

SOUTHERN POLICYMAKER ACADEMY

JULY 30-31 | ATLANTA, GA

Bridging the gap
between policymakers
and people with
lived experience to
create solutions.

Presented by:

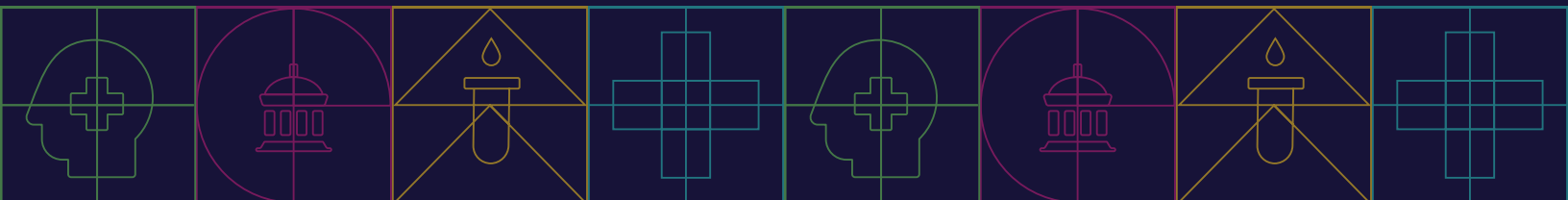


Sponsored by:





**Check out the
Academy's HIV
resources library:**



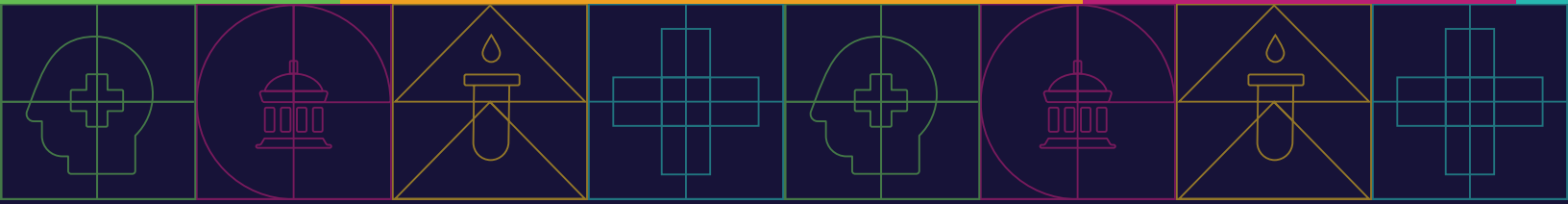
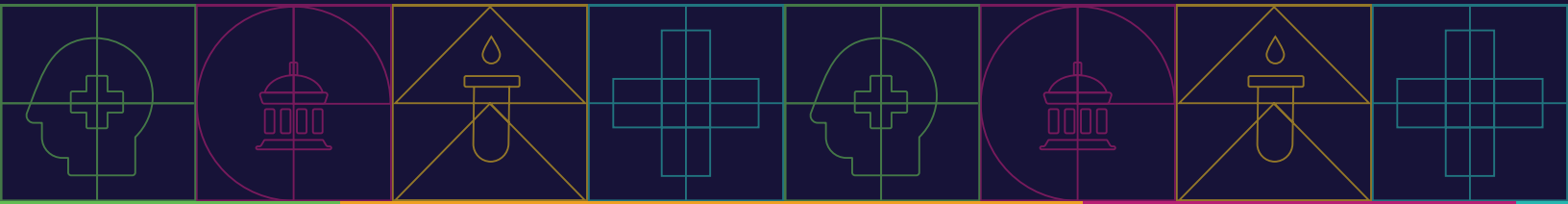


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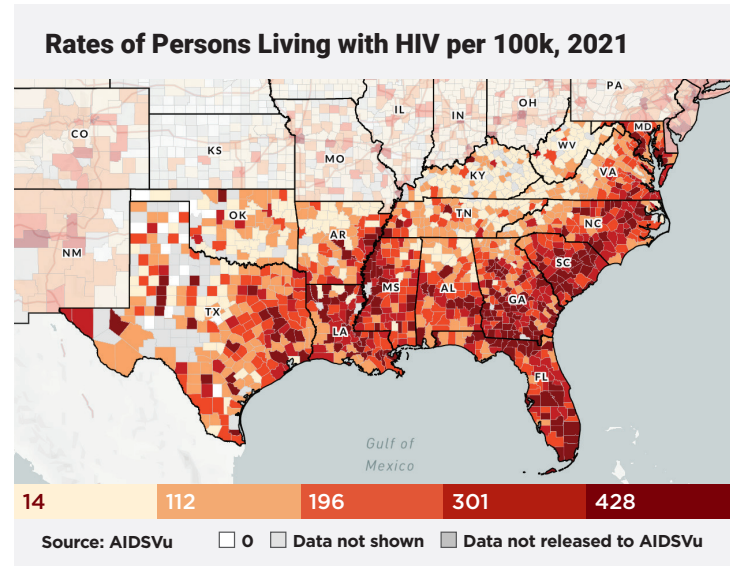
WHY WE'RE HERE

The U.S. South experiences a higher burden of HIV compared to other regions across the U.S., especially among communities of color.

In 2021, there were **492,922 people living with HIV in the South**.

That same year, **the South made up over half (52%) of new HIV diagnoses**.

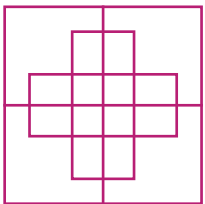
Systemic issues like access to healthcare, barriers to care, racial and ethnic inequities, HIV criminalization, stigma, and more, contribute to HIV's negative impact on the South.



ABOUT THE ACADEMY

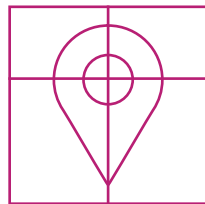
This Southern Policymaker Academy is a critical meeting of the minds, where policymakers and advocates from a range of experiences have come together to change the course of the HIV epidemic in the South.

Together we'll:



Empower leaders

to make transformative change by increasing health literacy, specifically around HIV equity intersecting social determinants



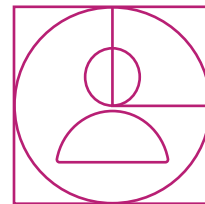
Explore solutions

to regional disparities guided by experts and advocates, with meaningful guidance by people living with HIV



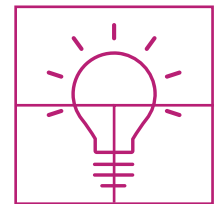
Encourage more participation

in and collaboration on proactive HIV-related bill making



Identify policies and policymaking

that work toward ending the HIV epidemic and benefit and reach people living with HIV



Provide HIV impact education, awareness, and data support

for leaders to guide their decision making

Presented by Southern AIDS Coalition in partnership with the City of Atlanta, this academy is an opportunity for the experiences and voices of those impacted by HIV to align with political leaders and move the needle in bipartisan policy action for those impacted by HIV.

Thank you for joining us as we push to bridge the gap between policymakers and people with lived experiences to create solutions for those impacted by HIV and health disparities.

HOUSEKEEPING

Where & When

DAY 1

Atlanta City Hall

55 Trinity Avenue SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
July 30, 4 pm - 7 pm ET

DAY 2

The Carter Center

453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307
July 31, 8 am - 5 pm ET



Directions for Day 2

As you loop around The Carter Center, follow signs to entrance #3 (Executive Offices).

Parking lots are marked on the map and parking is free.

Dietary Restrictions

Dietary restrictions shared via the registration form were shared with the caterer. Please let your server know of any dietary restrictions and they will accommodate.



Questions?

If you have any questions during the event, please visit the registration table or seek assistance from staff around the venue.

If you have questions after the event, please: visit the event website at policymakeracademy.southernaidscalition.org or email outreach@southernaidscalition.org.

New to HIV terminology?

Check out the UNAIDS Terminology Guidelines.



AGENDA

Atlanta City Hall

55 Trinity Avenue SW | Atlanta, GA 30303

July 30, 2024 | 4 pm - 7 pm ET

DAY 1

4:00 PM ET

30 minutes

ROOM: ATRIUM

DAY 1 CHECK-IN & RECEPTION

Check-in & appetizers.

HIV in the South Poster Session

Discussion and posters on HIV in the South by state.

Appetizers, hors d'oeuvres, and refreshments will be served.

4:30 PM ET

20 minutes

ROOM: ATRIUM

WELCOME TO THE SOUTHERN POLICYMAKER ACADEMY

A welcome from the event presenters and opening remarks from the co-sponsor.

Welcome:

- Dafina Ward, JD, Executive Director, Southern AIDS Coalition (SC/AL)

Opening Remarks:

- Candace M. Staniel, Chief Equity Officer, City of Atlanta (GA)

4:50 PM ET

60 minutes

ROOM: ATRIUM

DAY 1 OPENING PLENARY: VOICES FROM THE SOUTH: HIV'S IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION

A high-level overview of why we're here and stories from the people impacted by HIV in the South.

