

Step Up AZ 2016 Reentry



Moderator **Brett Matossian Hope Lives** After being arrested for the first time in his life, Brett Matossian spent 16 months in a Maricopa County Jail and an additional two and a half years in the Arizona Department of Corrections. When released in September of 2013, he experienced firsthand the challenges one faces when reentering society after a period of incarceration. He is currently the program manager for the forensic peer run Hope Lives – Vive La Esperanza. He leads a team which assists others in navigating the myriad of challenges faced by those striving to get their lives back on track. He is passionate about his work and has a deep desire to see all people live happy and fulfilling lives.



Derrick Seewood Cochise County Reentry Coalition was formerly incarcerated. Derrick served a total of 15 years in prison. After his release, he relocated from Gary, Indiana to Sierra Vista, AZ. Derrick has since been employed by Wellness Connections/Peer Run Agency where he works as a Reentry Specialist. He is a licensed ordained Minister and an Elder within the faith community. Derrick is an Executive Board Member of the Cochise County Reentry Coalition. He currently attends Grand Canyon University majoring in Sociology.



Dan Haley Hope Inc. is the Chief Executive Office for HOPE, Inc. where he has strategically positioned HOPE as a major hub for recovery in Arizona. Dan has over 20 years experience working in behavioral health and criminal justice. He has worked in diversion, mental health courts and discharge/reentry. Dan plays an influential role in showcasing the value of peer support in promoting recovery for people with substance use and mental health issues. He often shares his own story of recovery at HOPE and in the community to demonstrate the power of peer support and break down stigma. Dan's leadership at HOPE has increased community collaborations, systems integration and creative low-cost solutions to complex social issues.



Karen Hellman Arizona Department of Corrections is the Division Director for Inmate Programs and Reentry. In this capacity, she oversees Education, Counseling and Treatment Services, Religious Services, Arizona Correctional Industries and Community Corrections. In 1996 she graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with Masters in Forensic Psychology and began working at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. Karen also worked in the ALPHA Program at the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department. She joined ADC in 2004 and has held a variety of positions before moving into the role she now occupies.



Elizabeth Singleton Singleton Community Services Inc. has been helping others in a field that is challenging, demanding and most of all rewarding. Over the last 10 years she has been working within the mental health community. She inspires her colleagues by her determination and commitment to establish accessible affordable housing and treatment programs that work for every individual. She is currently in the process of creating an eco-friendly community that supports the wellbeing of individuals and families within behavioral health and disabled communities. Elizabeth is constantly connecting with likeminded people who inspire change and believe in a greater and better tomorrow.



Representative Cecelia Velasquez AZ House of Representatives is an Arizona native, born and raised in Phoenix. She is 2nd generation Mexican-American. Her background experience includes employment as a paralegal in the field of domestic relations, criminal, bankruptcy and election law. She also worked in social services for the State of Arizona for 12 years. Being a state employee helped her recognize her desire to help her community in a more proactive way. Ceci earned her associates degree and paralegal certificate from Phoenix College. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in nonprofit leadership and management from ASU. She is an advocate for education, equality, juvenile justice, at-risk teens and families of incarcerated loved ones and their rights. Her commitment to support families involved with the justice system led to the founding of the Arizona Guidance Organization, a nonprofit that provides support to families affected by a broken justice system.



Justin Volpe 11th Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project, Jail Diversion Program is a certified peer support specialist. As such, Justin has firsthand knowledge of the importance of ensuring timely high quality behavioral health services in the community. A series of psychiatric health care crises created a period of unstable living conditions, disruption of family and social supports and brief involvement in the justice system. Justin later engaged in treatment and support services in the community. Today, he enjoys a full and productive life. Justin is a consultant and speaker for the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care. He has traveled the country sharing his message of hope and inspiration.



REENTRY

Objective: Bringing awareness and implementation of the National Stepping Up Initiative to all of Arizona's 15 counties and tribal regions and integrating the Stepping Up modules into county practices.

1. Is Our Leadership Committed?
2. Do We Conduct Timely Screening and Assessments?
3. Do We Have Baseline Data?
4. Have We Conducted a Comprehensive Process Analysis and Inventory of Services?
5. Have We Prioritized Policy, Practice, and Funding Improvements?
6. Do We Track Progress?

