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theinstitute

HARM REDUCTION COALITION

Contents:

The Potential of Harm Reduction	2
Calendar	3,5,7
Policies	4
Community Events Flyer	6
Conference Information	8
Registration Form	9

HARM REDUCTION COALITION

Fall 2009
Training Calendar



Focus on Criminal Justice

www.harmreduction.org

October — December 2009

Dear HRC Supporters,

This fall, The Institute at Harm Reduction Coalition is bringing you a training calendar with the majority of trainings examining issues related to incarceration, law, and criminal justice.

This training calendar covers wide-ranging topics within the framework of criminal justice, from how the criminal justice system affects women and girls to the impacts of the Rockefeller Drug Law reforms on service providers. You can learn about clients' rights in the street, as well as law enforcement and syringe access programs.

We are excited to present our *Focus on Criminal Justice* fall training series and hope that you are too! Look forward to future training calendars that integrate harm reduction strategies with youth issues, women's health, and mental health.

If you are an experienced trainer in the fields of harm reduction and women's health and/or youth issues, please contact us about opportunities to train with The Institute.

Also, please be sure to read our new policies on pg 4. Please inform your agencies of the changes. It is our hope that these changes will maximize our resources to serve you better.

Please note we will issue an electronic only calendar beginning this Winter. Print calendars will be available on a limited special needs basis only.

Thank you for your support of The Institute. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

Best,
Amanda Harris, MPS
Training Coordinator

“As president, I will also work every day to ensure that this country has a criminal justice system that inspires trust and confidence in every American, regardless of race or background.”

— President Barack Obama



the potential of harm reduction

By gabriel sayegh

New York's draconian Rockefeller Drug Laws were finally overhauled in April 2009, the culmination of an extensive, multi-year campaign for reform. What do these changes mean for drug policy in New York? This is the key question—and harm reduction is an essential part of the answer.



***gabriel sayegh** directs the State Organizing and Policy Project for the Drug Policy Alliance. DPA is the nation's leading organization promoting policy alternatives to the drug war that are grounded in science, compassion, health and human rights.*

The Project's goals are to reform state drug policies and to build political power within communities most affected by the drug war.

Enacted in 1973, the RDLs represented a criminal justice approach to drug policy, requiring long, mandatory minimum prison terms for even low-level drug offenses. The laws contributed to an unprecedented expansion of the state prison population. Funding for incarceration increased substantially, while health-based services to address drug use and dependency were cut back. Racial disparities became a defining element of New York's drug policies: over 90 percent of people incarcerated under the laws are Black and Latino, even though whites use and sell drugs at equal or slightly higher rates.

Despite the human and fiscal costs associated with the laws—and mountains of evidence which proved they didn't reduce crime or promote health—some argued that the laws were necessary to stop drug use and abuse. But under the Rockefeller Drug Law regime, illicit drugs remained as available as ever—notably, they didn't stop the explosion of crack use in the 1980s and 90s, nor could they reduce the harms associated with crack use and addiction. The laws never fulfilled their stated purpose.

This year's long-overdue reforms include eliminating mandatory prison terms in most (but not all) drug cases; reducing sentences; expanding drug treatment, social services and alternatives to incarceration; and resentencing (and potentially releasing) nearly 1,500 people currently incarcerated for low-level drug offenses.

These are significant victories, and have garnered national attention with other significant developments in drug policy: Senator Jim Webb's (D-VA) proposal for a Commission and national dialogue to study the U.S. prison system and drug war is making its way through Congress; the appointment of new Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske; and the federal funding ban of syringe exchange syringe is close to being lifted; and other states are contemplating following New York's lead and reforming their own drug laws.

Realizing the potential of drug law reform and affecting a shift to a health-oriented approach will not be easy. The Institute at Harm Reduction Coalition's "Criminal Justice" programming, then, is right on time. The Institute provides excellent opportunities for a variety of stakeholders to learn new skills, expand their networks, and consider the challenges and opportunities in New York. The Drug Policy Alliance is proud to continue our partnership with the Harm Reduction Coalition as we forge ahead in New York. I hope you'll join us.

