

# DEFENDING CHILDHOOD

**PROTECT HEAL THRIVE**

**Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence  
Public Hearing #4: Protect, Heal, Thrive**

**Monday, April 23, 2012  
5–7:00 p.m. ET**

Bernath Auditorium, David Adamany Undergraduate Library  
Wayne State University  
5155 Gullen Mall  
Detroit, MI 48202

- 5 p.m.        Testimony From Members of the Public
- 6:50 p.m.    Closing Comments by Task Force Co-Chairs

**Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence  
Public Hearing #4: Protect, Heal, Thrive**

**Tuesday, April 24, 2012  
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.**

Bernath Auditorium, David Adamany Undergraduate Library  
Wayne State University  
5155 Gullen Mall  
Detroit, MI 48202

8:30 a.m. Welcome From Wayne State University and Opening Remarks from the Department of Justice

*Barbara McQuade, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan*  
*Melodee Hanes, Acting Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*  
*Mary Lou Leary, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs*  
*Tony West, Acting Associate Attorney General*

8:45 a.m. Comments From Defending Childhood Task Force Co-Chairs and Introduction of the Task Force Members

8:55 a.m. **How Detroit Is Preventing Youth Violence**  
Panelists will discuss their involvement with the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention and other efforts to stop youth violence in Detroit.

*Chief Ralph L. Godbee, Jr., Police Department, City of Detroit*  
Chief Godbee, a Detroit native, is the 40th Chief of the Detroit Police Department.

*Lawnya Sherrod, Youth Representative, National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, Founder of Glimpse of Hope and Youth Voice*  
Ms. Sherrod began her journey as a community organizer at the age of 14 when she co-founded Youth Voice, a group that strives to inspire youth to become community organizers. Ms. Sherrod recently started Glimpse of Hope, where she works with ex-gang members, foster youth, and teen mothers. Glimpse of Hope helps ex-gang members find safe places to go when they want to leave the gang; helps foster youth achieve financial independence when they leave home; and helps teen mothers graduate from high school so they can provide healthy, safe, and productive futures for their children.

9:15 a.m. Break

9:30 a.m.

**Looking to Leaders: National Experts Share Models of Success**

Panelists will describe successful models for addressing children's exposure to violence. These models include a program to empower and guide fathers; an innovative trauma-treatment model; strategies to overhaul troubled juvenile justice systems; and a juvenile justice system that has restructured social services with a focus on healing.

*Sandra Bloom, M.D., Associate Professor, Health Management and Policy; Co-Director, Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice, Drexel University School of Public Health; Distinguished Fellow, Andrus Children's Center*

From 1980–2001, Dr. Bloom served as founder and executive director of the Sanctuary programs, inpatient psychiatric programs for the treatment of trauma-related emotional disorders. In partnership with Andrus Children's Center, Dr. Bloom has established a training institute, the Sanctuary Leadership Development Institute, to train a wide variety of programs in the Sanctuary Model<sup>®</sup>. The Sanctuary Model is now being applied in residential treatment programs for children, domestic violence shelters, group homes, and homeless shelters and is being used in other settings as a method of organizational development.

*Héctor Sánchez-Flores, Executive Director, National Compadres Network*

Mr. Sánchez-Flores is an expert on male involvement and parent engagement program development, as well as on developing locally based assessment measures that lead to programmatic improvements. His National Compadres Network and the National Latino Fatherhood Family Institute (NLFFI) are launching the California Fatherhood Initiative to focus on fathers' varied needs and to build the capacity of services for families to include fathers.

*Tadarial Sturdivant, Director, Wayne County Child and Family Services*

The Wayne County Department of Children and Family Services consists of the following divisions: Juvenile Services, Prevention Services, the Juvenile Detention Facility, Community Corrections, Alternative Work Force, Michigan State University Extension, and the Warrant Enforcement Bureau Unit of the Wayne County Sheriff Office. Prior to his appointment as Director in 2010, Mr. Sturdivant served as Deputy Director of the department and as Director of the Michigan State Police. He served in the police department for 28 years, rising to the rank of colonel. Mr. Sturdivant has also served as State Director of Emergency Management and as Michigan's Homeland Security Director.

