

CJI Training and Technical Assistance Initiative

ONLINE WORKSHOP PROGRAM:
RESILIENCE-CENTERED HEALING APPROACHES
Winter-Spring 2022



Program At a Glance: Resilience-Centered Healing Approaches Winter-Spring 2022

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Workshops will be offered online for the foreseeable future. Registration opportunities will be released on a rolling basis. For more information and an updated list of registration links, please visit <https://cjii.org/tta-workshops/>.

Vicarious Trauma, Compassion Fatigue, and Burnout: The Impact of Clinical Work on the Clinician

Presented by Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation

Thursday, January 27, 2022, from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Target Audience: Direct service workers, clinicians, and supervisors.

Working with clients who have been exposed to trauma and violence can have a tremendous impact on clinicians. In particular, clinicians are at risk of vicarious trauma exposure, compassion fatigue, and burnout. These types of psychological distress can significantly impact clinicians' level of functioning.

This culturally-responsive session will define and explore vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout. It will consider the impact of psychological distress from trauma exposure on the clinician as well as how vicarious resilience can contribute to the clinician's professional growth. Participants will spend time defining and exploring the tenets of self-care and its importance as an intervention to manage this type of psychological distress, as well as increase capacity for resilience and healing in clinical work. Facilitators and participants will explore the ways creativity, as one form of self-care, can foster resilience in both clients and clinicians.

SESSION TRAINERS

Typhani Carter, LCSW, Vice President of Programs

Jennifer Herbert, ATR-BC, LCAT, Associate Vice President of Programs

Teletherapy as a Support to Trauma-Focused Treatment

Presented by The New York Center for Children

Thursday, February 3, 2022, from 11:00am to 1:00pm

Target Audience: Clinical staff who conduct virtual/teletherapy.

This session is aimed at health professionals and will explore the advantages and challenges of teletherapy in working with children and families who have experienced trauma. The session will highlight the benefits of integrating teletherapy post-COVID into a hybrid remote and in-person model. Topics will include adapting teletherapy for patients with a trauma history, teletherapy as an effective model for group therapy, and the importance of self-care for clinicians. The session will include case examples and discussion from The New York Center for Children's experience during and since the Covid-19 pandemic.

SESSION TRAINERS

Edward Greenblatt, PhD, Director of Therapeutic Services

Karina Van Brunt, LMSW, Bilingual Therapist

Approaching Domestic Violence Clinical Issues through a Cultural Humility Lens

Presented by Sanctuary for Families

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Target Audience: Clinicians and case managers; attendees from all programs are welcome, not only programs that specifically work around domestic violence.

This session will focus on culturally responsive approaches to domestic violence. Clients understand and experience domestic violence in varied and unique ways. Their experience is based on their cultural traditions, language, identity, and much more. In this session, participating clinicians and case managers will learn techniques for providing the best services and support to survivors through a culturally responsive lens. Sanctuary for Families will share their experiences and discuss how to serve survivors in the language and style that matches their needs. The session will also cover several domestic violence theories that focus on family dynamics, stressors, coping mechanisms, and themes that emerge in the literature on family violence.

SESSION TRAINERS

Allison Ross, PhD, Deputy Director of Clinical Services

Mariama Diallo, LMSW, Program Director

Trauma and Safety in the Hood: Explorations of Self and Community Healing

Presented by MindOpen Learning Strategies

Friday, March 4, 2022, from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Friday, March 11, 2022, from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Target Audience: Open to all staff who serve and/or care about youth and young adults.

This two-part workshop series takes participants on a journey that outlines the racist structural conditions that lead to trauma in “The Hood” – defined as intentionally resource-deprived areas (often near wealthy white areas), where people of color live and are extracted for cheap labor, while being denied fairness and basic human rights. In this healing-centered learning experience, participants will explore claiming the Hood as a way to highlight the strength and resilience of people living at the margins of our current systems.

In part one, participants will discuss the history and development of hoods, and how chronic poverty and trauma affect the entire community: from institutions to families and individuals. Participants will view The Hood from a strengths-based perspective, leaning on the wisdom of the generations of Black and people of color overall, who have demonstrated extreme resilience and commitment to life despite the inequity in their communities. This session will also explore concrete tools to support communities and reduce harm.