Fall 2009 Training Calendar: *Focus on Criminal Justice*

Taboo Yardies (Film Screening)

Wednesday, October 14 • 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Selena Blake, *Writer & Producer*; Course Fee: FREE

Taboo Yardies is a documentary that addresses homophobia and the violation of human rights in Jamaica West Indies from a socio-economic, socio-political, and mental health perspective by examining the intergenerational transmission of homophobia. Taboo Yardies will provide a unique visual experience of how violence gets generated, perpetrated, preserved, and re-enacted in Jamaica and in the U.S. We will show a short screening of the film followed by a dialogue on the impacts of homophobia in Jamaica and in the U.S.

Perpetual Punishment

Tuesday, October 20 • 10:00am – 5:00pm

Eddie Ellis, *HRC Consultant*; Course Fee: \$70

This training looks at the wide range of punishments and sanctions visited upon people with criminal convictions. It traces the development of "tough on crime" public policy and examines its practical effects. The training will explore the relationships between criminal and social sanctions, reviewing the numerous barriers to education, housing, health care and employment. Participants will learn about the short and long term collateral consequences of having a criminal conviction and the enormous difficulties of overcoming that stigma.

La Reducción de Daño / Overview of Harm Reduction in Spanish

Miercoles, día 21 de Octubre • 10:00am – 1:00pm

Paula Santiago, *HRC*; Precio del Curso: GRATIS

La reducción de daños es un conjunto de estrategias prácticas que reduce las consecuencias negativas del uso de drogas mientras mejora las condiciones de vida del usuario. La reducción de daños incorpora de métodos que van desde el uso con riesgos menores, el uso controlado y la abstinencia. Estas estrategias están dirigidas al usuario en "su situación del momento". Los participantes de este entrenamiento: entenderán los principios de la reducción de daños, participarán en actividades diseñadas a explorar actitudes y creencias acerca de la reducción de daños y desarrollaran destrezas e intervenciones prácticas que podrán utilizar en sus trabajos con usuarios de drogas.

Gender Responsive Approaches to Women with Criminal Justice System Involvement

Thursday, October 22 • 10:00am-1:00pm

Chandra Villanueva, *HRC Consultant*; Course Fee: \$50

This half-day training will build skills and knowledge of participants wishing to learn more about the unique impacts of the criminal justice system on women who have criminal justice system involvement. Topics covered include: women's pathways to the criminal justice system, the impact of the drug war on women, and what it means to be gender responsive when using the principles of harm reduction in your work and advocacy.

Transgender Awareness & The Criminal Legal System

Tuesday, October 27 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Gabriel Arkles & Elana Redfield, *HRC Consultants*; Course Fee: FREE

Transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex people face specific and unique challenges in the criminal legal system. This training serves two functions: first, to introduce and explore some of the basic issues faced by transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex people as they live and participate in society; second, to examine some of the unique issues faced by these communities as they interact with the criminal justice system in the United States. The presentation will focus on the intersection of transgender issues with other forms of oppression affecting low-income trans people and trans people of color, including racism, unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and lawful immigration status.

Wellness Disconnect: Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System

Thursday, October 28 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Doneley Meris, *HRC Consultant*; Course Fee: \$70

This training will identify the multiple mental health issues faced by men and women with histories of incarceration which are often neglected and not incorporated in the criminal justice system. It will provide a framework for clinicians, criminal justice officials, outreach workers and prevention specialists to acknowledge, begin to access and include mental health concerns in the care and treatment of this disenfranchised population. The training will provide supportive strategies and inclusive innovative service interventions that can meet the mental health needs of these men and women with incarceration histories.

Institute Training Policies

PLEASE NOTE: The Institute at Harm Reduction Coalition has revised our training policies in order to maximize our resources and serve you better.

In order to be good ambassadors of your agencies and to remain in good standing with our organization, please review our policies:

ATTENDANCE & CANCELLATION

- Participants must give **notice of cancellation at least three full business days** prior to the training date. Exceptions are given for emergencies.
- Participants must arrive **no later than 15 minutes** after a training begins and stay for the entire session to be considered present and receive a certificate of attendance.
- In order to allow as many providers from various agencies to participate in our FREE trainings, we **limit registrations per agency to a maximum of three participants** per training.

