are and have been incarcerated. Malik was born and raised in the Point Breeze section of Philadelphia and still calls it home.

Carmen Pagan

Carmen Pagan currently works as a Social Worker and was raised in North Philadelphia she is a single mother of five children. She attended Edward Bok Vocational School in which she received her high school diploma and later went on to receive her bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Eastern University as well as her Associates in Social work. She is an advocate for gun violence and social issues that plague the inner city. Her passion to fight against such injustices have been fueled by the murder of her own brother as well as her own personal experience within criminal justice system. She has since founded her own organization in order to help siblings of those affected by gun violence. A lot of her work is within the community dealing with the opioid epidemic and families of homicide victims as well as returning citizens. Carmen has also served as a mentor at the C.J.C as well as R.C.F and has also facilitated intensive prevention groups for youths. She also served as a crisis responder with the Philadelphia District Attorney's office C.A.R.E.S program assisting families of homicide victims serving as a support and providing resources and making referrals to the proper agencies. Carmen continues to serve her community by volunteering and organizing protest and marches against such injustices.

Margaret E. Robertson: Margaret is a Philadelphian by choice. Her family migrated here from South Carolina during the last decade of the Great Migration. During her early years, she was nourished by her great aunt's weekly current events discussions of *Jet* magazine articles and national politics as she sat in her kitchen drinking Pepsi and eating Ritz crackers. On Sunday, she watched WWII documentaries with her father as he recounted his war experiences in Italy and North Africa. Her very practical mother taught her how to use words to protect herself. When she moved, she attended her last five years of public education in Philadelphia schools, then went to colleges in Pittsburgh, and returned for her graduate and professional education in Philadelphia. At Penn, her favorite class was the Legal Clinic. She has worked primarily in Maryland and Philadelphia in education and law. Her passion is lifting the barriers that separate the weak from power in their own lives.

Child advocacy and literacy organizations were her volunteer choices until 2009. That was the year that the criminal justice system affected Margaret personally. As a result, she began to focus on work in social justice with the first Participatory Defense Hub in Norristown. In Philadelphia, she worked with the Coalition Against Mass Incarceration, The Center for Returning Citizens, and the ACLU Court Bail Program. When Participatory Defense Hubs began to form in Philadelphia, she joined the Youth Hub and helped to form the Germantown Hub.

Margaret has seen that when social justice policy is discussed and conceived, the voices most likely to be muted are those communities, families, and individuals most affected by the decisions. The voices most likely to be amplified are those of professionals and politicians. If she is able to raise the volume on the voices of the least regarded until the sound and consideration are equalized, she will feel successful. Margaret hope to share what she has learned and will learn from other members and our partner agencies as we fulfill our commitments.

Lourdes Rivera

Lourdes Rivera is a criminal court advocate at Women Against Abuse and specializes in serving domestic violence (DV) victims/survivors whose abusers are facing contempt charges. Lourdes has two decades of experience working with and advocating for DV victims/survivors and is intimately familiar with both civil and criminal court proceedings. Through her tenure as Probation Coordinator at Lutheran Settlement House, she has also amassed experience in probation advocacy. Drawing on her depth of experience, Lourdes has facilitated sessions for the PCADV 40-hour Domestic Violence Advocate Workshop. She has

also worked to educate civilians about the Protection from Abuse process through presentations around the city.

Abdur Scott

Abdur Scott currently holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications with a Public Relations emphasis from Washington Adventist University. Abdur has devoted his professional career to advocacy and support to individuals in the judicial system. In the last three years, he has committed his work to providing a platform for Returning Citizens. Abdur is currently a Case Manager for the SOAR Program at Philadelphia OIC and works with individuals 25 and over who have recently been released from incarceration or currently under supervision of the judicial system. Abdur has over eight years' experience working with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Organizing and Safety and Health Departments, as well as 5 years of experience in grant writing, mentoring youth, and adult advocacy. Abdur's versatile background enables participants to have strength-based conversations and linkages to resources that can better support them while successfully obtaining short-term/ personal goals within the program.

Reverend Dr. Michelle Anne Simmons

Dr. Michelle Simmons a single mother of two children and has overcome many challenges throughout her life. Rev. Simmons currently holds a Doctor of Ministry and a master's degree in Clinical and Counseling Psychology as well as a bachelor's degree in Human Services from Chestnut Hill College. She is also a Certified Allied Addictions Practitioner and a Human Services Board-Certified Practitioner. Rev. Simmons is the Founder and Executive Director of Why Not Prosper, Inc., an organization dedicated to helping females in prison make a smooth transition back into society after their incarceration. She founded the group believing in the importance of giving women a hand up, not a hand out.

Rev. Simmons has dedicated numerous hours of volunteer service over the past 19 years to improve the quality of life for disenfranchised people through prison outreach, missionary work, and mentorship. Rev. Simmons has financed multiple trips around the world in order to provide goods and supplies such as eyeglasses, medication, food, clothing, and educational materials to people in Haiti, Gambia, Bermuda, Jamaica, Nova Scotia, and Santo Domingo.