Part two will explore building safe and brave spaces. Participants will hear the experiences of folks with marginalized identities regarding interpersonal and community safety. This session will provide a systemic analysis of violence and how it can inhabit various community spaces. Collectively, the group will envision

worlds that limit neglect, honor honest conversations about what is not working, brainstorm solutions to recurring safety issues, and embrace a multitude of healing modalities.

SESSION TRAINER

Rebecca Anuru, LMSW, MPH, Founder of Dream Keep Consulting

Engaging Young Adults with Relentless Positive Regard

Presented by The New School's Institute for Transformative Mentoring

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Target Audience: Frontline workers in a variety of roles (mentors, case managers, credible messengers, and more) who typically work with young people (14-24 years of age) and their families.

The Institute for Transformative Mentoring (ITM) works with young people ages 18-24 who are impacted by the criminal justice system. ITM aims to create a multigenerational movement that centers healing and strengthening ourselves and our communities. This combination of personal and professional development makes ITM's programs transformational. This session will present the Self Care and Empowerment curriculum that ITM utilizes with young people to model how youth leadership can be harnessed and amplified. Within this curriculum, all workshops are designed around learning objectives that teach the framework of restorative justice practices and trauma-informed care to increase personal efficacy, social-emotional growth, and positive self-esteem.

During this session, participants will learn about adolescent brain biology, including factors to consider when working with young people, using a strengths-based and trauma-informed focus. Participants will also learn steps for de-escalating violence, including the four aggravating factors of violence and conflict resolution strategies; about engaging in healing circles for storytelling and the processing of life experiences and trauma; and about healing practices such as mindfulness and meditation.

SESSION TRAINERS

William M. Evans, Co-Director

Keyonn Sheppard, Education Coordinator

Highlighting Resilience: Strengths-Based Approaches

Presented by Exodus Transitional Community

Friday, April 8, 2022, from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Target Audience: Frontline staff and supervisors.

This session will dive into different ways to work with clients and staff that focus on their strengths and resilience. Many social systems and even nonprofits start with a deficit-based model and often remind the

participant what they are not doing or what they need to be doing. In contrast, Exodus has at its foundation a commitment to providing second and third chances. This embodies a strengths-based approach.

Exodus is tailored for people who are not the model participant, working best with people (both staff and clients) who continue to struggle (e.g., time and attendance issues, easily triggered at work, outbursts) and need space that nurtures their personal and professional growth. In this session, participants will learn about the principles of strengths-based work. They will gain tools used by the Exodus team to find and uplift people's strengths and focus on personal development.

SESSION TRAINERS

Kathleen Bernier, Vice President of Operations

Brian Colon, Center for Trauma Innovation Trainer

Principles of Restorative Practices

Presented by The New School's Institute for Transformative Mentoring

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Target Audience: Leaders and frontline workers interested in exploring restorative practices as a core element of their community-based work, such as in programming, workshops, and support groups. This session may be of particular interest for people working with young people and in conflict resolution.

This session will provide an overview of restorative practices, the ongoing challenges of restorative justice vs. transformative justice, and of circles as a foundation of restorative practices. Participants will delve into the elements of a circle, including their purpose, circle keeping, talking pieces, mantles, storytelling, community agreements, and so on. Using the art of oral storytelling, they will learn how to cultivate transformation through their personal narratives. Finally, the session will demonstrate how to design and implement a Restorative Practice Circle.

SESSION TRAINERS

William M. Evans, Co-Director

Tamara Oyola-Santiago, Co-Director

Supporting Traumatized Children for Frontline Staff

Presented by The New York Center for Children

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 from 11:00am to 1:00pm

Target Audience: Non-clinical (or non-therapist) staff who work with children.