Moderator:

- Charles Stephens, Founder & Executive Director, Counter Narrative Project (GA)

Speakers:

- Arianna Lint, CEO, Arianna's Center (FL)
- Venton Jones, Jr., Representative, District 100, House of Representatives, Texas (TX)
- Marnina Miller, Co-Executive Director, Positive Women's Network (TX)
- Tim Santamour, Interim Executive Director, Florida Harm Reduction Collective (FL)

5:50 PM ET

10 minutes

ROOM: ATRIUM

DAY 1 CLOSING REMARKS: A CALL FOR SOUTHERN ACTION

A wrap of day one and concluding words for tomorrow.

Closing Remarks:

- Rashad Burgess, Vice President, Advancing Health and Black Equity, Gilead Sciences (GA)

6:00 PM ET

60 minutes

ROOM: ATRIUM

NETWORKING & HIV IN THE SOUTH POSTER SESSION

Freestyle Q&A, discussion, and posters on HIV in the South by state.

Appetizers, hors d'oeuvres, and refreshments will be served.

Agenda (CONT.)

The Carter Center

453 Freedom Parkway | Atlanta, GA 30307

July 31, 2024 | 8 am - 5 pm ET

DAY 2

8:00 AM ET

30 minutes

ROOM: CYPRUS

DAY 2 CHECK-IN & RECEPTION

Check-in & breakfast.

HIV in the South Poster Session

Discussion and posters on HIV in the South by state.

Hot buffet-style breakfast will be available.

8:30 AM ET

30 minutes

ROOM: CYPRUS

HIV 101: A LOOK AT HIV IN THE SOUTH BY THE DATA

A level-setting discussion and overview of HIV in the South throughout the decades and HIV's impact on the South by the data.

Welcome:

- Will Ramirez, MPA, Public Policy & Advocacy, Director, Southern AIDS Coalition (TX)

By the Data:

- Natalie Crawford, MPH, PhD, Associate Professor, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University (GA)

9:00 AM ET

60 minutes

ROOM: CYPRUS

DAY 2 OPENING PLENARY: ADDRESSING HIV IN THE SOUTH: IDENTIFYING LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO REGIONAL CRISES

A discussion with our political leaders on addressing the South's HIV-related dilemmas with bipartisan local solutions.

Moderator:

- DaShawn Usher, Senior Director, Communities of Color and Media, GLAAD; Founder & Executive Director, Mobilizing Our Brothers Initiative (GA)

Speakers:

- Liliana Bakhtiari, City Councilmember, District 5, Atlanta, Georgia (GA)
- Park Cannon, Representative, District 58, House of Representatives, Georgia (GA)
- Kim Jackson, Senator, District 41, State Senate, Georgia (GA)

10:00 AM ET

10 minutes

BREAK & REFRESH

Refreshments will be available.

10:10 AM ET

60 minutes

BREAKOUTS: INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE**ROOM: ROTUNDA****STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING PREP AWARENESS & USE**

PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), which can protect people from acquiring HIV, is vital in preventing the spread of HIV and new diagnoses. Join this breakout to discuss and share best practices and policies that work toward ensuring PrEP uptake for those who need it most.

Moderator:

- Will Ramirez, MPA, Public Policy & Advocacy, Director, Southern AIDS Coalition (TX)

Speakers:

- Michael H. Chancley, Communications Manager, PrEP 4 All (GA)
- Dázon Dixon Diallo, Founder & President, SisterLove (GA)
- Daniel Driffin, MPH, External Relations Project Manager, HIV Vaccine Trials Network; Co-Founder, Thrive SS (GA)
- Sara Zeigler, MPA, Founder and Principal, Courage Forward Strategies (GA)

ROOM: ZABAN**STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR ALL**

HIV care, treatment, and prevention modalities are more effective than ever, but just because options exist does not mean people have easy access to them. Join this breakout to discuss how to eliminate barriers to healthcare (fear, stigma, health system challenges, prior authorization and/or step therapy, insufficient health insurance, etc.) for people living with HIV.

Moderator:

- Carole Treston, RN, MPH, ACRN, FAAN, Executive Director, Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (PA)

Speakers:

- Tony Billups, Advocate and Author; Co-Founder, Birmingham Black Pride (AL)
- Kendrick T. Clack, MSN, FNP-C, AACRN, AAHIVS, Nurse Practitioner, CrofootMD Clinic and Research Center (TX)
- Ariana Gordillo De Vivero, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (VA)
- Justin T. Rush, JD, Associate Director, Therapeutic Area Policy, U.S. Virology, Government Affairs, Gilead Sciences (CA)

11:10 AM ET

10 minutes

BREAK & REFRESH

Refreshments will be available.

11:20 AM ET

60 minutes

BREAKOUTS: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS**ROOM: ROTUNDA****ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO CARE & INFLUENCES FROM RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES**

Public health issues, and especially HIV, do not exist in a silo and attacks on related epidemics and policies can impact HIV care and access. Join this breakout to discuss how intersectional public health and policy issues impact our efforts to address HIV and find solutions.

Moderator:

- Drew Gibson, MSW, Director of Advocacy, AIDS United (MD)

Speakers:

- Joy Berry, MSW, Director, Housing Options Made for Ending the Epidemic (HOME) Technical Assistance Center, National HIV/AIDS Housing Coalition (TN)
- Christina Clark Okarmus, MPP, Executive Director, Alabama Campaign for Adolescent Sexual Health (AL)
- Leisha McKinley-Beach, Founder & CEO, Black Public Health Academy (GA)
- Nicole Roebuck (Warner), Executive Director, AID Atlanta (GA)

ROOM: ZABAN**EXPANDING ACCESS TO CARE: WEIGHING MEDICAID EXPANSION VS. PRIVATE OPTIONS**

Both Medicaid expansion and private options can increase cost efficiency and access to care for uninsured people living with HIV. Join this breakout to discuss strategies that work toward building support among policymakers and policies that ensure increased health care access.

Moderator:

- Maryanne Tomazic, Clinical Instructor, Health Law and Policy Clinic, Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation (MA)

Speakers:

- Matt Martin, Associate Director, North Carolina AIDS Action Network (NC)
- Linda Dixon, Health Law Director, Mississippi Center for Justice (MS)
- Kally Xu, MPH, CPH, Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy Analyst, National Health Law Program (DC)

12:20 PM ET

10 minutes

BREAK & REFRESH

Refreshments will be available.

12:30 PM ET

60 minutes

ROOM: CYPRUS**ECUMENICAL PRAYER****Speaker:**

- Mardrequis Harris, MAEd, Deputy Director, Southern AIDS Coalition (TN)

LUNCH PLENARY: REVERSING HEALTH INEQUITIES & DISPARITIES THAT EXIST WITHIN HIV TO BRIDGE THE GAP IN CARE

HIV disproportionately impacts certain populations in the South. This session will explore existing barriers to prevention and care and how social determinants of health should be examined to ensure optimal funding, programs, and training address the unique needs of the most marginalized communities.

Moderator:

- Martese D. Prince, Chief Program Officer, Abounding Prosperity (TX)

Speakers:

- Michelle Au, MD, Representative, District 50, House of Representatives, Georgia (GA)
- Carmarion D. Anderson-Harvey, Alabama State Director, Human Rights Campaign (AL)
- Judith Montenegro, Program Director, Southeast, Latino Commission on AIDS (NC)
- Marvell L. Terry II, Senior Program Manager, Funders Concerned About AIDS (GA)

A seated meal will be served. Please let your server know of any dietary restrictions and they will accommodate.

1:30 PM ET

60 minutes

ROOM: CYPRUS**AFTERNOON PLENARY: PRIORITIZING THOSE MOST MARGINALIZED & RESPONDING TO HIV CRIMINALIZATION**

HIV criminalization is an issue that cannot be ignored. Across southern states, laws that criminalize HIV can be found that do not meet their original intent or follow current science, and ultimately serve as a barrier to health equity for those who are disproportionately disadvantaged and most impacted by HIV. This session will talk about the real cost of HIV criminalization and strategies for policy modernization.

Moderator:

- David Wyley Long, Special Initiatives Associate, Southern AIDS Coalition (TN)

Speakers:

- Grace Butler-Washington, Representative, District 69, House of Representatives, Mississippi (MS)
- Jasmine Clark, Representative, District 108, House of Representatives, Georgia (GA)
- Kytara Epps, MPH, National Community Outreach Coordinator, Center for HIV Law & Policy (PA)
- Malcolm Reid, CEO, Unity Arc Advocacy (GA)

2:30 PM ET

10 minutes

BREAK & REFRESH

Refreshments will be available.

2:40 PM ET
60 minutes

BREAKOUTS: SUPPORTING THE ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC INITIATIVE

ROOM: ROTUNDA

THE IMPORTANCE OF STATE HIV FUNDING & ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

Ending the HIV epidemic will require a multi-sectoral and multi-pronged approach inclusive of state and local leaders. Join this breakout to discuss supporting funding for Rapid Start pilots, state funding for treatment and prevention, and overall outline the role state and local leaders can play in preventing and ending HIV.

