

**Behind the Cycle**  
**A National Summit to**  
**Advance an Integrative Approach to Justice Reform**  
Bethesda Marriott Hotel, Maryland  
December 4-6, 2008

**CONFERENCE AGENDA**

**Thursday, December 4, 2008**

2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.      Registration

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.      **Opening Reception**

Welcoming Remarks  
**Ann Beeson**, Director  
U.S. Programs, Open Society Institute

*Special Guests:*

**Susan L. Taylor**, Founder  
National CARES Mentoring Movement  
Editor-in-Chief Emeritus, Essence Magazine

**Patrice Gaines**, Author & Co-Founder  
Brown Angel Center  
Prize-winning former Washington Post reporter  
Survivor of abuse and prison

**John H. Jackson**, Ed.D., J.D.  
President and CEO  
The Schott Foundation for Public Education

**Friday, December 5, 2008**

7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.      Registration

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.      Networking Breakfast

**Friday, December 5, 2008**

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Welcome**

**Stephen Rickard**, Director  
Open Society Institute-Washington

**Diana Morris**, Director  
Open Society Institute-Baltimore

9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

**Opening Commentary**

**“An Integrative Approach to Justice Reform: The Opportunities & the Challenges”**

Over the past two years, the Behind the Cycle Project created space for advocates, researchers, service providers, and academics who work in different areas of expertise to collaborate on the linkages that fuel America’s cycle of incarceration. Multidisciplinary strategies have been identified to abate the disproportionate numbers of the poor and people of color entering into and cycling through the juvenile and criminal justice systems. In this opening commentary, we will share what has been learned through this project and frame the issues and objectives for the Summit.

**Nkechi Taifa**, Project Chair - Behind the Cycle  
Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society Institute-Washington

**Catherine Beane**, Project Consultant - Behind the Cycle  
Principal, Beane Consulting

9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Roundtable Discussion**

**“Connecting the Dots: Race, Poverty, & Social Issues Fueling the Cycle of Incarceration”**

The Roundtable Discussion will bring together distinguished leaders and experts to deepen our understanding of the complex linkages that lie behind the cycle of incarceration and which are often the root causes of delinquent and criminal behavior. Using a “big picture” case scenario, the conversation will seek to connect the dots and explore the key intersections of race, poverty, and the social issues which fuel the cycle of incarceration. Discussants will provide insight and share solutions from their varied perspectives of policies, programs, and services that positively influence the life outcomes of at-risk youth and adults.

**Friday, December 5, 2008**

Introduction of Moderator:

**Leonard Noisette**, Director  
U.S. Programs Criminal Justice Fund  
Open Society Institute

***Moderator:***

**Professor Charles Ogletree**, Director  
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice  
Harvard University

Roundtable Discussants:

**Veronica Coleman-Davis**, President and CEO  
National Institute for Law and Equity

**Judith Browne-Dianis**, Co-Director  
Advancement Project

**Shawn Dove**, Campaign Manager  
Campaign for Black Male Achievement  
Open Society Institute

**Leonard G. Dunston**, Former Commissioner  
New York State Division for Youth  
President Emeritus, National Association of  
Black Social Workers

**Clarence Edwards**, Former Police Chief  
Montgomery County, Maryland  
Past President, National Organization of  
Black Law Executives

**Lisalyn Jacobs**, Vice President for Government Relations  
Legal Momentum

**The Honorable Salima Siler Marriott**, Deputy Mayor  
City of Baltimore, Maryland

**Marc Mauer**, Executive Director  
The Sentencing Project

**Friday, December 5, 2008**

**Ronald B. Mincy**, Professor  
Maurice Russell Professor of Social Policy and Social Work  
Practice, Columbia University School of Social Work

**Divine Pryor**, Deputy Executive Director  
Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions  
Medgar Evers College

**Elsie Scott**, Executive Director  
Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

**Vincent Schiraldi**, Director  
DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services

**Jo Ann Wallace**, Executive Director  
National Legal Aid and Defender Association

**Terrie Williams**, Founder  
Stay Strong Foundation

11:15 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Audience Q & A

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Luncheon**

Introduction of Members of Congress:

**Hilary Shelton**, Director  
NAACP Washington Bureau

*“Update from Capitol Hill”*

**Representative Bobby Scott** (D-VA), Sponsor  
Youth P.R.O.M.I.S.E. Act (invited)

**Representative Danny Davis** (D-IL), Sponsor  
Responsible Fatherhood/Healthy Families Act (invited)

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Introduction of Keynote Speaker:

**C. Diane Wallace Booker**, Executive Director  
U.S. Dream Academy

**Friday, December 5, 2008**

***Keynote Luncheon Address***

“At-Risk Youth Can Soar”

**Marilyn Gambrell**, Founder

No More Victims, Inc.