This session is aimed at caseworkers and frontline staff who interact with children impacted by trauma to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the impact of trauma. Topics include identifying trauma symptoms, the relationship between trauma and behaviors, and the importance of integrated trauma-informed care as a critical component in treating children and families who are survivors of trauma. The session will also discuss effective responses to trauma reactions and behaviors; trauma assessments and interventions;

incorporating trauma survivors' strengths, resilience, and potential for growth; and understanding the course and trajectory of trauma responses and healing.

SESSION TRAINERS

Marisel Ramirez, LMSW, Bilingual Therapist

Rebecca Jacobs, LMSW, Bilingual Therapist

From Surviving to Thriving: The Benefits of Activity-Based Groups in Healing from Gender-Based Violence

Presented by Sanctuary for Families

Wednesday, May 18, 2022, from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Target Audience: Direct-service staff that interact with survivors of gender-based violence, direct-service staff that facilitate groups, staff involved in program development, and supervisors of direct-service staff.

Participants of this session will learn about Sanctuary's Thriving Group model – currently being implemented for survivors and those at risk of sexual exploitation – and the importance of designing groups that expose clients to pro-social activities as part of the healing process. Many clients who have experienced trauma and insecure childhoods have not had the opportunity to engage in activities focused on developing their interests or passions beyond individual and group clinical work focused on addressing their trauma.

Designing groups that provide these opportunities can offer positive connections and help clients develop trusting relationships that bridge access to other much-needed clinical, legal, medical, or other services. Groups can be organized around various interests/activities such as cooking, yoga, martial arts, or creative arts. The Thriving Group model affords clients, in other words, opportunities for growth and development.

In this session, participants will learn about warning signs and approaches for working with survivors and those at risk of sexual exploitation, the value of the Thriving Group model, what to keep in mind when developing groups, how to screen group members, and how to ensure a trauma-informed approach to groups.

SESSION TRAINERS

Nicole Lee, LCSW, Director of Children and Family Services

Laura Fernandez, LMSW, Clinical Director

Practicing Supervisors Learning Lab: Reflective Resilience for Anti-Oppressive Relationships

Presented by MindOpen Learning Strategies

Thursday, June 9, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm
Thursday, June 16, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Target Audience: Supervisors, of all experience levels.

The Practicing Supervisors Learning Lab is a two-part session designed as a space where experienced and new supervisors can self-reflect and practice relational skills for anti-oppressive supervision. Power dynamics are unavoidable within supervisory relationships. Many of our nonprofit organizations have a long way to go to undo the inherent inequities and racism present in their core culture.

In this session, experienced and new supervisors are invited to reflect on the intersections of oppression, trauma, and the supervisory relationship, centering experiences of members of marginalized groups. Participants will apply trauma-informed principles to discuss identity and race in the supervisory relationship and practice skills for building reflective, collaborative supervisory relationships across difference.

SESSION TRAINERS

Melissa Elliott, CEO of MDL Coaching and Consulting

Elizabeth Speck, Principal Consultant of MindOpen Learning Strategies

Collective Leadership Supervisor Training

Presented by The John Jay College Institute for Justice and Opportunity

This is a cohort-based training opportunity that includes seven workshops in May and June 2022.

Target Audience: Supervisors at CJII grantee agencies. Participating in this opportunity requires submitting an application; more information on how to apply will be shared separately.

The Collective Leadership Supervisor Training is a 21-hour course to deepen supervisory practices that support supervisee job performance and growth. Participants will strengthen their capacity to convey workplace expectations and performance feedback to supervisees, along with enhancing supervisees' capacity for initiative and leadership. The course is offered over several weeks to allow time for practice and reflection between classes. Supervisors who complete all classes and meet course requirements will receive the Collective Leadership Supervisor Training Certificate from the Institute and The John Jay College Professional Studies. More information about the Collective Leadership Supervisor Training, including an information session and a link to its online application, will be shared separately.