Moderator:

- Clover Barnes, RN, BSN, MBA, Senior Deputy Director, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration, District of Columbia (DC)

Speakers:

- Shevrin Jones, Senator, District 34, State Senate, Florida (FL)
- John W. Hines, Sr., Representative, District 50, House of Representatives, Mississippi (MS)
- Jen Laws, President & CEO, Community Access National Network (LA)

ROOM: ZABAN

LEVERAGING LESSONS LEARNED TO STRENGTHEN THE ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC (EHE) INITIATIVE

Partnership and coordination between federal agencies and states are necessary for ending the southern HIV epidemic. In this session, leaders from federal agencies will discuss lessons learned, best practices, and strategies that can be used when creating policies to support ending the HIV epidemic in southern states.

Moderator:

Dafina Ward, JD, Executive Director, Southern AIDS Coalition (SC/AL)

Speakers:

- Elizabeth DiNenno, PhD, Principal Deputy Director, Division of HIV Prevention, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and Tuberculosis Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (GA)
- Captain John Oguntomilade, BDS, MPH, PhD, Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative Coordination Lead, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (GA)
- William Tanyi, DHSc, MPH, MBBS, EHE Prevention Senior Consultant, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SC)
- Antrell Tyson, Regional Director, Region 4, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, & TN)

3:40 PM ET
10 minutes

BREAK & REFRESH

Refreshments will be available.

3:50 PM ET
25 minutes

REFLECTIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Speaker:

- Dafina Ward, JD, Executive Director, Southern AIDS Coalition (SC/AL)

ROOM: CYPRUS

4:15 PM ET
45 minutes

NETWORKING & HIV IN THE SOUTH POSTER SESSION

Freestyle Q&A, discussion, and posters on HIV in the South by state.

ROOM: CYPRUS

EVENT SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

The Southern Policymaker Academy is a critical meeting of the minds, where policymakers and advocates from a range of experiences come together to change the course of HIV's impact on the U.S. South.

Presented by Southern AIDS Coalition in partnership with the City of Atlanta, this is an opportunity for the experiences and voices of those impacted by HIV to align with political leaders and to come together to move the needle in bipartisan policy action for those impacted by HIV.



This toolkit can be used to advocate and amplify our cause. Within the toolkit, you will find:



Sample press release language about the event



Sample social media content related to the event



Additional resources to support you in your digital advocacy

For advocates: Visit <https://rb.gy/nhj0sc> to identify your local and state elected representatives. Once you have identified your representative, please direct all social media posts to your elected officials' social media accounts using the "@" function.

Draft Social Media

- The Southern Policymaker Academy is a critical meeting of the minds, where policymakers and advocates can come together to change the course of HIV's impact on the U.S. South. [#SPA24 #SouthernPolicyAcademy](#)
 - ▶ Take picture (a selfie or with attendees) & attach to social media post.
- The South accounts for more than half (52%) of all new HIV diagnoses, yet only represented 38% of PrEP users in 2022. We need policy action to advance PrEP for all in the Southern U.S. <https://rb.gy/vgftng> [#SPA24 #SouthernPolicyAcademy](#)
 - ▶ [CLICK HERE](#) to download infographic
- Living with HIV is not a crime. Learn more about policy solutions to modernize outdated laws that criminalize HIV here: <https://rb.gy/lc8gqm> [#SPA24 #SouthernPolicyAcademy](#)
 - ▶ [CLICK HERE](#) to download infographic
- Disparities in social determinants of health drive the disproportionate impact of HIV in the south. Learn more about policy solutions to address these barriers here: <https://rb.gy/xyjbn8> [#SPA24 #SouthernPolicyAcademy](#)
 - ▶ [CLICK HERE](#) to download infographic
- Want to learn how to alleviate barriers to HIV prevention, care, and treatment in the South? Learn more on the importance of open and unrestricted access to medicines by viewing our Open Access Toolkit here: <https://rb.gy/en0piw> [#SPA24 #SouthernPolicyAcademy](#)
- We need new and bipartisan champions and state and local leaders vocally supporting HIV programming and funding. Learn more about what local leaders can do in this fight against HIV here: <https://rb.gy/y MDF16> [#SPA24 #SouthernPolicyAcademy](#)

Event Social Media Toolkit (CONT.)

Draft Press Release Template

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: XX/XX/XXXX

[Insert Press Contact]

Policymakers & Advocates Across the U.S. South Convene to Strategize Solutions to Address Health Equity for All

Millions of people in the U.S. are living with HIV, and thousands of new cases are reported every year. Addressing health disparities will require policymakers and communities coming together to determine solutions.

[City, State] – [Date] – Today, [Insert Member Name] joined advocates and community members at the **Southern Policymaker Academy**, which was formed to identify opportunities and policy action to address HIV and other health disparities impact on the southern region. Millions of people in the U.S. are currently living with HIV, and Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and Southern communities bear a disproportionate burden of the epidemic.

“We know that we can do more to address the inequities that exist and members of the community are experts of their own experiences. We wanted to bring those experiences to people capable of making policy changes so they can have the tools, data, resources, and community input to enact meaningful change. That was the reasoning behind hosting the Southern Policymaker Academy,” said Dafina Ward, Executive Director of Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC).

Presented by SAC in partnership with the City of Atlanta, the Southern Policymaker Academy was an opportunity for the experiences and voices of those impacted by HIV to align with political leaders and to come together to move the needle in bipartisan policy action for those impacted by HIV.

“If we’re to truly reach our goal of preventing and ending the HIV epidemic by 2030, then it will take an ‘all hands on deck’ approach to create meaningful policy changes. I applaud the work of SAC and the City of Atlanta convening such powerful voices on the issue and look forward to working with them to address the HIV epidemic in my district and within the broader U.S. South,” said [insert member’s name].

To learn more about ways to address the HIV epidemic, visit <https://policymakeracademy.southernaidscoalition.org/resources/>.

To locate HIV testing, prevention, and treatment services near you, visit <https://aidsvu.org/services/#/testing>.

###

Additional Resources

To learn more about the impact of HIV within communities, explore AIDSvu’s resources:

- Read AIDSvu’s **local and national data** to learn more about HIV in the United States
- Read more about AIDSvu’s **recently released PrEP data and launch of PrEPVu.org**
- Visit AIDSvu’s exhaustive **data on HIV testing**
- Read AIDSvu’s **“Deeper Look” on HIV in the U.S. South**
- Read AIDSvu’s recent interview with Marvell L. Terry II on **Black men in the South, HIV, and PrEP**
- Find available HIV testing and care services near you with AIDSvu’s **service locators**
- Read AIDSvu’s resources on health equity:
 - **Dr. Ifeoma Udoh on HIV Prevention and Health Equity for Black Women**
 - **Health Equity & HIV**

SPEAKERS

Speakers are organized alphabetically by last name.



Carmarion Anderson-Harvey
(she/her/hers)

Alabama State Director
Human Rights Campaign

Carmarion D. Anderson-Harvey is a prominent transgender woman of color strongly committed to inclusivity and equality for all. She serves as the Alabama State Director with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), making her the first transgender person of color to hold a leadership role in the organization's history.

Before joining HRC, Carmarion worked in public health and education, with a specific focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and reducing health disparities among marginalized communities. She is also the founder and former Executive Director of Black Transwomen, Inc. This is the first national non-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) programmatic focus that uplifts the voices, hearts, and souls of black trans women and is in alliance with the Black Trans Advocacy Coalition.

Carmarion has extensive experience in faith spaces as well. She serves as the National Administrator and South Regional Coordinator for TransSaints of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM). Additionally, she was an associate elder/minister at the Living Faith Covenant Church in Dallas, Texas, for 16 years before making her professional move to Alabama. Currently, Carmarion attends and serves at the First Congregational Christian Church, UCC, in Birmingham, Alabama, completing her Member-in-Discernment (MID) process for authorized ministry with the United Church of Christ (UCC).

Carmarion was raised in Dallas, Texas, with family roots from Natchez, Mississippi. She is the parent of one son and has three adorable grandchildren.



Michelle Au, MD, MPH
(she/her/hers)

Representative, District 50
House of Representatives, Georgia

Michelle Au is a second-generation Chinese American from New York City. She was elected to serve as State Senator for District 48 in Georgia, becoming the only Senate member with an advanced degree in public health and the first Asian woman to serve in the Georgia Senate.

Rep. Dr. Au serves on the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight, Public Health, and Special Rules House committees, and co-chairs the bi-partisan General Assembly Working Group on Addiction and Recovery. She helped form, and currently chairs, the bi-partisan General Assembly AAPI Caucus, the largest state AAPI caucus in the continental US. Dr. Au was honored to be a 2023 Nominee for the Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award from EMILYs List for her legislative efforts to protect reproductive healthcare.

Rep. Dr. Au has been practicing anesthesiology for over ten years, and is a proud mother of two sons and a daughter.