In 2001, Rev. Simmons founded *Why Not Prosper, Inc.*, a grass-roots 501C3 organization located in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, PA. The organization's mission is to help women in the prison system to discover their own strength and to empower them to become responsible, economically self-sufficient and contributing members of the community. Since that time, the organization has assisted hundreds of women make a smooth transition from prison to community. As a formerly incarcerated woman, she has a deep understanding of the needs of women in the prison system. Her organization now provides Pre-release Mentoring to incarcerated women at Riverside Correctional Facility, Muncy and Cambridge Springs Prisons.

Rev. Simmons also secured the properties for and founded *Why Not Prosper House* - a 6 to 12-month residential program for women that are homeless or need more time to stabilize following prison that can accommodate 23 women. Women have a safe, comfortable and affordable home with access to employment services that include a one-year Employment Mentoring Program where workshops on workplace culture, worker's legal rights, and GED tutoring are provided. In October 2014, Rev. Simmons helped form and implemented a pilot program – Breaking the Cycle – Re-Entry Program for Women Leaving Human Trafficking (BTC).

Rev. Simmons has authored two books during her tenure as Founder and CEO of the organization, *Why Not Prosper? The Decision is Yours* and *Keep it Movin'* - both having to do with her background and experiences, and how to overcome adversities in life. She is currently writing a third, having to do with how to start a transitional living facility and create a successful nonprofit organization.

Remarkably, in 2015 Rev. Simmons received a full and unconditional pardon for her earlier conviction. Pardons reward people who have gone on to live honest and law-abiding lives after completing their criminal sentence. In a letter dated April 5, 2015, Governor Brown of California stated that *"by completion of her sentence and good conduct in the community of her residence since her release, Michelle Simmons has paid her debt to society and earned a full and unconditional pardon."*

Rev. Simmons has been, and continues to be, a remarkable example for others to follow. Her can-do spirit and energy are electrifying and always attract others who want to help her accomplish her objectives.

Darryl Thomas

Darryl Thomas was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1972 to Robert and Geraldine Thomas. Darryl spent his formative years in a section of West Philadelphia known as Mill Creek. He graduated from Lamberton High School and attended Howard University. During his time at Howard, Darryl worked at the Department of Justice as a student intern for the Director of Personnel. After working at the DOJ for several years, Darryl decided to move back to his hometown and open a barbershop, Philly Cuts.

Philly Cuts Barbershop, located in the heart of West Philadelphia, on the corner of 44th and Chestnut Streets was opened in September of 1997. For the past twenty-two years, Darryl has continuously worked hard to establish a place of business best known for being family oriented and a staple in the community, meeting and addressing the needs of West Philadelphians.

Since the inception of Philly Cuts, Darryl has gone to great lengths to service people in the community. He partnered with several organizations to address health related issues in the African American community as well as providing opportunities to cater to underprivileged children. Darryl joined forces with the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania's first year medical students to administer weekly health screenings at Philly Cuts on Saturday afternoons. He also worked with Loretta Sweet Jemmott, PhD, FAAN, RN of Penn's School of Nursing to address HIV prevention amongst black males ages 18 through 25. His influence brought the Philadelphia 76ers and five of their star players to the Philly Cuts to meet and greet and provide basketball tickets and haircuts to 200 underprivileged children in the community.

Darryl is committed to cultivating the youth in his community, for this was the keystone in his personal success. This is exemplified by his commitment to Robots and Mentors. Robots and Mentors is an after-school program which enriches the lives of children who reside in West Park Housing Project located in the 6th Ward of the 190th Legislative District. Thomas could be found regularly tutoring children in STEM and supplying healthy after school snacks. Thomas has also been the OAC Chairman of Dobbins CTE Barbering Program for the past twelve years and has provided scholarship monies for graduating seniors. One of Darryl's most incredible accomplishments has been employing several individuals with a felony conviction, at Philly Cuts, who were unable to find work elsewhere and provided them with the opportunity to have a fresh start and make an honest living. Darryl and the Philly Cuts family decided to pay it forward and provide free haircuts and well as a visit with an African American Santa at the annual Christmas Celebration at the Convention Center sponsored by Janie Blackwell.

Most recently Darryl's community initiative has spawned him to hold town meetings titled "Blades Fades and Engage." At these town hall meetings held every third Monday at Philly Cuts, Thomas uniquely engages the neighborhood with Officers, District Attorneys, Elected Officials, etc. to address the upsurge in violence within the community. This past election Thomas was able to lobby to house the Governor's West Philadelphia field office. This was ideal because it served as an up close and personal experience for neighborhood youth to be exposed the electoral process.

Darryl Thomas, 47, has dedicated his life to improving the West Philadelphia community. His barbershop, Philly Cuts, has become a melting pot of politicians, athletes, teachers, police officers, children, and entertainers. Through this vessel, Darryl has made a name for himself throughout West Philadelphia. His contributions to his neighborhood, experiences as a barber, and as a small business owner, has solidified his position as a leader in his community.