SESSION TRAINERS

David Mensah, M. DIV., Consultant

Elena Sigman, Director of Collaborative Learning

Training Facilitators and Experts

Rebecca Anuru, LMSW, MPH, Founder of Dream Keep Consulting

Rebecca Anuru, LMSW, MPH (she/her) is a young queer Hood Black woman from The Bronx (Mt. Hope)! Rebecca is a loving Hood Youth Advocate, as a public health social worker committed to the well-being of Black youth in Hoods across the country. She is the Founder and Lead Facilitative Consultant of Dream Keep Consulting LLC, a consulting firm dedicated to the lives and genius of Hood Black youth, holding the people that serve and take care of them accountable to doing the real work – well. She is based in the NYC Metro but does work nationally. Personal website and blog coming soon. You can check out her work, including a self-scribed definition of "Hood" on Instagram @dreamkeepconsultingllc. Rebecca also works with Vibrant Emotional Health's Center for Policy, Advocacy, and Education, supporting The Coordinated Children's Services Initiative of NYC and Vibrant's Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) workforce development contracts. She regularly holds space for adults and youth throughout the 5 boroughs of NYC to critique and problem-solve about youth-serving systems.

Kathleen Bernier, Vice President of Operations, Exodus Transitional Community.

With an eclectic professional career, Kathleen McAnulty Bernier, LMSW, joined Exodus as the Vice President for Operations in September 2017. Prior to her role at Exodus, she helped oversee the Government and Community Affairs portfolio for NYU Langone Health in Manhattan and Brooklyn for ten years, where she worked in policy related to health care and behavioral health. Earlier in her career, Kathleen was a Clinical Social Worker in child welfare under several umbrellas, including Therapeutic Foster Care and Preventive Services in the Bronx. In addition, she worked as a private therapist specializing in adolescents, couples, and family therapy. Kathleen holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Adelphi University and a master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University.

Karina Van Brunt, LMSW, Bilingual Therapist, The New York Center for Children

Karina Van Brunt, LMSW, is a bilingual therapist at The New York Center for Children (NYCC), providing trauma-informed therapy services to children and families. Before joining NYCC in March 2019, Karina was first a Victim Service Coordinator and then transitioned to Program Coordinator for the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center – Violence Intervention and Treatment Program (WHMC-VITP) in Brooklyn. There, she provided individual counseling and therapy services to survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and other crimes. In her role at the WHMC-VITP, Karina coordinated efforts around Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. She provided education and training to community members, including doctors, nurses, and medical support staff within the hospital and its affiliated clinics. In August 2014, Karina transitioned to Columbia University – Sexual Violence Response Program (SVR) as a Survivor Advocate and then became an Assistant Director to the Columbia University Irving Medical Center - Sexual Violence Response (CUIMC – SVR) program in October 2015. In her role, she led services on-campus to victims of gender-based violence and provided direct services to students who experienced sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual harassment. Karina coordinated educational events across campus and facilitated trainings and workshops for the CUIMC community.

Typhani Carter, LCSW, Vice President of Programs, Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation

Typhani Carter has more than 15 years of experience in the field of mental health, specializing in working with populations that have experienced complex trauma. Her work experience has focused on direct clinical practice, training, and research. Ms. Carter is an Adjunct Lecturer at Columbia University School of Social Work (CSSW), where her course load includes complex trauma and its impact. As Vice President of Programs at the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation (JTSAH), she provides clinical, administrative, and programmatic oversight for multiple trauma-informed, school-based programs across the nation. She ensures that the organization provides services that adhere to the tenets of trauma-informed and healing-centered practices. Ms. Carter has trained clinical and non-clinical practitioners, educators, caretakers, and other interested parties

on topics such as normative child development, trauma-informed practice, the impacts of trauma on youth, the effects of psychological distress on clinical practitioners, and strategies for maintaining organizational wellness.

Brian Colon, Trainer, Center for Trauma Innovation at Exodus Transitional Community

Brian Colon has been with Exodus for two years. His experience as a trainer is extensive and began in the early 2000s when he went to work for the Center for Alternative Sentence and Employment Services (CASES) as its Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator. In his position at CASES, he integrated strategies to prevent youth from becoming justice-involved into CASES's mental health practices, gang awareness, and strength-based case management programs. In his mid-career, Brian accepted a role as a trainer/facilitator for The Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO). During his time at the Center, he formulated training outlines and instructional methods for people integrating back into society from a period of incarceration. As the lead trainer, he honed skills related to classroom instruction, individual training, and group instruction, as well as lectures, demonstrations, conferences, meetings, and workshops. Since being at the Exodus Center for Trauma Innovation, Brian has expanded his knowledge on innovative approaches related to trauma-informed practice.