Liliana Bakhtiari (she/they)

City Councilmember, District 5
Atlanta, Georgia

Atlanta native Liliana Bakhtiari is the first nonbinary person elected in Atlanta, and the first queer Muslim to be elected in the state of Georgia. Councilmember Bakhtiari is the daughter of Iranian immigrants, and has been investing her time in issues she is passionate about since a young age. She has championed several issues around the world, including affordable education, affordable housing, women's and children's health, and environmental justice. In Atlanta, she has tackled initiatives such as voter engagement, services for unsheltered populations, and more. Bakhtiari currently serves as strategic director for the Blue Neighbors Project, curator of Black Futures Matter Collective, and the board of Georgia Equality.



Clover Barnes, RN, BSN, MBA,
(she/her/hers)

Senior Deputy Director
HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration
(HAHSTA)
District of Columbia

Clover Barnes is a nurse executive with over twenty years of combined experience in healthcare and public health. A champion for health equity, diversity, and inclusion, Clover has a demonstrated track record of engaging staff and facilitating change while promoting an organizational culture that supports innovation, collaboration, and data driven decision-making. For the past seven years, Clover served as the Bureau Chief of the Care and Treatment Division of HAHSTA, where she provided excellent leadership and administrative oversight of the Ryan White Program and DC Health's Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiatives.

Prior to joining DC Health, Clover served in a myriad of healthcare/nursing positions in her career including serving as Staff/Charge nurse, Clinic Coordinator, Nursing Manager, Ambulatory Manager, and Chief Operating Officer at a Federally Qualified Health Center.

Clover received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and a Master of Business Administration from University of Phoenix in Phoenix, Arizona. Clover has a passion for working with the underserved and invests her time and energy in improving the community in which she lives.

Speakers (CONT.)



Joy Berry, MSW (she/her/hers)

Director, Housing Options Made for Ending the Epidemic (HOME) Technical Assistance Center
National HIV/AIDS Housing Coalition

Joy Berry works tirelessly to improve access to health care for people living with HIV (PWH) through innovation, execution of plans, and oversight of multiple systemic and structural interventions. With over a decade of experience working within government and non-profit organizations, she brings her expertise in program development and implementation, coupled with several years of HIV and sexual health program management. Joy currently, serves as the Director of the Housing Options Made for Ending the Epidemic (HOME) Technical Assistance Center, which aims to provide cutting-edge technical assistance to guide organizations in increasing housing opportunities and develop affordable housing that includes supportive services for PWH and persons most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS to End the HIV Epidemic.



Tony Billups (he/him/his)

Advocate and Author
Co-Founder, Birmingham Black Pride

Tony Billups is a community advocate and activist with over a decade of experience in community-level HIV monitoring and care. He is a frequently sought-after source for issues and advice regarding the intersectionality between HIV and racial disparities, and aims to reach out to and engage with communities of color.

Previously, Tony spent over eight years at AIDS Alabama. During his time as Director of Prevention and Community Partnerships, he created a PrEP/HIV treatment clinic that specialized in assisting marginalized communities of color (MCOC), and implemented several other prevention initiatives at the state and community levels.



Rashad Burgess (he/him)

Vice President
Advancing Health and Black Equity
Gilead Sciences

Rashad Burgess is the Vice President for Advancing Health and Black Equity, leading Gilead Science's strategy to tackle Health Equity and systemic issues of structural racism around the world, with a particular focus on Black communities in the United States. He has held a number of key leadership roles within Gilead, including Executive Director for HIV Community Operations at Gilead Sciences, leading the HIV Community Team. As a key member of Gilead's leadership team, he contributes to overall strategy for the business unit and is a strategic and trusted partner in helping community and sales professionals, as well as those in the larger healthcare industry, make their vision a reality.

Rashad joined Gilead in 2013 as a Community Liaison and progressed to Regional Sales Director and, subsequently, Executive Sales Director. He is a three-time President's Club winner, part of Gilead's coveted Circle of Excellence. Most recently, he was selected into the inaugural cohort of Gilead's Diverse Talent Acceleration Program, one of 13 African American leaders across the organization to participate in this development course. Rashad is a graduate of the University of Chicago, where he received a BA in Public Policy and an MA in Social Sciences.

Rashad has dedicated much of his life to the mission of preventing HIV, particularly among people of color, including gay men and other communities impacted by HIV. Prior to joining Gilead Sciences, Rashad was Chief of the Capacity Building Branch for the Division of HIV and AIDS Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In this position, he was responsible for the oversight of nearly 50 programmatic and scientific staff providing capacity-building assistance to domestic health departments and community-based organizations. He also provided outstanding leadership in the improvement and implementation of the funding awards process for health departments and other organizations. Prior to this, he managed a team of project officers that provided oversight of HIV prevention programs in the West, including Guam, Hawaii and the West Coast. He has continued to maintain his track record of excellence at Gilead. Rashad lives in Atlanta, GA, with his husband OC Allen. They have two children, Joshua (10) and Caylee (9). Rashad and his family enjoy traveling to the beach whenever possible, and he is an avid runner, having completed 4 marathons.



Grace Butler-Washington (she/her/hers)

Representative, District 69
House of Representatives, Mississippi

Grace Butler-Washington is a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives for the 69th District, and is affiliated with the Democratic party. Before running for office, Rep. Butler-Washington was a Mississippi Senate clerk, and held leadership positions with the Department of Health, Mississippi Health Advocacy Program, and American Cancer Society. She is a graduate of Alcorn State University and the University of Southern Mississippi, and holds a political management certificate from George Washington University. Rep. Butler Washington's key policy positions include ensuring quality and adequate education and healthcare, as well as empowering marginalized groups, and promoting economic development.

Speakers (CONT.)



Park Cannon, (she/her/hers)

Representative, District 58
House of Representatives, Georgia

State Representative Park Cannon serves the citizens of Georgia's House District 58, which encompasses a diverse cross-section of 20 neighborhoods within intown Atlanta. She was awarded the 2021 Legislator of the Year by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

She currently serves as the Secretary to the Georgia House Democratic Caucus, and is assigned to the Ethics, Insurance, Small Business Development, Creative Arts & Entertainment, Human Relations & Aging, and Code Revision committees.

Her legislative efforts focus on reproductive justice issues such as access to quality health care, housing, and education. Rep. Cannon seeks to stop the erosion of affordability for basic needs, which she believes are the foundations of social stability. She also devotes her legislative work to protecting Georgia's most vulnerable: women and children, the elderly, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Rep. Cannon attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned a BA in Hispanic Linguistics, a BA in Linguistics, and minored in Women's and Gender Studies. Her Executive Education was completed at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government on the subject of police accountability and voting rights.

She was unlawfully arrested in March of 2021 upon knocking on the Governor's door to protect voting rights and her charges were dropped as the world watched in shock.



Michael H. Chanclley (he/him/his)

Communications Manager
PrEP 4 All

Michael H. Chanclley Jr., M.S.W., is an East Point, Georgia-based social worker, educator, writer, HIVadvocate, and PrEP user from New Orleans, LA. He has many years of experience developing and implementing HIV prevention programs for communities that have been disproportionately affected by the virus.

Michael is the Communications and Mobilization Manager for PrEP4All and a Greater Than AIDS Ambassador. Michael's advocacy and writings center on fighting for a federally funded national PrEP program, challenging HIV stigma and discrimination, and educating others on the dire impact of HIV criminalization. He is also a founding organizer for the PrEP In Black America coalition.



Kendrick T. Clack, MSN, FNP-C, AACRN, AAHIVS, (he/him/his)

Nurse Practitioner
CrofootMD Clinic and Research Center

Kendrick T. Clack is a family nurse practitioner and sub-investigator at the CrofootMD Clinic and Research Center in Houston, TX. In this role, he provides routine primary care with a focus on men's health, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases, and gender affirming care. He also serves as a subinvestigator on clinical trials evaluating safety and efficacy of investigational biomedical therapies for HIV treatment and prevention.

In previous roles, Kendrick has worked with health departments and community based organizations to optimize wellness programs through development and implementation of comprehensive workflows to include treatment and prevention pathways for sexual health. He is board certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, and the American Academy of HIV Medicine.

Kendrick is currently pursuing a PhD in Nursing Science at Texas Woman's University-Houston Center where he also earned his BS and MS in Nursing. His research interests include clinical trial diversity and improving self-efficacy of advanced practice nurses around sexual health and wellness.



Christina Clark Okarmus, MPP (she/her/hers)

Executive Director
Alabama Campaign for Adolescent Sexual Health

Christina Clark Okarmus (she/her) leads the Alabama Campaign for Adolescent Sexual Health (ACASH) as its Executive Director. With over 12 years working in adolescent sexual health, Christina is committed to the right of young people in Alabama to receive comprehensive sexual health education. She cares deeply about the ability of all people to have the knowledge, skills, and access to services to take care of their health.

During her tenure at ACASH, Christina started their first Youth Advisory Council program, developed an online sex ed foundation course called the Sex Ed Professional Learning Series, and successfully stopped anti-sex ed legislation from passing in 2024. Christina serves as chair of the Alabama Department of Public Health Family Planning Advisory Committee and is a member of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT), Doula Training International, and Pi Gamma Mu. She has her Master of Public Policy from the University of Northern Iowa and her BS in Political Science from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Speakers (CONT.)