PAYMENT & CREDIT

- For PAID trainings, payment must be received three business days in advance of the FIRST registered training. Otherwise, registration is not guaranteed.
- The Institute reserves the right to cancel any training and to substitute the trainer/presenter. Should we have to cancel, registrants will receive a credit for a future training.
- Participants must cancel three full business days in advance to receive a credit for a future training and must use those credits by the end of the following calendar cycle. Individual participants receive credits unless otherwise notified. **No refunds will be given under any circumstances.**

Thank you for training at The Institute at Harm Reduction Coalition!

-Harm Reduction Coalition Staff

Fall 2009 Training Calendar: *Focus on Criminal Justice*

Rockefeller Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow: Developing a Public Health & Safety Approach to Drug Policy

Tuesday, November 3 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Sam Rivera & gabriel sayegh, *HRC Consultants*; Course Fee: \$70

In a curious contradiction, New York is home to both the failed Rockefeller Drug Laws and many effective harm reduction programs. The contradiction becomes problematic as, after 35 years of a criminal justice approach to drug policy under the Rockefeller Drug Law regime, many key stakeholders--health care providers and public safety officials alike—lack a shared understanding of substance misuse/dependence as a health problem. This multifaceted training will outline a history of the Rockefeller reforms as well as the pressing health and human service concerns providers will face with the release of prisoners under the reformed laws including: HIV, hepatitis C, mental health, and others. Participants will learn the skills to make strong connections with clients to help them get the medical coverage they need. The training will also focus on advocacy strategies to build mutual understanding among diverse stakeholders and, in the wake of Rockefeller Drug Law reform, advance a public health approach to drugs in New York.

Discharge Planning, Social Service Delivery & Cultural Competency

Wednesday, November 4 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Eddie Ellis, *HRC Consultant*; Course Fee: \$70

This training examines the elements necessary to construct a comprehensive needs assessment and discharge plan for people coming out of the prison system. It reviews the provision of community based social services that are culturally competent, and prepares and connects participants with the lives of people in prison, offering insights into the challenges and issues confronting soon to be released prison populations. The training discusses the race, class and gender implications most often overlooked in constructing such a plan and helps participants understand their significance. Participants will learn about developing accurate assessment skills and designing and evaluating successful discharge plans.

Street Law: Know Your Clients' Rights

Thursday, November 5 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Natasha Johnson-Lashley, *HRC Consultant*; Course Fee: \$70

Participants will engage in discussions about clients' substance use and its impact on work, crime, and police conduct, and review street law terms in depth and how their clients would potentially be processed in court systems. An overview and breakdown of the warrant process and how to advocate for clients will also be presented, as well as the rights of individuals who are homeless. In addition, there will be a discussion on client rights and its variation for immigrant substance users.

Policy, HIV, & Gender: Examining the Impacts of HIV on Women & Girls in Black & Latino Communities

Tuesday, November 17 • 2:00pm-5:00pm

Tracie M. Gardner, *HRC Consultant*; Course Fee: \$50

This training will provide an overview on New York State policy issues that address powerful driving forces behind HIV infection in New York Black and Latino communities with a special focus on women and girls. The training will include a presentation on newly collected and analyzed zip code level data from the Women and Girls HIV Visibility Initiative that powerfully identifies the scope of the impact of HIV infection on women and girls in New York City communities and the significant co-factors that underlie the epidemic's spread. A special focus will be on HIV testing and correctional health policy issues.

Moving Forward After Rockefeller: Panel Discussion on the Impacts of the Rockefeller Drug Law Reforms

Wednesday, November 18 • 4:00pm-6:00pm

Howard Josepher, *Exponents*; Cheri O'Donoghue, *FREE!*; Corrine Carey, *New York Civil Liberties Union*; Simone-Marie L. Meeks, *New York Academy of Medicine*; Moderated by gabriel sayegh, *Drug Policy Alliance*;

Course Fee: FREE

In 1973, New York State and the entire country witnessed some of the harshest drug laws ever written in the U.S. with the inception of the Rockefeller Drug Laws. This year, after 35+ years of organizing and advocacy to repeal the laws, successful and long-awaited reforms have been made. This two-hour panel discussion will offer insights from community, advocacy, legal, and health leaders on the impacts of the Rockefeller Drug Law reforms in our local communities. Panelists will discuss the impacts of the reforms on family life, the legal system, and health and human services, as well as new challenges and next steps. Join us for a vibrant discussion

Opioid Overdose: Build Your Skills & Knowledge—Get the SKOOP!

