

# Voices From the Field: Centering Lived and Living Experience in Overdose Prevention

Monday, July 29, 2-3:30 p.m. ET

## Webinar Presenter Biographies

**Anne Siegler, DrPH**, is a consultant with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. She currently is a trained epidemiologist with a focus on harm reduction and the criminal legal system. She has consulted



on harm reduction projects with a variety of non-profit, community-based organizations as well as government agencies. Prior to working as a consultant, she worked for the City of New York, first in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on issues of harm reduction and overdose, and then with Correctional Health Services, monitoring and evaluating health and health services within the NYC jail system. She also sits on the board of Southside Harm Reduction Services, in Minneapolis, MN.

**Yarelix Estrada, MSPH**, is a first-generation Central American, drug policy and harm reduction researcher, advocate, and community outreach worker. Yarelix works as a City Research Scientist with



the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene conducting community-based substance use harm reduction outreach and research. Her work is currently largely focused on implementation of the first higher-technology drug checking research study in New York City with local syringe service programs and two overdose prevention centers. Yarelix is passionate about supporting people throughout the full continuum of drug use, from use for pleasure and healing to overdose prevention. She is the director of the New York City Psychedelic Society, is on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee

Recovery Alliance, the Board of Directors for the Source Research Foundation, on the Advisory Board of the psychedelic media group Psymposia and is an organizer with the Urban Survivors Union and the Alliance for Collaborative Drug Checking. She received her Master of Science in Public Health in Health Policy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Yarelix loves drugs, traveling, weightlifting, her plants and fighting people at hardcore show mosh pits.



**Terrell Jones** is the Advocacy and Community Engagement Manager at Onpoint NYC. Terrell is a passionate advocate, activist, and inspiration for drug users, sex workers, the homeless, and other



marginalized communities. Terrell Jones is a former drug user who, like many other people of color, was incarcerated because of his drug use. Determined to change the racist drug laws in New York State, stigma associated with drug use and that often resulted in his being denied job and housing opportunities, Terrell became an advocate for drug policy reform, an activist to advance harm reduction throughout New York City and New York State, and a vocal supporter of giving people a second chance. Terrell has now been in the harm reduction field for over 19 years and worked his way up from participant, to peer

educator, to staff, and now to the management team. In his current role at Onpoint, he often collaborates with the Drug Policy Alliance, Faith in Harm Reduction and VOCAL NY. Terrell is also Senior Co-Director of the Peer Network of New York where he emphasizes the professional and personal development of peers working in the field of harm reduction. Terrell's work has brought him around the country giving talks and advocating for harm reduction policies and practices to be used to assist drug users, sex workers, and other individuals impacted by the war on drugs. Terrell represents OnPoint NYC on the New York City Mayor's Taskforce for Opiates and Prescription Drugs Overdose. He also helped organize People of Color Tour of Harm Reduction in Fall 2016 where City Council members and other Legislators from New York City and New York State visited syringe exchanges around the city and attended panels on the history and importance of harm reduction. He has become the face of harm reduction.

**Brad Finegood, MA, LMHC**, works as a Strategic Advisor for Public Health- Seattle & King Co. He leads the overdose prevention efforts for King County. Prior to this role he was the Drug and Alcohol



Coordinator and the Health Integration Specialist for the Behavioral Health and Recovery Division at King Co. In this role he served as a Co-chair for the County's Heroin and Prescription Opioid Task Force. He has a Master's in Community Agency Counseling with a Specialty in Substance Use from Western Michigan University. He has over 25 years experience in the drug and alcohol field in both direct service and government. Most importantly of all he is the survivor of a brother who died of a drug overdose.

**Thea Oliphant-Wells, MSW**, is an overdose survivor with lived experience of homelessness, injection drug use, and finding safety and love in harm reduction people and spaces. She uses her Master's in Social Work to get a seat at the table where she can use her lived experience to benefit the community. Thea has been working for Public Health for nearly 10 years, where she works to lower barriers to care and increase the harm reduction offerings for people who use drugs in Seattle & King County.



**DeAunte Damper** was born in Seattle, WA, and has focused his work on bringing HIV awareness and LGBTQ-affirming education to marginalized communities throughout the City of Seattle. This started through his non-profit work at Pocaan as a Peer Navigator for the Department of Health. In April 2019, Damper made History as the NAACP'S first LGBTQIA Chair, the first in 110 years of the organization. In October 2019, Damper began as a Transitional Specialist for the Washington State Department of Corrections. And as of November 2019, he is Rainer Beach High School's Black Student Union Advisor. Damper, as well, started a support group for young men of color, Blacks Recovering Overcoming Trauma Health and Awareness (B.R.O.T.H.A.). Currently, Damper is the Community Organizer for VOCAL-WA, Project Manager for the Council of Expert Advisors on Drug Use (CEADU), Vice President of Washington Therapy Fund, Project Manager for BUILD206, and the current Host of "We Live in Color" for Converge Media.