*Vincent Schiraldi, Commissioner, New York City Department of Probation*

Mr. Schiraldi was appointed Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation in 2010, bringing nearly 30 years' experience working with troubled youth and juvenile justice systems to New York City. Commissioner Schiraldi came to New York from Washington, D.C. As Washington's first director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, Schiraldi launched major reforms to the justice system in the nation's capital. He also founded the nonprofit

organizations Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice and the Justice Policy Institute.

10:45 a.m.

**Investing in Prevention, Building on Success**

This panel will discuss the cost of childhood exposure to violence, and the benefit of investing in prevention and early identification and intervention activities.

*Vincent Felitti, M.D., President and CEO of California Institutes of Preventive Medicine, Clinical Professor of Medicine at University of California–San Diego, and Fellow of The American College of Physicians*

Dr. Felitti is a noted researcher on the negative impacts of adverse childhood experiences on adults. He is one of the principal investigators of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, a long-term, in-depth analysis of over 18,000 adults that matches current health status against eight categories of adverse childhood experiences. Findings to date have revealed a powerful relationship between our emotional experiences as children and our physical and mental health as adults, as well as a strong link with the major causes of adult mortality in the United States.

*Alex Piquero, Ph.D., Ashbel Smith Professor in the Program in Criminology in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas*

Professor Piquero has published over 220 peer-reviewed articles in the area of criminal careers, crime prevention, criminological theory, and quantitative research methods, and has collaborated on several books. Professor Piquero has given Congressional testimony on evidence-based crime prevention practices in the area of early family/parent training programs, and has provided counsel and support to several local, state, national, and international criminal justice agencies.

*Neil Guterman, Ph.D., Mose and Sylvia Firestone Professor, Director of the Beatrice Cummings Mayer Program in Violence Prevention, and Dean of the School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago*

Dean Guterman's scholarly interests are concerned with services targeting children and violence, particularly child abuse and neglect prevention and children's exposure to violence outside the home. He currently directs three studies examining the effectiveness of strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect. Dean Guterman is the author of *Stopping Child Maltreatment Before It Starts: Emerging Horizons in Early Home Visitation Services* (Sage, 2000), and is co-editing a second book on child abuse prevention.

Noon

Break

1 p.m.

**Making Change Happen: Public/Private Partnerships**

Leaders of influential private foundations and NGOs discuss their role in addressing the epidemic of children's exposure to violence (CEV), and system

changes they believe would strengthen the public-private partnership to prevent and address CEV.

*Pamela Shifman, Director, Initiatives for Girls and Women, NoVo Foundation*

Ms. Shifman has served as the Director of Initiatives for Girls and Women at the NoVo Foundation since 2008, overseeing the Foundation's work on empowering adolescent girls in the developing world and ending violence against girls and women. Prior to joining NoVo, Ms. Shifman worked at UNICEF, where she spearheaded UNICEF's efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, particularly in conflict-affected settings. Ms. Shifman also served as the co-chair of the UN Task Force against Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation and was a founding member of UN Action against Sexual Violence. Prior to joining the UN, Pamela served as the Co-Executive Director of Equality Now, where she focused extensively on trafficking of girls and women and sex tourism, and worked closely with a coalition of organizations for passage of the first US legislation on trafficking in persons and the UN Transnational Crime Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

*Dr. William Bell, President and Chief Executive Officer, Casey Family Programs*

Dr. Bell has more than 30 years of experience in the human services field. Prior to becoming president and CEO of Casey Family Programs in 2006, he served as the foundation's executive vice president for child and family services. Prior to joining Casey, he served two-and-a-half years as commissioner of the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS). From 1996 to 2001, Dr. Bell was deputy commissioner of ACS's Division of Child Protection. From 1994 to 1996, he was deputy commissioner of field services and contract agency case management for the New York City Human Resources Administration.