Devren Washington

Devren Washington is a community organizer dedicated to building power in marginalized communities by bringing equity and inclusion to the people who need it most. He uses his experience as a founding member of the Philadelphia Community Bail Fund and organizer with Black Lives Matter Philadelphia to organize directly impacted communities around issues pertaining to decarceration, technology, surveillance, and internet access. Devren has also led the relaunch of Philadelphia's Digital Justice Coalition to permanently engage organizers of disparate issues around key principles of digital justice, with a goal of codifying key protections into local law, policy, and regulations.

Brittany Weston

Brittany Weston is currently a criminal defense and debtor defense attorney located in Philadelphia. Her passion for criminal justice is long-standing. As a student at Temple University, Brittany was a double-major in Criminal Justice and Political Science. While at Temple University, Brittany was engaged in student life as a member of the women's track and field team and as a founding sister of Delta Phi Epsilon International Sorority Inc., Delta Nu Chapter. She graduated from Temple in May 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, in both political science and criminal justice. Upon graduation, Brittany moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where she attended Charlotte School of Law. During her time in law school, Brittany focused on helping people in the criminal justice system by completing the Criminal Justice Clinic. While in the Clinic, she received a student-license and represented indigent clients. She won her first misdemeanor bench trial as a Second-Year law student. Brittany also sat on the Board of the school's Innocence Alliance organization. Within her position, it was her job to oversee the screening of requests from incarcerated persons to determine if a valid appeal could be made on their case. While in law school, Brittany also founded the school's ACLU chapter. During the 2014 election season, Brittany was the Volunteer Coordinator for the campaign to elect Yolanda Trotman as District Court Judge in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County. She also worked as a student-intern at the Law Offices of Yolanda Trotman, drafting briefs and legal documents to support the criminal defense cases handled by Attorney Trotman. Brittany graduated law school early, in December 2014, and received her Juris Doctorate, Cum Laude. Brittany took and passed the Pennsylvania Bar Exam in February 2015. While working at a law firm in West Chester, Brittany also took an adjunct teaching position at Temple University in the criminal justice department where she taught Nature of Crime for the Spring 2016 semester. In June 2016, Brittany stepped out on her own and opened her own solo legal practice. Later that year, she won her first criminal jury trial. To date, Brittany continues to practice as a criminal defense attorney and also represents debtor defendants in cases involving personal loan companies and credit card companies.

Brittany was raised in Southwest Missouri. In her free time, Brittany enjoys latch-hooking, reading Jodi Picoult books, and spending time with her fiancé, friends and family.

Samuel White

Samuel White is an Assistant Coordinator with the Philadelphia anti-drug anti-violence network (PAAN). In this role, Mr. White coordinates efforts of the community crisis intervention program (CCIP) to reduce violence in the city of Philadelphia. With a strong belief in family dynamism, White is a proponent for providing service, support, and opportunities to those who are most affected by adversity. Why? Because it is key in restoring the family structure and creates effective change in our communities.

Samuel White is no stranger to the criminal justice system, working as a youth advocate, he is an integral part of creating programs, working with families, stakeholders and community partners to increase educational and employment opportunities to reduce gun violence and recidivism in Philadelphia. In this capacity, Mr. White gained an understanding of the disparity in criminal justice sentencing, how the laws adversely affect people of color, and the need for reform. Prior to working at the Philadelphia anti-drug anti-violence network (PAAN), Samuel White worked at United Communities Southeast Philadelphia with youth from K-12 as a OST supervisor, a case manager for Mentoring Matters, a program for children of incarcerated parents, and as a youth worker in the AVR program.

Samuel White has more than 15 years of hands on experience in social services and community engagement. Samuel White is also the creator of WTMCLIVE 215 media a Community-based Internet radio station which Community members with the opportunity to Produce and host their own shows and is enjoyed by hundreds who tune in for unique programming each day. Mr. White is dedicated to providing second chances to those in need, through lived experiences, personal and professional relationships, community engagement, and a sincere commitment to make our city a better place, one family at a time.

Katherine Zuk

Katherine Zuk is the Director of Communications and Outreach for Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity (PLSE). In her role at the organization, Katherine is implementing a community outreach strategy focused on mobilizing former clients and others with lived experience to become volunteers at expungement clinics, program speakers, and advocates for criminal justice reform. Additionally, she has led innovative civic technology projects that increase the accessibility of the pardon process in collaboration with Drexel's ExCITE Center and Code for Philadelphia. Katherine changed career paths to work in criminal justice reform after witnessing loved one's cycle through the criminal justice system as a result of their struggles with substance abuse. Katherine is also a teaching assistant at Temple University, where she is currently pursuing a dual master's degree in public health and social work with a focus on social policy at the intersection of the criminal justice system and mental health.