Jasmine Clark (she/her/hers)

Representative, District 108
House of Representatives, Georgia

Jasmine Clark was born in Atlanta, GA. She currently serves as the Representative to House District 108, and is a Lecturer of Microbiology and Human Anatomy and Physiology at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University.

Jasmine wanted to follow in her father's footsteps and become a doctor from a very young age. She received her Bachelors of Science in Biological Sciences at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, then went on to receive her Doctoral Degree in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics from Emory University's Laney Graduate School. Her postdoctoral project at Emory University studied high-throughput sequencing of HIV patient samples.

Outside of work, Jasmine is involved in community organizing and activism surrounding a variety of social justice issues. She is a mother of two and believes that an inclusive Georgia is a thriving Georgia.



Natalie Crawford, MPH, PhD (she/her/hers)

Associate Professor
Rollins School of Public Health
Emory University

Dr. Crawford is an Associate Professor in Behavioral, Social and Health Education Sciences in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. She serves as the Co-Director of the Prevention and Implementation Sciences Core in the Center for AIDS Research at Emory. Dr. Crawford is trained in social epidemiology, and received her PhD and MPH in Epidemiology from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Crawford completed her post-doctoral training at the University of Michigan as a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar. She graduated from Spelman College where she trained in Women Studies and Biochemistry. Her National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) supported research examines the impact of structural interventions in pharmacies on reducing racial inequities in HIV. She is currently advancing the implementation science of HIV prevention services in pharmacies in the U.S. Southeast.



Elizabeth DiNenno, PhD (she/her/hers)

Principal Deputy Director, Division of HIV Prevention
National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and
Tuberculosis Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Elizabeth (or "Liz") DiNenno serves as Principal Deputy Director for the Division of HIV Prevention, at the CDC. In this role Dr. DiNenno directs Division programs and provides strategic direction and management for the Division in close collaboration with the Director. As Principal Deputy, she oversees 10 programmatic and scientific branches. Liz has dedicated over 20 years of her public health career to improving HIV prevention, research, and surveillance in the United States to improve the health and wellbeing of communities and people most affected by HIV. Her career began in the HIV/AIDS section at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, before joining CDC in 2004. Her previous leadership roles at CDC have included HIV surveillance, epidemiology, and HIV testing, as well as serving during COVID-19, mpox, and other public health emergencies. Liz holds a BA in Sociology from Gettysburg College, and a PhD in Sociology from Temple University.



Linda Dixon (she/her/hers)

Health Law Director
Mississippi Center for Justice

Linda Dixon serves as the health law director at the Mississippi Center for Justice, a position she has held since November 2008. Prior to joining the Center, she was the assistant secretary of state for elections for the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, where she previously held the position of senior attorney and director of elections training and education. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Southern University at New Orleans and her law degree from Mississippi College School of Law. Linda's work focuses on access to health care and HIV discrimination and stigma. Linda is a member of the Mississippi Bar and the Magnolia Bar Associations. Linda currently serves on the Southern Black HIV/AIDS Advisory Council, Central Mississippi Health Services Board, Mississippi Urban League Board, Converge Board, the Access Care & Engagement TA Center Advisory Council, and the Mississippi College School of Law Alumni Association Board. She previously served on the Southern AIDS Coalition Board of Directors, Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation Board, MS Votes, and steering committee of the Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative.

Speakers (CONT.)



Dázon Dixon Diallo (she/her/hers)

Founder & President
SisterLove

Dázon Dixon Diallo is the founder and president of SisterLove—the first women’s HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Justice organization in the southeastern United States. Additionally, she serves on the Women-At-Risk Subcommittee and the Scientific Advisory Group of the HIV Prevention Trials Network, the UNFPA Global Advisory Council, the Women’s Research Initiative (WRI), is co-chair for the Act Now: End AIDS National Coalition, and is a founding member of SisterSong Reproductive Justice Collective.

Until recently, she served as a member of the NIH Office on AIDS Research Advisory Council and on the board of directors of the National Women’s Health Network. She is the creator and convener of the Prevention Options for Women at Risk-POWaR-Partnership (formerly US Women & PrEP Working Group) and WomenNOW! PowerShift for SRHRJ for Girls & Women of African Descent worldwide.

In addition to her Master’s Degree in Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (C’97) and a Bachelor’s Degree from Spelman College (C’86) in Atlanta, Dázon had the distinct honor to receive an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from her alma mater, Spelman College.

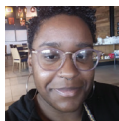


Daniel Driffin, MPH (he/him/his)

External Relations Project Manager, HIV Vaccine
Trials Network
Co-Founder, Thrive SS

As External Relations Project Manager, Daniel Driffin is based in the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) Leadership and Operations Center (Core) at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA. Daniel’s primary focus will be implementing stakeholder engagement strategies domestically and globally. Daniel sits at the intersections of HIV research, community mobilization, activism, and treatment. Daniel also knows the importance of people living with HIV informing the design and implementation of services for these key stakeholders.

Daniel recently completed a public health doctoral degree from Georgia State University. He plans to continue leveraging his influence to create community-driven solutions to improve HIV health outcomes for marginalized communities.



Kytara Epps, MPH (she/her/hers)

National Community Outreach Coordinator
Center for HIV Law & Policy

A fat, queer Black feminist public health practitioner, Kytara Epps is a graduate of Tulane University’s School of Public Health. She is interested in all things relating to reproductive health and justice for Black people. Her approach to health is through a queer black feminist and fat positivity lens.



Drew Gibson, MSW (he/him/his)

Director of Advocacy
AIDS United

Drew Gibson, MSW is a nationally renowned HIV and harm reduction policy expert with more than a decade of experience both working in and advocating for organizations who serve people living with HIV and people who use drugs. In his role at AIDS United, Drew helps guide the organization’s federal appropriations work, serving as a Co-Chair for the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership’s AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition. He also leads a wide range of federal, state, and local efforts to increase access to syringe services programs (SSPs) and other forms of harm reduction throughout the United States, and serves as the Chair of the Coalition for Syringe Access.



Ariana Gordillo De Vivero (she/her/hers)

Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives
National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics

Ariana Gordillo De Vivero, the Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives at the National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (NAFC), has played a pivotal role in the organization since 2011. Her multifaceted responsibilities encompass partner relationship management, oversight of grant programs, mobilization of volunteers, engagement in community outreach, adeptness in public speaking, and leadership in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Ariana possesses a Master of Arts Degree in Latin American & Hemispheric Studies, complemented by a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies. Originating from Lima, Peru, she gives back to her community as an interpreter at the Arlington Free Clinic, while maintaining her residence in McLean, Virginia.

Speakers (CONT.)



Mardrequs Harris, MAEd (he/him)

Deputy Director
Southern AIDS Coalition

Mardrequs Harris, MAEd is a native of Somerville, TN and currently resides in Atlanta, GA. He serves as the Deputy Director of the Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC) and is proud to be the organization's longest serving employee. Mardrequs is a graduate of Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN and completed his Master of Arts in Education with a focus in Community Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has a public health background with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS that spans well over a decade. His experience extends across the spectrum, inclusive of clinical research, community-based organizations, state government, and national affiliations. His greatest joy comes with doing regional work that focuses specifically on the Southern U.S. and being able to amplify the resilience that comes with being a Southerner.



John W. Hines, Sr.

Representative, District 50
House of Representatives, Mississippi

John W. Hines, Sr. is a 23-year veteran in the Mississippi House of Representatives. Rep. Hines was born and raised in Greenville, MS and is a product of the Greenville Public Schools. He attended Jackson State University and is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University with a bachelor of arts in Public Administration. Representing District 50, Rep. Hines welcomes the opportunity to use his unique negotiating insights to advocate for his community.

Rep. Hines is a licensed insurance agent and investigator by trade, but it is his love for the community and for children that led to his election as State Representative in 2001. He is a member of the following legislative committees: Vice Chairman of Local and Private, Appropriations, Insurance, Management, Medicaid, Public Health, and Banking and Finance.

Rep. Hines is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; 100 Black Men of the Mississippi Delta; the NAACP; Young Men Making a Difference; and a former member of the FEMA National Advisory Council with two presidential appointments. He is married to Cynthia Gray and has six children and five grandchildren.



Arianna Lint (she/her/hers)

CEO
Arianna's Center

Arianna Lint is Executive Director of Arianna's Center, a community-based organization that provides advocacy, education and training, case management and now Medical care for transgender men and women. She is a refugee and lawyer from Lima, Peru. Arianna has spoken at dozens of trans and HIV-related conferences. In 2021, Arianna was chosen as the first Transgender to appear in an inclusive LGBTQ+ Pride campaign for the NBC Universal TELEMUNDO enterprises and currently her story is part of the national campaign "MUJERES IMPARABLES / UNSTOPPABLE WOMEN." She is an outspoken advocate for transwomen living with HIV, U=U, PrEP access in the transgender community, immigration, and social justice. She currently has a consulting company ALINC Trailblazing Transgender Consulting firm champions inclusivity and diversity.



