

Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) Quarterly Meeting

Co-hosted with Demoiselle 2 Femme

November 10, 2015



Young Women and Violence: Reframing the Conversation about Girl-based Violence



Moderator

Sherida V. Morrison, MA
CEO/Founder, Demoiselle 2 Femme
smorrison@demoiselle2femme.org

Sherida Morrison is best described as a motivator, public speaker, and visionary for today's youth and young adults. She is a native of Chicago (South Side), where she serves as Founder and CEO of Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP. Demoiselle 2 Femme (D2F), French for "Young Ladies to Women" has a rich history of providing community-based programs to girls on the far south side of Chicago as well as the south suburbs. The mission of D2F is to provide holistic services, education, instruction and training to assist adolescent females in a successful transition to womanhood. In fulfilling its mission, D2F has provided prevention and education programs to more than 3,000 girls ages 13-19 in the Chicagoland community for 21 years, and assisted more than 500 girls to become first-generation college graduates!

Sherida Morrison obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and a Master of Arts degree in Sociology from DePaul University, Chicago, IL. Sherida enjoys working with youth and has facilitated workshop sessions and served as keynote speaker at churches, universities, community agencies, and at national conferences across the country. Sherida is the Community Co-Chair of the Steering Committee for the Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) at Northwestern University and an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, the American Public Health Association, American Sociological Association and several other national and community organizations.

Panelists

Deanne Benos
Founder, The Women's Justice Initiative
d_benos@yahoo.com

Deanne Benos is the Founder of The Women's Justice Initiative, President of Open Road Policy, a public policy, strategic planning, program development and implementation consulting firm based in Chicago, and the Project Coordinator of Test400K, an advocacy organization dedicated to preventing sexual assault and violence against women. Specializing in prison/parole reform, reentry, juvenile justice and crime prevention, Benos previously served as the first woman in state history to serve as the Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections, and helped oversee creation of the state's first Department of Juvenile Justice; was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as the Associate Director for Crime & Gun Safety at the White House Domestic

Policy Council; was appointed as the 2014 American Probation & Parole Association (APPA) Conference Reentry Track Chairman; and participated in the United Nations 2010 Crime Congress to advocate for The Bangkok Rules, the UN's first standards for women/girls throughout the justice system.

The Women's Justice Initiative (WJI) was launched in 2015 to help bridge critical gaps between policy and practice regarding the manner that the risks/needs of women and girls are addressed throughout the criminal justice system; and to help build sustainable systems change strategies through cultivating partnerships and meaningful dialogue among corrections officials, law enforcement leaders, elected officials, policymakers, social service providers, academics, advocates, stakeholders and those directly impacted by the system. It has received generous funding and support from the National Institute of Corrections/National Resource Center for Justice-Involved Women and the Pierce Family Foundation. The project is housed at TASC via their role as the justice lead for the UIC Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center (GLATTC), the hub for US Dept. of Health & Human Services SAMHSA funding for the nine-state Midwestern Region.

Virginia Bishop, MD, MPH

Founder and Director, Youth Empowering Strategies (Y.E.S.!)

Assistant Professor, Preventive Medicine, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

vbishop@northwestern.edu

Dr. Virginia Bishop is the founder and director of Y.E.S.! She is an assistant professor in Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She earned her degree in medicine from Southern Illinois University and her Masters of Public Health from George Washington University. She is affiliated with the Northwestern University Institute for Public Health and Medicine and the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS). Her interests include school health and adolescent health issues.

Gail S. Day, MSW, LSW

Program Manager, Working on Womanhood, Youth Guidance

gday@youth-guidance.org

Gail S. Day, MSW, LSW is a state licensed Social Worker. She received her MSW from University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Adams School of Social Work in 2002. She is employed by Youth Guidance, a school-based not-for-profit Agency and has been working in both mental health and substance abuse programs for over 15 years. Her work has addressed a broad range of adolescent issues including, depression, trauma, anxiety, behavior disorders, academic school related difficulties, social school related difficulties, grief and loss, anger management, and substance use. She is currently the Program Manager for the Working on Womanhood (WOW) Program. She has supervised undergraduate students and graduate students from several colleges and universities in the Chicago area. Mrs. Day has conducted several workshops on Adolescent Development, Trauma and Stress Management for parent and teacher conferences. She also is a member of the Oak Park Multicultural Mental Health Advisory Committee which oversees the development and implementation of mental health practices in the village of Oak Park.