*Carol Goss, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Skillman Foundation*

The Skillman Foundation is a private independent foundation whose mission is to improve the lives of children in metropolitan Detroit by strengthening their schools and neighborhoods. Involved in philanthropy for the past 20 years, Ms. Goss, a Detroit native, joined The Skillman Foundation in March 1998 as a senior program officer and was named President and CEO in 2004. She has also worked as a program officer at the Stuart Foundation in San Francisco and as program director at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Ms. Goss' professional career also includes nearly 20 years' experience in child welfare, family services and youth development in Detroit and Oakland.

2:15 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. **Changing Norms Within Families, Communities, and Systems**

Changing social norms is a significant but achievable challenge. Panelists will discuss the urgent need to focus on changing social norms of and system response to violence, and consider how this change can be achieved. Panelists will highlight the importance of collaboration among schools, juvenile courts, and

other community structures, and focus on strategies for creating grassroots response in reducing community violence.

*Larry Cohen, MSW, Founder and Executive Director of Prevention Institute*

Mr. Cohen has been an advocate for public health, social justice, and prevention since 1972. He established Prevention Institute in 1997 as a national nonprofit dedicated to improving community health and well-being by building momentum for effective primary prevention.

*Norris Dickard, Director, Healthy Students Group, U.S. Department of Education*

Mr. Dickard leads a team with a portfolio of grant programs and technical assistance centers related to U.S. government strategic investments that support student success. These include substance abuse and violence prevention, physical education, school mental health programs, and school-based health care.

Mr. Dickard serves on numerous federal interagency working groups, including the demand reduction group of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the federal steering committee for the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention. He has over two decades of experience in public policy and public administration.

*Mary Lee, Deputy Director, PolicyLink*

Ms. Lee, co-author of “Why Place & Race Matter,” is a practicing attorney with more than 20 years of experience working in communities throughout California, with special emphasis on issues of housing, land use, and community economic development. A former Los Angeles Transportation Commissioner, Ms. Lee’s broad experience advising community groups and advocacy campaigns make her a key liaison in the organization’s health, housing, infrastructure, and civil rights efforts.

3:45 p.m. Break

4 p.m. **“Youth Pushing Youth”: Reaching for a Better Future**

Youth involvement is critical to bringing change to the lives of children and to our communities. Panelists will highlight examples of their experiences with the Chicago Area Project and their work combating violence.

*Aisha Stubbs, Struggling Youth Into Successful Adults*

Ms. Stubbs, 21, grew up on the southeast side of Chicago. She is a former member of Chicago’s Youth Advisory Board and an employee of Career Development Training Education Services, an affiliate of the Chicago Area Project. She hopes to pursue a career as a defense attorney.

*Rodney Nelson, Team Captain and Assistant Instructor, South Shore Drill Team*

Mr. Nelson, 19, joined the South Shore Drill Team in 2006. He plays with the group’s most elite performing unit. Mr. Nelson was featured in a *New York Times* article about the challenges his unit overcame on their journey to winning the

Winter Guard International World Championship in 2011. He is a freshman at Chicago State University, and plans to become an airline pilot.

*Joron Burnett, Founder and CEO, Green Light Movement*

Mr. Burnett founded the Green Light Movement (GML), a nonprofit organization, to use hip hop-based initiatives and community service to attract youth and plant a positive seed of empowerment. The basis of GML is “Youth Pushing Youth.” Mr. Burnett, known professionally as JNAN (pronounced Jay-Non), has recently completed projects with Kanye West, Bobby V, Do or Die, Rhymefest, Shawna, and others.

5 p.m. Closing Comments From Task Force Co-Chairs