Kim Jackson (she/her/hers)

Senator, District 41
State Senate, Georgia

Kim Jackson serves as Senator for Georgia State Senate District 41, representing portions of DeKalb County. Sen. Jackson works every day to build a safer, fairer, and more prosperous Georgia, and bring the diverse voices of her district to the Capitol: immigrants, refugees, and people living on the margins.

In her first years, Sen. Jackson has defended voting rights against relentless attacks; authored life-saving legislation for stalking victims which passed both chambers unanimously; secured unprecedented funds for Black farmers; started serving as co-chair of the Mental Health Caucus; and earned appointment to the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. In this year's session, Jackson passed legislation to create an Address Confidentiality Program for victims/survivors of domestic violence, stalking violence, and human trafficking.

Sen. Jackson and her family live in Stone Mountain. She and her wife are stewards of a small urban farm in Georgia that hosts goats, ducks, honeybees, rabbits, and chickens.

Speakers (CONT.)



Shevrin Jones (he/him/his)

Senator, District 34
State Senate, Florida

Florida State Senator Shevrin “Shev” Jones is an educator, public servant, and consensus builder who gets results on the issues facing Florida families.

Growing up in Carol City, Sen. Jones’ parents instilled in him and his brothers the values of education, faith, and service to the community. He recognized from a young age the power of education as the great equalizer, a foundation that drove him into teaching to help students reach their full potential.

After teaching A.P. Chemistry in Broward County at Florida Atlantic University High, Sen. Jones went on to found L.E.A.D. Nation, a top South Florida nonprofit organization committed to youth leadership development and social entrepreneurship training.

Sen. Jones’ firsthand look at the inequities in education and society at large propelled him to enter public service. In 2012, he was elected to the Florida House, championing meaningful bipartisan legislation, including two consecutive bills to secure dignity for incarcerated women; statewide expansion of a clean syringe exchange program; safety and oversight for athletic coaches for youth athletic teams; and ensuring transparency and accountability via police body cameras.

Today, Sen. Jones proudly serves Florida’s 34th Senate District, which includes Northeast Miami-Dade County. Sen. Jones served on President Barack Obama’s College Promise Task Force and is an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Young Elected Officials Network, Leadership Florida Connect - Class 32, Leadership Broward Class 27, the Council of State Governments TOLLS fellowship program, and Millennial Action Project’s Florida Future Caucus.

Sen. Jones has received widespread recognition for his service, including acknowledgment as Florida Young Democrat of the Year, Broward Parent Teachers Association’s Legislator of the Year, a Congressional Political Institute Honoree, ICABA’s 100 Most Accomplished Caribbean Americans, Gold Coast Magazine’s “Top 40 under 40,” and Legacy Magazine’s South Florida’s “50 Most Powerful and Influential Black Leaders.” Sen. Jones is completing his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at Florida Atlantic University and was recently appointed to President Biden’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).



Venton Jones, Jr. (he/him/his)

Representative, District 100
House of Representatives, Texas

Venton Jones, Jr. is a skilled project management professional with over 20 years of experience implementing innovative and effective new public health initiatives and serving in various high profile leadership roles with some of the nation’s leading public policy organizations and academic institutions responding to efforts to end the HIV epidemic and health disparities in the U.S. South.

In addition to his non-profit work, Rep. Jones currently serves as a State Representative in the Texas House of Representatives. His previous experience includes serving on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Health Resources and Services Administration Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment as the Chairman of the Ending the HIV Epidemic Community Engagement Sub Working Group, former Chairman of the Dallas County HIV Task Force, and Vice-President of the Ryan White Planning Council of the Dallas area.



Jen Laws, (he/him/his)

President & CEO
Community Access National Network

Jen Laws is the President & Founder of Policy Candy, LLC, which is a nonpartisan health policy analysis firm specializing in various aspects of health care and public health policy, focusing on the needs of the HIV-affected and Transgender communities. In that capacity, Jen has served as the President & CEO of the Community Access National Network (CANN), beginning in January 2022. He previously served as the Project Director of CANN’s HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch, as well as 340B Policy Consultant.

Lending his expertise on policy matters ranging from 340B impact on RW providers and patients to strategic communications and data analysis, Jen’s approach to community engagement is focused on being accessible across all stakeholder groups and centering the perspectives of PLWHA and Transgender people.

In his personal life, Jen enjoys spending his time being “ridiculously wholesome” with his wife, Aisha, and her two amazing daughters. In their personal time, when not immersed in crafts or house projects, they can be found seeking opportunities to help their neighbors, friends, and community members (who have come to rightfully expect exquisite gift baskets of Aisha’s homemade jams and jellies from time to time). Jen strives to set a good example both in his personal and professional life of integrating values into action and extending the kindness and care that have led him to a life he calls “extraordinarily lucky”.

Speakers (CONT.)



Matt Martin (they/he)

Associate Director
North Carolina AIDS Action Network

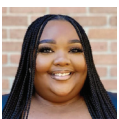
Matt Martin has been with the North Carolina AIDS Action Network's since August 2016 and currently serves as the Associate Director. Matt graduated from Western Carolina University in 2013, receiving a B.S.Ed. and B.M. in Instrumental Music Education with a minor in Religious Studies. After teaching Middle School Band in the NC Public School system for two years, Matt left education to follow a passion for advocacy and activism. Prior to joining the NCAAN team, Matt worked as a Field Organizer on the TurnOUT! Charlotte and TurnOUT! North Carolina campaigns, two LGBTQIA+ issue based coalition campaigns. When not working, you can typically find Matt reading fantasy novels and drinking entirely too much coffee. Matt is currently based in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Leisha McKinley-Beach (she/her/hers)

Founder & CEO
Black Public Health Academy

Leisha McKinley-Beach is an author, thought leader, inspirational strategist, trainer, and community organizer. Leisha is the founder and CEO of The Black Public Health Academy. Leisha also serves as a consultant who provides training on Black health issues including HIV, medical mistrust, racism in public health, cultural humility, and community engagement. She has been fortunate to participate in nationally recognized projects such as PrEP in Black America, Gilead Sciences Champions of Change: A Celebration of Black Women Changemakers in HIV, Viiv Risk to Reasons national movement to retire the word "risk" associated with sexual health for women, the Florida Department of Health Sistas Organizing to Survive (SOS), a first-ever statewide campaign to address HIV among Black women, and initiatives to engage faith-based communities in the HIV response across the South. Leisha received her bachelor's degree (Community health) from the University of Florida and her master's degree in health science (Psycho-social health) from the University of West Florida. Leisha is a 2023 inductee into the University of Florida College of Health and Human Performance Hall of Fame



Marnina Miller (she/her/hers)

Co-Executive Director
Positive Women's Network

Marnina Miller is a prominent human rights activist and influential social media figure with a strong dedication to driving positive societal change. Marnina serves as the co-Executive Director of

Positive Women's Network USA, a national membership body of women living with HIV and our allies that exists to strengthen the strategic power of all women living with HIV in the United States.

Marnina's journey into activism began when she joined the Positive Organizing Project, empowering people living with HIV to become advocates. As a proud and openly Queer woman living with HIV, she has emerged as an inspiring figure.

Marnina's commitment extends to her involvement with organizations that include The Well Project's Community Advisory Board, and she serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Youth Across Borders, supporting an orphanage for children living with HIV in Honduras.

Recognized for her advocacy, Marnina is a recipient of the Violet Award celebrating LGBTQ advocates in Texas. At the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), she serves as a national facilitator for the ESCALATE and ELEVATE Training team. Under her brand "MarninaTheQueen," she leverages social media to address social injustices and raise awareness, with a substantial following and millions of video streams on platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook.

Her expertise in HIV stigma has earned her features in prominent media outlets such as Vice News, National Public Radio (NPR), and the YouTube Original Series: HIV Disclosure and Dating.



Judith Montenegro (she/her/hers)

Program Director, Southeast
Latino Commission on AIDS

Judith Montenegro joined the Latino Commission on AIDS and their Latinos in the South program in 2013 as their Director of Community Organizing and in 2016, she became the Program Director. As a Mexican immigrant living in North Carolina, Judith is passionate about working with immigrant populations focusing on immigration reform, and improving health care access for Latine communities.



Captain John Oguntomilade, BDS, MPH, PhD (he/him/his)

Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative Coordination Lead
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy

Captain John Oguntomilade, BDS, MPH, PhD, is currently the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Initiative Coordination Lead in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP).

Speakers (CONT.)

CAPT Oguntomilade has served as the Acting EHE Lead for ODP while also serving as the Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE) Director for Region IV (FL, GA, AL, MS, TN, KY, NC & SC). He is an active-duty U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Officer, a dentist, and a public health professional who provides leadership coordination and oversight to the national implementation of the EHE initiative. Before joining OASH in August 2019 as the PACE Director for Region IV, CAPT Oguntomilade served with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Mozambique for four years, where he was the Associate Deputy for Program Management. At CDC, he provided oversight over all the CDC Mozambique's U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) partners. The CDC PEPFAR program provided HIV care and treatment services in six provinces with the highest HIV prevalence in Mozambique and received about \$200 million annually.