Mariama Diallo, Program Director, Sanctuary for Families

Mariama Diallo is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) in New York. She received her Master of Science in Social Work (MSW) from Columbia University. Ms. Diallo earned her DSW at Rutgers University. Currently, Mariama is a Program Director at Sanctuary for Families. Her primary role at Sanctuary for Families is to provide clinical supervision to counselors, as well as provide trauma-informed individual and group therapy to survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, civil wars/genocide, and other types of gender violence. She also conducts research projects, develops curricula and other training materials, and conducts community outreach/education on the issues of female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and domestic violence through professional training to doctors, nurses, social workers, and schoolteachers.

Melissa Elliott, CEO of MDL Coaching and Consulting

Melissa D. Elliott, LCSW-R, CPC, is a former senior director in workforce development. She is currently an anti-racist organizational consultant, leadership coach, adjunct professor at NYU, and clinical supervisor. Melissa is the founder and CEO of MDL Coaching and Consulting, providing DEI and Anti-Racist board, executive, and staff retreats, as well as trainings and coaching both nationally and internationally. She also has a private group practice called AGAPE Family Therapy and Coaching providing individual, family, and group therapy and coaching. Melissa holds a BA from Bernard M. Baruch College, an MSW from New York University, and she is certified as a professional coach from the International Coach Federation.

William M. Evans, Co-Director, Institute for Transformative Mentoring

William is a graduate and now Co-Director of ITM. He received his master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership from Fordham University and started his doctoral studies in social work at Yeshiva University. He is also a 2019 Echoing Green Fellow. As a restorative justice practitioner, William's focuses on healing, developing, and leading systems-impacted individuals on a journey to rebuild community and decrease violence and incarceration. William is the founder of Neighborhood Benches, an organization increasing the presence of local neighborhood leadership to focus on youth violence and incarceration.

Laura Fernandez, LMSW, Clinical Director, Sanctuary for Families

Laura Fernandez, LMSW, is the Clinical Director at Sanctuary for Families providing leadership, management, and strategic direction for all of Sanctuary's clinical services citywide. She oversees a team of over 40 clinicians, along with case managers and support personnel. Before coming to Sanctuary in 2015, Laura served as Assistant Executive Director of Programs for Edwin Gould Services. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Tufts University and her Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University. Laura has over 30 years of experience working with families and violence, including as a Child Protective Worker in Massachusetts, a school counselor, and a social worker in a New York City domestic violence shelter. She served as an expert witness on the overlap between domestic violence and child protective issues in the Federal class-action lawsuit, *Nicolson v. Williams*, which influenced major changes in the Administration for Children Services' policies towards domestic violence victims.

Edward Greenblatt, PhD, Director of Therapeutic Services, The New York Center for Children

Edward Greenblatt, Ph.D. is Director of Therapeutic Services at The New York Center for Children (NYCC). He received his doctorate in Psychology at City University of New York. Dr. Greenblatt worked both in a clinical and an academic capacity at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center/Cornell University Medical College until 1993. He later held several positions at Mount Sinai Hospital, including Director of the Child and Adolescent Outpatient Clinic, and Clinical Director of The KIDS & Families Program for 9/11. He also taught and supervised graduate students and residents at Mount Sinai School of Medicine for many years. At NYCC, Dr. Greenblatt continues to work as a supervisor and as an educator. In addition to overseeing social work staff and expanding clinical programs, Dr. Greenblatt oversees the psychology externship program at NYCC. Dr. Greenblatt consistently works to develop and enhance NYCC's individual and group therapy programs.

