

# I AM IN CAMPAIGN: ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN CHICAGO BY 2020

# OCTOBER 25, 2016 CHASE TOWER 21 SOUTH CLARK STREET, 57<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR 8:30 TO 10:30A

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  Roderick Hawkins, Senior Advisor for Neighborhood Development and
  Community Engagement, Office of the Mayor
- II. Setting the Stage
  Nonie Brennan, CEO of All Chicago
- III. National Policy on Youth Homelessness Eric Masten, Policy Director of National Network for Youth
- IV. Framing the Conversation with Data Bryan Samuels, Executive Director of Chapin Hall at University of Chicago
- V. Chicago Successes

  Jeri Linas, Executive Director of Teen Living Programs

### Homestretch Video

VI. Homeless Youth in Perspective: A Moderated Conversation

Chicago Sun-Times Columnist Laura Washington (moderator)

Lisa Morrison Butler Commissioner Department of Family and Support Services

Hank Gratteau Director, Sheriff's Justice Institute

Avik Das, Esq.

Acting Director of Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services

Debbie Reznick Senior Program Officer, Polk. Bros.

VII. A Youth Perspective Caprice Williams, Youth Leader, Unity Parenting and Counseling Inc.

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# I Am In Campaign

# Speaker Bios

### Nonie Brennan

Nonie Brennan took on the role as CEO of All Chicago, Making Homelessness History after the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness and the Emergency Fund merged in 2011. Prior to that, Dr. Brennan had been the executive director of the Emergency Fund since 2003. During her tenure at the Emergency Fund, she oversaw the organization through a period of significant growth. Under her leadership, the Emergency Fund became the largest provider of homelessness prevention funding in the Midwest. Recognizing the opportunity for greater community benefit, Brennan spearheaded the effort to merge the Emergency Fund with the Chicago Alliance.

Prior to joining the Emergency Fund, Brennan was executive director of the Volunteer Center in Battle Creek, Michigan. During her tenure there, she was credited with bringing "211" (a three digit dialing code to access community resources) to the state. She served as president of Volunteer Centers of Michigan and was a founding member of the ConnectMichigan Alliance Board of Directors. Brennan also served on the Volunteer Center National Network Council and was appointed by Governor Engler to the Michigan Community Service Commission.

Dr. Brennan is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario; she completed her Master of Public Service degree at DePaul University and her Doctor of Management at Case Western Reserve University's Weatherhead School of Management.

## Lisa Morrison Butler

Appointed Commission of Department of Family and Support Services in 2015, Morrison Butler previously served as Executive Director of City Year Chicago, a post she held since 2004. City Year partners with at-risk schools to help students reach their full potential and graduate high school. During her tenure, she expanded the youth service corps from 60 to more than 200 members served annually and increased by ten-fold the number of at-risk Chicago Public Schools students served by City Year Chicago.

Morrison Butler holds a B.S. degree from Indiana University and pursued post-graduate studies at the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. Prior to joining the city, she held senior positions in the telecommunications industry and also established a private strategic communications practice.

### Avik Das

Serves as the Acting Director and Chief Probation Officer for the Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department in Chicago, Illinois. He is a licensed attorney and has been with the department since 1999 when he served the next six years in the field working directly with court-involved youth and families in Chicago's Englewood and West Englewood communities. He went on to chair the jurisdiction's Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) Committee and the Detention Review Workgroup as he moved into a variety of managerial roles. He is also part of Cook County's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Coordination Team to help design and facilitate visits made to Cook County by other jurisdictions, as well as provide JDAI training and data-driven

support within the jurisdiction. As a member of the JDAI Fundamentals Faculty for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, he facilitates national training and presentations for juvenile justice practitioners and other audiences interested in community corrections strategies to support young people in conflict with the law. In addition to his role as the administrator of a department of over 400 employees managing a probation-involved population averaging just under 4000 daily, he also serves as an appointed member of the Illinois Supreme Court's Probation Advisory Committee. The organization Mr. Das represents focuses on community-based service and support for court-involved children and young people under the Office of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

### Hanke Gratteau

Serves as Director of the Sheriff's Justice Institute, a department dedicated to enhancing the delivery of social justice across every aspect of Cook County Sheriff's office work. Appointed by Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, Gratteau is charged with overseeing the Institute's operations and strategic direction. Mining data to expose the consequences of criminalizing homelessness, mental illness, drug dependency and the devastating effects of generational poverty, the SJI seeks to enlighten policies and practices regarding incarceration and evictions and serve as a model for other counties throughout the nation.

Cook County Jail is the largest single-site jail in the U.S. and houses an average daily population of 8,200 inmates with 70,000 jail admissions annually. The Cook County Sheriff's Office is also one of two jurisdictions nationally that provide social services to those facing evictions.