Prior to his tenure at CDC, CAPT Oguntomilade served at the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Global HIV/AIDS program, managing its \$700+ million PEPFAR Catholic Relief Service program, which provided HIV care and treatment services in 10 countries across sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. In the course of his duties, CAPT Oguntomilade traveled to 11 countries providing technical assistance, conducting program assessments, and supporting program transitions to in-country local partners. He successfully transitioned more than 700,000 patients in the HIV care and treatment program initially managed by U.S. implementing partners to in-country local organizations in Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Guyana, Haiti, and South Africa. CAPT Oguntomilade is the recipient of numerous USPHS and U.S. State Department awards, including Outstanding Service Medals, Commendation Medals, and U.S. Embassy Meritorious Service Award.



Martese D. Prince (he/him/his)

Chief Program Officer
Abounding Prosperity

Martese D. Prince has over 10 years of experience providing project and data management, strategic planning implementation, process mapping, and evaluation to community-based organization in the South. His management portfolio includes a host of private and federally funded programs that have addressed individual and syndemic related health disparities to vulnerable communities such as HIV/STI's, Harm reduction, housing, policy and advocacy, Covid, and Mpox. Martese's scope of work has touched notable organizations within southern sector jurisdictions such as Alabama (AIDS Alabama) where he served as a program manager to Dallas, TX (Abounding Prosperity) where he currently serves as the Chief Program Officer. He dually provides support to Dallas Southern Pride, an organization that provides culturally relevant and informed social activities designed to create pathways into awareness and access into health and social support for queer communities in Dallas county.



Will Ramirez, MPA (he/him)

Director, Public Policy & Advocacy
Southern AIDS Coalition

Will Ramirez is a dedicated housing and public health advocate, currently serving as the Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at the Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC). In his role, Will amplifies the needs and voices of people living with HIV and those disproportionately impacted by the epidemic in the South. He spearheads SAC's engagement in federal, state, and local efforts to achieve systemic policy changes that aim to reduce HIV-related health disparities and promote greater health equity.

Will has been a pivotal figure on Atlanta's Mayor's HOPWA Advisory Committee and was the founder of the Housing is Health Coalition. This coalition brought together advocates, activists, and HIV sector workers to address the critical issues of housing instability and its significant impact on health outcomes for residents in Atlanta and the surrounding counties.

With a robust background in public health, Will is deeply committed to identifying and solving the underlying social, economic, and political conditions that contribute to health disparities affecting marginalized and vulnerable communities. He holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Georgia State University and a Bachelor's degree in Legal Studies from American Military University.



Malcolm Reid (he/him/his)

CEO
Unity Arc Advocacy

Malcolm Reid is the Founder and CEO of the Unity Arc Advocacy Group. He is formerly the Director of Policy and Advocacy at THRIVE SS In 2017 he created and co-authored what is now the Silver Lining Project, a program and intervention to support and enhance the lives of black gay men over the age of 50 living with HIV.

Malcolm is also the chair of the Policy Action Committee of the US PLHIV Caucus, a member of the Metro Atlanta Ryan White Planning Council: Policy subcommittee, HAPAC (HIV and Aging Policy Action Coalition) and the Georgia HIV Justice Coalition.

In 2022, Malcolm was selected to participate in the "Leaders Lead On-Demand Program Combating HIV/AIDS in the Baltics". He delivered a presentation called "Stigma, Adherence and Community Involvement" to an audience of HIV Advocates, Caregivers, US State Dept and Latvian State Dept officials at the US Embassy in Riga, Latvia.

In 2023 Malcolm was one of three Policy Advocates Awarded the "Marco Castro-Bojorquez Positive Leadership Award. He was also named one of 8 amazing Advocates by HIV Plus Magazine.

Speakers (CONT.)

"I came to THRIVE SS with 20 years of leadership experience working for AT&T. My goal has always been to use my experience to support THRIVE's Mission to achieve health equity for black gay men living with HIV."

Malcolm has been in a 26-year relationship with Stewart Nelson-Reid. They were married in September 2015 when marriage equality became the law of the land.

"I am passionate about our legal rights to equity as human beings and citizens of this country and I did not want to get married until it was the law in the municipality where I lived."



Nicole Roebuck (Warner) (she/her/hers)

Executive Director
AID Atlanta

Nicole Roebuck (Warner) is the Executive Director of AID Atlanta, which is one of the largest and oldest AIDS Service Organizations in the Southeast region (established in 1982). She has been at AID Atlanta, Inc. for over 23 years. Prior to being appointed as the Executive Director in October 2015, she spent 13 of those years as the Director of Client Services providing leadership and oversight of the agency's largest program, case management, the medical clinic, as well as mental health, housing, and other support service programs. AID Atlanta provides comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and education, care and treatment services including HIV/STI screening and free treatment, PrEP counseling and care, free HIV medical care and treatment, case management, onsite pharmacy services, mental health care, and other outreach and prevention programs. A trained social worker, Nicole received her Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from New York University, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Pace University in New York City.



Justin T. Rush, JD (he/him/his)

Associate Director
Therapeutic Area Policy, U.S. Virology
Government Affairs
Gilead Sciences

With over a decade of experience in partnerships, policy, and public affairs, Justin Rush is a seasoned professional who combines a passion for social equity and diversity with a unique blend of public, corporate, and academic expertise. As an Associate Director of U.S. Policy -Virology at Gilead Sciences, Justin is the State Policy Lead for all issues pertaining to HIV and Viral Hepatitis, leading the development and execution of strategic policy initiatives to advance the company's mission and vision in the U.S. HIV market.



Tim Santamour (they/he)

Interim Executive Director
Florida Harm Reduction Collective

Tim is a long time HIV/AIDS and Harm Reduction activist. Over the years he has worked or volunteered at several programs including DanceSafe and Moving Equipment Queer Harm Reduction Collective. He helped found Florida Harm Reduction Collective in 2019 and now serves as its Executive Director. Tim also works on several national issues, including the National Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Collective and People with Lived Experience in Research. As a gay man who is still negotiating his relationship with substances both licit and illicit, Tim hopes to use his voice to better the lives of People Who Inject or Use Drugs (PWID)



Candace M. Staniel (she/her)

Chief Equity Officer
City of Atlanta

Candace M. Staniel founded The Common Good Agency (CGA), a consulting firm focused on capacity building for nonprofits and Higher Education institutions, in 2003. Candace's work with clients focuses on developing DEI capacity and competency for systems change. Increased DEI capacity, or the ability to identify, interpret and interrupt inequitable practices, is critical for all individuals, but significantly more valuable for those in spaces of social impact seeking to deliver outcomes for people not driven by factors of race, gender, SES or other markers of identity.

Candace also serves as a Partner with New Profit, a venture philanthropy firm, where she co-leads the Capitalizing Diverse Leaders and Organizations (CDLAO) initiative. CDLAO works to expand funding for Black and Latino social entrepreneurs; increase diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) capacity across the social impact sector; develop and support a growing body of senior philanthropic leaders of color; and expand the DEI data collection and analytics across philanthropy. Prior to New Profit, she spent a decade supporting nonprofits across the United States. Candace earned a B.A. in African-American studies from the University of Georgia in 2002 and a master's degree in higher education from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2006.

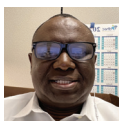
Speakers (CONT.)



Charles Stephens (he/him/his)

Founder & Executive Director
Counter Narrative Project

Charles Stephens is the Founder and Executive Director of the Counter Narrative Project (CNP). He serves on the Boards of Actor's Express and Canopy Atlanta. He is a former member of the Alliance Theatre Advisory Board, the Atlanta Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board, and the Atlanta Public Schools LGBTQ Task Force. Past awards and recognitions include: The VOX ATL Hall of Fame, the Georgia State University College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Alumni Award, Out Georgia's 100 Most Influential LGBTQ+ Georgians.



William Tanyi, DHSc, MPH, MBBS (he/him/his)

EHE Prevention Senior Consultant
South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control

Dr. William Tanyi is the Ending the HIV Epidemic Prevention Senior Consultant with the STD/HIV division of the South Carolina Department of Public Health since April 2021, where he supports the four pillars of ending the HIV epidemic (EHE) initiative and ensures that all activities under each pillar are completed. Before joining DHEC, Dr. Tanyi worked as a general practitioner with the Specialist Hospital, Sokoto in Nigeria, where he managed patients presenting at the infectious disease unit of the hospital and implemented patient follow-up and disease prevention services.

Dr. Tanyi has also worked in other public health capacities, including the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) in Nairobi, Kenya, as part of his postdoctoral fellowship program where he offered technical assistance services to the various program teams supporting HIV care, treatment, and prevention.

Dr. Tanyi has a passion for STD, HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and TB research and has over 25 years' experience working with many vulnerable and at-risk populations for creating disease prevention awareness through community engagement, advocacy, and public presentations.

He holds a medical degree (MBBS) from the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, Nigeria, master's degree in public health (MPH) and a doctorate degree in global health (DHSc) from the A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona.