She is an adjunct professor at University of Phoenix since 2006 where she teaches undergraduate classes in Human Services and Psychology. She is a member of the National Association for Social Worker and National Association of Black Social Worker (Chicago Chapter), and the Oak Park Multicultural Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, and holds certifications in Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS), Think First, Non Violent Crisis Intervention, and Mediation/Neighborhood Restorative Justice. Mrs. Day has also been a member or Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. (Glen Ellyn Area Alumnae Chapter) since 2008 and has chaired and co-chaired several committees.

Cheresa Purnell

Education Manager, Demoiselle 2 Femme
cpurnell@demoiselle2femme.org

With almost fifteen years of facilitating, mentoring, and public speaking experience, it is suffice to say that Cheresa Purnell is passionate about empowering girls and young women. Cheresa studied Sociology at Saint Xavier University. She currently works as the Education Manager at Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP (D2F) where she is responsible for implementing intervention/prevention education and training curricula. She also conducts professional services training and fee for service programs for educators, parents and community organizations. Cheresa also serves as the Chair of the Next Generation (NGen) Council at D2F. Over the years, she has been instrumental in the planning and execution of several community initiatives and events and continues to assist in the development of innovative strategies for educating adolescent girls.

Along with raising her teenage daughter, Cheresa is also the owner of several blogs and online publications. She first began her writing/blogging career as Lady Reese Speaks in July 2010. This blog became her vehicle to address issues on L.I.F.E. (love. inspiration. faith. experiences) from her unique perspective. Since its inception, her blog has received rave reviews; the latest being a viral post that garnered over 165k Facebook Likes (Read: Single Mothers Please Let Fathers Have Their Day). In 2014, she launched her second blog We Live Life Free which provides engaging content and creative events to empower and support the personal, professional, and spiritual development of young women professionals and entrepreneurs. She enjoys using her knowledge of social media to provide services to assist businesses with building brand awareness and equity through strategic social media solutions.

Angella Roberts-Smith

Prevention Services Manager, Becoming Women, BUILD Chicago
angellasmith@buildchicago.org

Angella Roberts-Smith came to BUILD in 2010. She has a BA from Chicago State University and is currently completing her MSW. As the Manager of Prevention Services she is charged with supervising 6 afterschool sites in different communities, providing each site with intentional curriculum that ensures mentorship as well as educational activities. Because she specializes in peer mediation and conflict resolution and demonstrates an ability to work with all age groups and environments, she was also selected to lead Becoming Women. Becoming Women is a gender specific group that provides intense mentorship and leadership development. It is her hopes to expand this group to several communities. Angella continues to adapt new models over time and has so many plans to help our youth succeed.

K. Shakira Washington, PhD, MPA

Senior Director, National Crittenton Foundation
Coordinator, National Girls Initiative, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
shakira@nationalcrittenton.org

Ms. Washington is the Senior Director at the National Crittenton Foundation, and is the coordinator of training and technical assistance for the OJJDP National Girl's Initiative. Over the past twenty years, Ms. Washington has combined community organizing, program development, and behavioral research to address the social, economic, and political inequities faced by marginalized communities. Her work has included training residents to implement community-based needs assessments; facilitating discussions between community organizing entities and public officials; and assisting with the design

and implementation of behavioral health research studies. Her most recent work has focused on program and policy reform for girls and young women who have experienced violence and sexual exploitation that are entrenched in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

Ms. Washington is also an active participant and alumni of the Novo Foundation's Move to End Violence Initiative (MEV), a ten-year program focused on ending violence against women and girls. Ms. Washington currently sits on the "Engaging Girls" committee, which is focused on assessing the needs of young women leaders working to end violence in their lives and communities; the "Network" committee, which is focused on organizing a national network of antiviolenace organizations and activist to develop programs and policies to end violence against women and girls; and the "Research" committee, which is focused on assessing barriers among the general public to engage in efforts to end violence in their families and communities.

Ms. Washington received her bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from San Francisco State University, her master's degree in Public Administration from New York University and is currently a doctoral candidate in the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland, College Park.