Gratteau is an award-winning former journalist who spent decades as a reporter and editor at the Chicago Tribune, rising to Managing Editor/News before departing in 2008. She went on to serve as Executive Director of the John Howard Association, a corrections watchdog group, prior to joining the Ounce of Prevention Fund as Vice President/Public Affairs. She served as a commissioner on the Illinois Reform Commission, helping to drive through sweeping new transparency reforms that resulted in Illinois' new Freedom of Information Act. Among her many honors is the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism.

### Roderick K. Hawkins

Roderick K. Hawkins recently joined the Office of the Mayor as Senior Advisor for Neighborhood Development and Community Engagement. Prior to his work with the City of Chicago, Hawkins was the Director of Communications for Andrea Zopp for US Senate and Vice President of Communications for the Chicago Urban League. Before joining the Urban League, Hawkins was the director of communications for the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps. He also was deputy press secretary to Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco. Hawkins has a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Louisiana State University.

# Jeri Lynch Linas

Executive Director Teen Living Programs (TLP), she joined the agency in January 2010. Prior to joining TLP, Jeri worked for 10 years as the Assistant Director of the Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence (MODV) after having served as founding member, assistant director and then executive director of Rainbow House/Arco Iris, a comprehensive social service and shelter agency serving battered women and their families in Chicago since its inception in 1982. In her capacity as assistant director of Mayor Daley's Office on Domestic Violence, Jeri was responsible for assisting

with developing, implementing, managing and directing many of MODV projects and policies as well as coordinating MODV efforts with other city departments, community-based organizations and the general public. Since 2012 Jeri has co-chaired the Mayor's Task Force on Homeless Youth. An immigrant from Belfast, N. Ireland, Jeri is a graduate of the University of Illinois in Chicago.

### Eric Masten

joined the National Network for Youth in March 2016 as the Director of Public Policy. He comes to NN4Y with more than a decade of policy experience on Capitol Hill and with nonprofits at the national, state and local levels, on a wide range of domestic issues. He combines policy and communications strategy development and advocacy through a broad range of effective methods including organizational programs, coalitions, and diverse stakeholder engagement.

Eric has worked on extensively on issues impacting youth and other populations in need of community support. While at the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, Eric coordinated the organization's support of NN4Y and other coalition partners on youth homelessness issues.

Most recently, Eric served as the Director of Health Policy, Advocacy & Communications with Healthy Howard, Inc., a community-based direct service nonprofit in Columbia, MD. Prior to moving to the nonprofit sector, Eric worked for US Senator Patty Murray in her Washington, DC office. Eric holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Western Washington University.

## **Debbie Reznick**

As a Senior Program Officer at the Polk Bros. Foundation, Debbie's supports the Foundation's Strong Communities program, which has five focus areas that are designed to promote safe and thriving neighborhoods with quality jobs, housing, legal services, and economic activity. Debbie leads the Foundation's grantmaking strategies to prevent and end homelessness, provide equitable access to legal services and strengthen the capacity of the organizations and sectors in which the Foundation's nonprofit partners operate. Debbie has played an active role in collaborative efforts to end homelessness, including the development of Chicago's Plans to End Homelessness (Getting Housed, Staying Housed and Plan 2.0, A Home for Everyone). She is a founding board member of Funders Together to End Homelessness, a national network of grantmakers who are committed to solving homelessness through leadership, education, and advocacy. She serves as an advisory board member of Inspiration Corporation. Debbie was an American Jewish World Service 2014 Global Justice Fellow and is a proud member of the board of the Albany Park Theater Project.

# **Bryan Samuels**

Executive Director of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. He has spent his career building the capacity of child welfare systems to produce positive outcomes for children, integrating empirical evidence into public policy and service delivery, and streamlining management and operations in government agencies.

Before coming to Chapin Hall, Samuels was the commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Samuels

administered federal programs addressing child abuse and neglect, runaway and homeless youth, domestic and intimate partner violence, and teen pregnancy. His top priority at ACYF included capacity building of the child welfare system to effectively address complex trauma and toxic stress among vulnerable children, youth, and families. As a result of his collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), addressing child trauma is officially a high priority goal for HHS. He influenced the establishment of federal law requiring state child welfare agencies to screen for trauma and provide appropriate treatments.

Samuels holds a Masters of Public Policy from the Harris School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago and a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame.

# Laura S. Washington

A Chicago Sun-Times columnist and political analyst for ABC 7, Chicago's ABC-owned station, Washington brings more than two award-winning decades of experience as a non-profit professional and multi-media journalist. She specializes in African-American affairs, local and national politics, race and racism, and social justice. From 2003 to 2009 she served as the Ida B. Wells-Barnett University Professor at DePaul University and fellow at the DePaul Humanities Center.

From 1990 to 2002, Washington served as editor and publisher of The Chicago Reporter, a nationally recognized investigative monthly specializing in racial issues and urban affairs.

Washington earned her Bachelor's and Masters in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, where she has also taught and lectured.