Jennifer Herbert, ATR-BC, LCAT, Associate Vice President of Programs, Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation

Jennifer has over 15 years of clinical experience as an art therapist and trainer. At JTSAH, she addresses the cumulative effects of isolation and compounded trauma, emphasizing prevention and intervention. She also works to build and cultivate relationships with participants of the program as well as various community partners. She has provided training nationally and internationally to educators, clinicians, and other professionals on topics such as trauma-informed practices, self-care and organizational wellness, vicarious trauma and best practices in trauma-informed services, art-based programming, creative arts therapy, curriculum development, the impact of trauma and violence on children, adolescents, and adults, and more. Ms. Herbert oversees the training and implementation of clinical programs for youth impacted by intimate partner violence.

Rebecca Jacobs, LMSW, Bilingual Therapist, The New York Center for Children

Rebecca Jacobs, LMSW, is a Bilingual Therapist at The New York Center for Children (NYCC). Rebecca received her Master of Social Work from the Silver School of Social Work at New York University. After completing her Master's, Rebecca worked in evidence-based Primary Preventive Services at Northside Center for Child Development in association with the Administration for Children's Services. At NYCC, Rebecca provides trauma-focused individual and group therapy to children, adolescents, young adults, and non-offending parents in both English and Spanish. Rebecca also conducts community-based trainings to Spanish-speaking parents on identifying and addressing child abuse and intimate partner violence. Before attending graduate school, Rebecca worked with The REACH Institute, where she facilitated training courses around the use of psychotropic medication management for children in the context of primary care for pediatricians and family medicine physicians. Rebecca is a certified LanguageLine interpreter and has provided medical interpretation services in hospital settings. Rebecca also has advanced training in mandated reporting, crisis response, and engaging parents with a history of substance use in the child welfare system.

Nicole Lee, LCSW, Director of Children and Family Services, Sanctuary for Families

Nicole Lee, LCSW, is Director of Children and Family Services at Sanctuary for Families, where she has been posted since February 2021. Her previous roles include Director of Emergency Domestic Violence Transitional Residence and Assistant Director of the School-Based Mental Health Clinic (SBMHC) Program, both at Henry Street Settlement, where she began as a child and family therapist in 2014. Nicole's experience also includes inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services at Kings County Hospital Center. After earning her bachelor's degree in anthropology from New York University (NYU), she obtained her MSW from the Silver School of Social Work of NYU. Nicole has earned a post-master's certificate in Advanced Clinical Practice from NYU, training in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and is a certified supervisor in-field instruction (SIFI). She volunteers her free time with Open House New York and is a junior board member of HeartShare St. Vincent's Services.

David Mensah, M. DIV., Consultant

David Mensah is the Lead Instructor for the Collective Leadership Supervisor Training. Mr. Mensah is also a lead instructor for the Institute's Navigator Certificate in Human Services & Community Justice, a semester-long, college-level course for people with lived experience in the criminal justice system seeking careers in human services. Previously, he was the lead instructor for JLUSA's Leading with Conviction (LWC) and has trained volunteer parent leaders for the NYC Department of Education's Parent Leadership Institute. In a career spanning 21 years, Mr. Mensah has spent 13 years in Executive Director positions, and 10 years as a youth and family counselor. Mr. Mensah has two BS degrees from Oregon State University, a Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Bridgeport, and an M.Div. from Yale Divinity School. He

has held faculty positions in leadership studies at Sacred Heart University, in Trauma Counseling at the University of Bridgeport, and an adjunct faculty position at Baruch College, in the School of Public Affairs.

Tamara Oyola-Santiago, Co-Director, Institute for Transformative Mentoring

Tamara Oyola-Santiago is a public health educator who specializes in harm reduction. After earning graduate degrees in Public Health and Latin American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Tamara joined the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a Presidential Management Fellow. Since 2009, she has been part of The New School, working with students to mobilize for social justice, equity, and liberatory practices for education. She is co-founder of Bronx Móvil, a fully bilingual (Spanish-English) mobile harm reduction organization and part of the What Would an HIV Doula Do collective, a community of people joined in response to the ongoing AIDS Crisis.