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Plenary Workshop**

**“Collaborating Behind the Cycle to Strengthen Communities  
& Support At-Risk Youth”**

This plenary workshop will profile successful service-delivery level interdisciplinary collaborations which strengthen communities and support at-risk youth. The session will provide an opportunity to learn about innovative “pre-entry” programs while exploring such questions as: What does collaboration look like at an operational level? When is an interdisciplinary approach most effective? What most effectively stimulates joint work? How can community level collaborative efforts be best supported?

***Moderator:***

**Kirsten Levingston**, Program Officer

Ford Foundation

Panelists:

**Edward Little**, Consultant

Greater Cleveland Reentry Collaboration

**James Roland**, Director of Programs

National Debate Project

**Melissa Sawyer**, Executive Director

Youth Empowerment Project

**Jane Sundius**, Director

Education and Youth Development Program

Open Society Institute - Baltimore

**Janet Wiig**, Director

Juvenile Justice Division

Child Welfare League of America

**Jon Zaff**, Vice President of Research

America’s Promise Alliance

**Friday, December 5, 2008**

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

**Plenary Workshop**

**“Advocacy in Action: Using An Integrative Approach to Impact Public Policy”**

This plenary workshop will profile policy campaigns and initiatives that utilize integrative programmatic approaches to achieve their objectives. The session will provide an opportunity to learn about successful pre-entry policy initiatives while also exploring such questions as: What are the keys to successful collaboration in the policy arena? What pre-entry issues are best-suited for such cross-sector efforts?

***Moderator:***

**Cait Clarke**, Director  
Public Interest Opportunities  
Equal Justice Works

**Panelists:**

**Natacha Blain**, Lead Strategic Advisor  
Cradle to Prison Pipeline Campaign  
Children’s Defense Fund

**Damon Hewitt**, Assistant Counsel  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

**Bruce Lesley**, President  
First Focus

**Liz Ryan**, Co-Chair  
“Act 4 Juvenile Justice” Campaign

**Cudore Snell**, Dean  
Howard University School of Social Work

**Gina Wood**, Deputy Director  
Health Policy Institute  
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

## **Friday, December 5, 2008**

5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

### **“Idea Exchange”**

The “Idea Exchange” will provide an informal opportunity to broaden collaboration and stimulate additional discussion of solutions. Short overviews of innovative programs and projects will be shared by selected participants.

#### ***Facilitator:***

**Monique Dixon**, Director  
Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program  
Open Society Institute-Baltimore

7:45 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

### **Movie Night**

“Baby Killer”  
Law and Order SVU (November 2000)

“A Lifetime Movie Original: Fighting the Odds –  
The Marilyn Gambrell Story”

## **Saturday, December 6, 2008**

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### **Plenary Workshop**

#### **“Reframing the Issues: Research & Communication Strategies to Build Support for Pre-Entry Programs, Services, & Policies”**

This plenary workshop will provide insight and skills to build support for pre-entry programs, services, and policies. Questions to be explored include: What messages and communications strategies “work” to convince policymakers to invest in pre-entry initiatives instead of perpetuating the cycle of incarceration by buying another bed in yet another prison? What are evidence-based practices, and how can they help me communicate with policymakers, media, and funders? How can researchers, service providers, and advocates work more effectively together to shift current policymaking paradigms?

**Saturday, December 6, 2008**

***Moderator:***

**Nicole Austin-Hillery**, Director and Counsel, DC Office  
Brennan Center for Justice

Panelists:

**Sheila Bedi**, Executive Director  
Justice Policy Institute

**Bill Christeson**, Research Director  
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

**Robert Gordon**, Senior Fellow  
Center for American Progress

**Louise Inman**, Consultant  
Matrix Knowledge Group

**Jesselyn McCurdy**, Counsel  
Crime and Criminal Justice Subcommittee  
House Judiciary Committee

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Town Hall Meeting: An Interactive Dialogue**

***Facilitator:***

Catherine Beane, Principal  
Beane Consulting

Join your colleagues from the advocacy, service delivery, and research communities for an interactive dialogue, addressing questions such as:

- What great ideas have you heard that you hope to implement in your work and in your community?
- What additional issues and opportunities do you see?
- What policy issues are ripe for collaboration at state and federal levels?
- What kinds of collaborations make sense at a local/community level?

**Saturday, December 6, 2008**

- How can we best take advantage of this moment in time to focus our energies on stopping the cycle of incarceration before it begins?

12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Luncheon**

Concluding Remarks

**“Challenges & Opportunities Posed by the Evolving Policy Landscape”**

**Michael Ettlinger**, Vice President for Economic Policy  
Center for American Progress

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Introduction of Keynote Speaker:

**Judge Arthur Burnett**, Executive Director  
National African American Drug Policy Coalition

***Closing Keynote Address***

“From Moment to Movement: A Call to Action for Our Youth”

**Rev. Alfonso Wyatt**, Vice President  
Fund for the City of New York

Adjournment