# Caprice Williams

Twenty-three years old, Caprice graduated from Hyde Park Academy High School in 2012. Caprice attended Kennedy-King College for one year. She first became homeless at age 15. After being on the waiting list for the Harmony Village Youth Transitional Living Program for nearly three years, she entered the program at age 21. While at Harmony, she became a youth activist on behalf of homeless youth throughout Illinois, speaking directly to the Governor, and to the media. She left Harmony Village to live independently in her own apartment with her one-year-old daughter, Mariyonna McKay, in May 2016. In June, she earned a certificate in Community Organizing from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. She currently works as a Pharmacy Tech for a major drug store chain.

# NATIONAL STATISTICS ON HOMELESS YOUTH

According to the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth:

- There were 1,360,747 homeless students enrolled in U.S. public schools in the 2013 2014 school year
- Two-thirds of adults experiencing homelessness report not having a high school diploma or G.E.D.

According to the Institute for Children and Poverty, homeless children are:

- Nine times more likely to repeat a grade
- Four times more likely to drop out of school
- Three times more likely to be placed in special education programs than their housed peers

According to the Department of Health and Human Service Street Outreach Program Study that was released in April 2016:

- The average youth spent nearly two years living on the streets.
- More than 60 percent were raped, beaten up, robbed, or otherwise assaulted while on the streets
- Nearly 30 percent of participants identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual, and nearly 7 percent identified as transgender.
- About half of youth had been in foster care and youth with a foster care history had been homeless for much longer (27.5 months on average) compared to youth who had never been in foster care (19.3 months, on average).
- In the order of most often reports the following were the most cited reasons for the respondents to leave home: asked to leave by a parent or caregiver, being physically abused or beaten, a caregiver's alcohol or substance abuse.
- Two-thirds of respondents reported symptoms associated with depression
- On an average, youth reported first being homeless at the age of 15

National Network for Youth (https://www.nn4youth.org/)

National Alliance to End

Homelessness (<a href="http://www.endhomelessness.org/">http://www.endhomelessness.org/</a>)

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and

Youth (<a href="http://naehcy.org/">http://naehcy.org/</a>)

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

(https://www.usich.gov/)

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (http://www.chicagohomeless.org/)

National Center for Homeless Education (http://nche.ed.gov/)

True Colors Fund (<a href="https://truecolorsfund.org/">https://truecolorsfund.org/</a>)

# STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM DATA COLLECTION PROJECT: CHICAGO EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

YOUNG people experiencing
HOMELESSNESS
were interviewed as part
of this research project.

on average, participants were HOMELESS for **22 6 TOTAL MONTHS** 

37.7% SLEPT OUTSIDE at least ONCE while h o m e I e s s . 68.3% reported high levels (CESD≥16) of DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS

**51.6%** have a high school DIPLOMA OR GED



ASSAULTED w weapon
SEXUALLY ASSAULTED 26.2%

BEATEN UP 37.4%

ROBBED 41.9%

ANY OF THE ABOVE 56.5%

In 5 years, I will be in school, a four year college.
I definitely aspire to be in COLLEGE. I feel like
THAT'S THE BIGGEST GOAL OF ALL
—FEMALE FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

# SERVICE NEEDS 3

- 1. HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION.
- 2. Job training or help finding a job.
- 3. A SAFE PLACE TO STAY

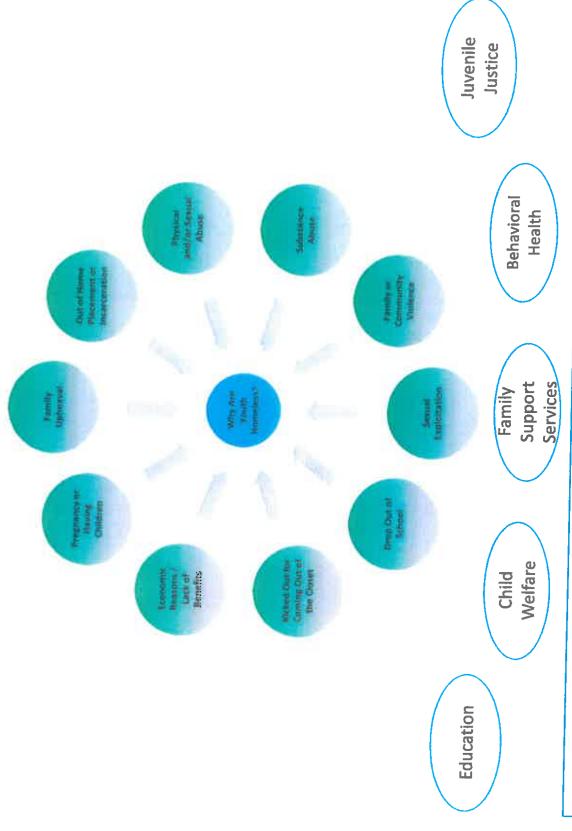


- 1. THE SHELTER WAS FULL.
- 2. Lacked transportation to shelter.
- 3. Didn't know where to go for shelter.

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# Why Youth Become Homeless

Adapted from The National Network for Youth, Youth Homelessness in America (2014)



Youth Fall Through the Cracks of These & Other Systems and Become Homeless

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