Mariel Ramirez, LMSW, Bilingual Therapist, The New York Center for Children

Mariel Ramirez, LMSW, is a bilingual therapist at The New York Center for Children (NYCC). Mariel has been working at NYCC since 2018, shortly after obtaining her MSW at Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. At NYCC, Mariel provides trauma-focused treatment to children, youth, and parents who have experienced complex trauma and abuse. Mariel has also led groups for adults with a history of immigration trauma and social skills groups for children. During her time at NYCC, Mariel facilitated child abuse and domestic violence trainings for Spanish-speaking parents in the community. Mariel is currently working towards her SIFI certification at NYU and supervises a 2nd-year master's level social work intern.

Allison Ross, Deputy Director of Clinical Services, Sanctuary for Families

Allison Ross has worked at Sanctuary for Families clinical department since 2004. In 2008, she was named Assistant Clinical Director. In this role, she oversaw Sanctuary's crisis shelters, outreach initiatives, post-shelter care, and clinical administrative matters. Allison was a leader in expanding Sanctuary's Mentors Program, now known as the Survivor Leadership Initiative. As Deputy Director, she oversees all non-residential services, including adults, children, and family services at all Sanctuary locations. Allison earned her MSW from Columbia University School of Social Work and a Ph.D. in Social Work from Fordham University. She is an adjunct professor in the Schools of Social Work at Columbia University, New York University, and Fordham University. Allison is a trained therapist in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP). She has provided trauma-informed therapy to survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking, and other forms of gender violence for the past 17 years.

Keyonn Sheppard, Education Coordinator, Institute for Transformative Mentoring

Keyonn Sheppard is the Education Coordinator for the Institute for Transformative Mentoring, where he leads courses, workshops, and programs for both adult credible messengers and systems-impacted youth. Recently, Keyonn was the lead mentor at the Harlem Justice Community Program (HJCP) and with the ARCHES/Next Steps programs in the South Bronx, focusing on anti-recidivism. Keyonn's career spans 30 years, beginning as a founding member of the Citykids Repertory Company. He is the former Leadership Training Coordinator for the IMPACT Repertory Theatre Company in Harlem. Keyonn also serves as the Assistant Pastor of the New Beginnings Tabernacle of Deliverance in Brownsville, Brooklyn.

Elena Sigman, Director of Collaborative Learning, The John Jay College Institute for Justice and Opportunity

Elena Sigman is the Collective Leadership Supervisor Training Course Coordinator and Co-Facilitator. Ms. Sigman develops certificate training programs in partnership with John Jay College Professional Studies, academic faculty, nonprofit employers, and people with lived experience in the criminal legal system to build human services career pathways for people impacted by the criminal legal system. She also partners with the NYC Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity and CUNY School of Professional Studies to create training for City-contracted workforce development providers. A NeuroLeadership Institute certified coach, Ms. Sigman has a BA from Yale University and MFA from Columbia University. Ms. Sigman has previously served as Director of Food Programs at Hazon and as Director of Operations at the Women's Prison Association, among other roles in nonprofit program design, start-up, operations, and management.

Elizabeth Speck, Principal, MindOpen Learning Strategies

Dr. Elizabeth Speck is the principal of MindOpen Learning Strategies, an organizational development firm that provides truly engaging training, coaching, and consulting services to help nonprofits, businesses, and government move toward a more equitable and just world. Founded in 2017, MindOpen leverages Elizabeth's three decades of diversified experience working within and across New York City's complex public service systems, including leading large-scale organizational and systemic change efforts as the Chief Learning Officer for Workforce Professionals Training Institute, and Senior Training Director for Safe Horizon, the nation's largest victim assistance agency. At MindOpen Learning Strategies, Elizabeth develops customized projects for each organizational client's unique context, collaborating with a cadre of dynamic subject matter experts in areas of trauma-informed care; equity, inclusion, and diversity; and community and economic development. Elizabeth holds a Ph.D. in organizational development from Fielding Graduate University, where her research focused on Fair Chance Hiring and overcoming implicit bias. She started her career as a teaching artist in schools, shelters, hospitals, jails, and prisons, earning a master's degree in drama therapy from New York University while a Fellow with the Creative Arts Team. She was among the first Licensed Creative Arts Therapists in New York State.