Marvell L. Terry II, (he/him/his)

Senior Program Manager
Fundors Concerned About AIDS

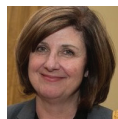
Marvell L. Terry II, a powerhouse educator, grassroots activist, and cultural organizer from Memphis, Tennessee, has dedicated more than a decade to HIV advocacy and cultural organizing. He's known for his work in improving the health outcomes of Black gay and queer men and has founded impactful initiatives such as The Red Door Foundation, the Saving Ourselves Symposium, and most recently, BLK in the South Summit. Marvell has also made significant national contributions, serving in leadership roles at prominent organizations like the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, AIDS United, and Columbia University. His work unapologetically centers the lives, culture, and resilience of Black individuals. Marvell currently resides in Atlanta, GA. For more information about Marvell and his work, visit www.marvellterry.com.



Maryanne Tomazic (she/her/hers)

Clinical Instructor
Health Law and Policy Clinic
Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation

Maryanne Tomazic is a clinical instructor at the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School. She is a public health lawyer, with a focus on health care policy, private health insurance, health care nondiscrimination, and access to gender-affirming and sexual/reproductive health care. Prior to law school, Maryanne worked at the intersection of health care reform and reproductive justice at Raising Women's Voices (Community Catalyst), served as an elected official on a board of education, and volunteered as an emergency medical technician for many years. Her work is also informed by her experience growing up with immigrant family and her academic training at Boston University School of Law (Health Law), Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health (History and Ethics of Public Health), and Swarthmore College (Biology). She is licensed in New York.



Carole Treston, RN, MPH, ACRN, FAAN (she/her/hers)

Executive Director
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC)

Carole Treston is the Executive Director of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC), a global nurse membership organization supporting the development, engagement and leadership of nurses in HIV related issues.

Carole is a Registered Nurse who has worked in HIV/AIDS clinical care, prevention, research, education and health policy since 1987.

Speakers (CONT.)

She has been a member of local, national and global boards and appointed committees and has served as principal investigator on funded projects related to the intersection of HIV, health care and social justice and the important role of nurses in health care and health policy.

She is an experienced nurse clinician with a Master's Degree in Public Health/Health Policy from Columbia University and is board certified thru the HIV/AIDS Nursing Certification Board. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and serves on the PEPFAR Scientific Advisory Board and the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). She is proudest of being a member of the global nursing profession and workforce and is dedicated to compassionate, evidence-based person centered health care.



DaShawn Usher (he/him)

Senior Director, Communities of Color and Media, GLAAD
Founder & Executive Director, Mobilizing Our Brothers Initiative

DaShawn Usher is an award-winning advocate, published researcher, and celebrated leader within the LGBTQ+ community and HIV prevention field. DaShawn joined GLAAD as the Program Officer, Communities of Color with more than 12 years of extensive experience in LGBT research, program development and design, campaigns, and health communications. He was featured in OUT magazine's 2017 OUT 100 list for his efforts in community organizing. DaShawn has been listed on the 2017 and 2018 DBQ Magazine's LOUD 100 People of Color list, recognized by NYC Pride as a 2018 Community Hero, and received the 2019 Fighter Award by Heir Productions.

DaShawn is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), where he majored in Mass Communications/Public Relations. While at MTSU, DaShawn worked at Nashville CARES as the Young Brothers United Coordinator serving LGBTQ+ youth of color. Following Nashville CARES, he ventured into research that focused on the LGBTQ+ community with the Research Foundation of the City University of New York (RFCUNY). He continued his research experience with the New York Blood Center's Project ACHIEVE through clinical (HIV vaccines and Injectable PrEP) and behavioral research, with a focus on Black men who have sex with men (MSM). More recently, DaShawn served as the Senior Manager, Community Mobilization at GLSEN working towards building capacity across the volunteer network for safe and inclusive schools.

DaShawn is also the founder and Executive Director of Mobilizing Our Brothers Initiative (MOBI), a series of curated social connectivity events for gay and queer people of color to see their holistic self while promoting community, wellness, and personal development. MOBI has engaged more than 4,500 people in New York City, Newark, N.J., Atlanta, GA and

Birmingham, AL. MOBI's wellness initiatives are featured in over 50 media articles ranging from Cassius, Nylon, TENz, NBC News, Out, BLEU, The Root, HIVEqual, to PBS Newshour.



Antrell Tyson, (he/him/his)

Regional Director, Region 4
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

In March 2022, Antrell Tyson was appointed to serve as Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for Region IV. As a Presidential Appointee, Antrell provides executive leadership in Region IV as the primary representative for the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The Office of the Regional Director, based in Atlanta, GA, is also tasked with intergovernmental and external affairs, which brings together federal, state, local and tribal government organizations, and private sector businesses. In his role, Antrell is responsible for eight Southeastern states, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, as well as the Region's six federally recognized Tribes.

Before joining HHS, Antrell served as the Director of Business Services and Policy for the City of Atlanta's Workforce Development Agency and served as the District Director for U.S. Representative Lucy McBath (GA-06). As the Congresswoman's top District-advisor, He oversaw the daily operations of the district office.



Dafina Ward, JD (she/her)

Executive Director
Southern AIDS Coalition

Dafina Ward, JD is an attorney and non-profit strategist with nearly fifteen years of experience addressing HIV and health equity issues in the southern United States. Dafina currently serves as Executive Director of the Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC), an organization of regional focus and national reach, with a mission to end the HIV epidemic in the South. Through a range of programs and initiatives across the sixteen southern states and Washington, DC, SAC utilizes community-centered convenings, policy advocacy, grantmaking, leadership development, and capacity building trainings to support transformation in the region. In 2019, SAC created Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day [SHAAD] to amplify the HIV crisis in the region, which has become a nationally recognized day adopted by federal partners and hundreds of organizations.

In 2023, Dafina was appointed to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV AIDS. She currently serves as Chair of the 2024 US Conference on HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee, has been recognized as a Gilead Sciences Champion of Change, POZ

Speakers (CONT.)

Magazine Hero (July/August 2021), and as a member of the 2021 POZ 100 most influential Black HIV advocates in the nation. She received a 2024 GLAAD Media Award for "Outstanding Variety or Talk Show" for a special World AIDS Day segment of the Jennifer Hudson Show that centered HIV and stigma in the South.

Dafina shares her reflections on the intersections of race, gender, and health through public speaking and publications, with work appearing in the Washington Post, Role Reboot, and The Body. Dafina received her BA in Mass Media Arts from Clark Atlanta University (Atlanta, GA) and her Juris Doctor from Temple University's Beasley School of Law (Philadelphia, PA). She currently resides with her family in coastal South Carolina.



David Wyley Long (he/him)

Special Initiatives Associate
Southern AIDS Coalition

David Wyley Long hails from East Orange, New Jersey. He has been working in social work for the past 17 years, earning his Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor training from New York State in 2005. He has led various outreach programs in Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Nashville, Tennessee. David Wyley holds an Associate degree from Nashville State and a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Studies from Tennessee State University.

David Wyley is the Special Initiatives Associate for SAC. He leads SAC efforts to increase visibility within the AIDS Memorial Quilt, with more black and brown people who have passed away from HIV/AIDS, with a special emphasis on the southern states.

David Wyley Long believes everyone black and brown are important to the fabric of America. Additionally, he understands the equity and equality needed for his people to overcome systemic barriers that impede growth. He walks and talks with a united passion to uplift his people to be unapologetic and dynamic in everything they do. He is proud to serve and aims to be a part of the vision to end HIV/AIDS in his community. He is the proud author of his first book, a memoir of his life so far: *Up Against the Wind*.



Kally Xu, MPH, CPH (she/her/hers)

Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy Analyst
National Health Law Program

Kally Xu is a Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy Analyst, focusing on reproductive health, rights, and justice initiatives in the U.S. South. Kally grew up in Mississippi, and is especially passionate about expanding health care access in the Deep South. She is also passionate about improving health outcomes for underserved communities. Before joining the National Health Law Program, Kally was the Medical Legal Advocate at the First Shift Justice Project, working with medical providers to bridge the gap between the health and law and to advocate for workers' rights in the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia area. At First Shift, she was engaged with policies such as the Family Medical Leave Act and D.C. Paid Family Leave benefits program. Kally will be attending Duke University School of Law this fall.



Sara Zeigler, MPA (she/her/hers)

Founder and Principal
Courage Forward Strategies

Sara Zeigler is a public sector executive with over 20 years of experience leading mission-driven community change initiatives. In 2022, Sara founded Courage Forward Strategies, a women-owned public health strategy firm, which focuses on accelerating program and policy implementation, expanding strategic partnerships, driving effective planning, while prioritizing improving health equity. Previously, Sara served as an executive leader at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention providing policy and program technical assistance and leadership in infectious and non-communicable disease programs. Sara spearheaded critical components of several global emergency responses, including the development of the Zika Action Plan Summit, CDC's COVID-19 Health Equity Strategy and the National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine. Sara was recognized with a CDC Honor Award for Excellence for Health Equity in the COVID-19 Response. Sara earned a master's degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Public Affairs and Citizenship at Syracuse University.

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