Tuesday, December 1 • 10:00am-1:15pm

Sharon Stancliff & Bill Matthews, *HRC Staff*; Course Fee: FREE

*CASAC credits are available for this course.

Heroin and other opioid overdoses are a common cause of death among users, yet these deaths are often preventable through education, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, and when possible, through the administration of Naloxone (Narcan). In this workshop, participants will start by learning the essentials of preventing opioid overdose deaths including prevention, recognition, and action. Participants will receive a certificate as a Trained Overdose Responder, and become qualified to train heroin or opioid users and colleagues at their own facilities on how to prevent an overdose. Participants will learn how to implement a NYS DOH-approved program with support from the Harm Reduction Coalition.

* People that have been abstinent from opioids for a period of time due to events such as incarceration are at high risk of overdose.

The Institute at Harm Reduction Coalition

Invites you to our community events:



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Wednesday, October 14, 2009

6:30 PM—8:30 PM

Discussion to follow with writer/producer Selena Blake * PLEASE RSVP * INFO BELOW

Moving Forward After Rockefeller:

Panel Discussion on the Impacts of the Rockefeller Drug Law Reforms

In 1973, New York State and the entire country witnessed some of the harshest drug laws ever written in the U.S. with the inception of the Rockefeller Drug Laws. This year, after 35+ years of organizing and advocacy to repeal the laws, successful and long-awaited reforms have been made. This two-hour panel discussion will offer insights from community, advocacy, legal, and health leaders on the impacts of the Rockefeller Drug Law reforms in our local communities. Panelists will discuss the impacts of the reforms on family life, the legal system, and health and human services, as well as new challenges and next steps. Join us for a vibrant discussion followed by community Q&A.



Guests include:

Howard Josepher, *Exponents*

Corrine Carey, *New York Civil Liberties Union*

Cheri O'Donoghue, *Families Rally for Emancipation & Empowerment (FREE!)*

Simone-Marie L. Meeks, *New York Academy of Medicine*

Moderated by gabriel sayegh, *Drug Policy Alliance*

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

4:00 PM—6:00 PM

Q&A to follow

PLEASE RSVP * INFO BELOW

To RSVP, please call 212.213.2334 or fill out registration form in the 2009 Institute at HRC Fall Calendar www.harmreduction.org **REGISTER EARLY, SPACE IS LIMITED!**

Fall 2009 Training Calendar: *Focus on Criminal Justice*

HIV Over 50

Sponsored by ACRIA & SAGE

Wednesday, December 2 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

Doreen Bermudez, *HRC Consultant*; Course Fee: FREE

Adults 50 and over account for 27% of the U.S. population with HIV. The HIV epidemic is graying as a result of advances in treatment and lack of adequate information directed to older adults. SAGE, in collaboration with the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), offers a free, first-in-the-nation, HIV training for staff and peer leaders working with older adults, including community centers, health care settings, senior centers, libraries, and other locations. This free, half-day training will cover: issues of stigma, how to talk to older adults about sex, understanding HIV treatment, and HIV prevention.

Syringe Access Services & Law Enforcement

Thursday, December 3 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Narelle Ellendon, *HRC Staff* & Emma Roberts *HRC Consultant*;

Course Fee: \$70

Syringe access is a vital intervention for people who inject drugs in order to prevent infection of HIV and Hepatitis. Fear of poor interactions with law enforcement is one of the most significant barriers for drug users accessing syringe services, carrying sufficient sterile syringes to meet their injecting needs, and returning used syringes to appropriate disposal facilities. This training is for service providers working with people who inject drugs, and will explore strategies and resources to improve relationships with law enforcement. This interactive workshop will address the issues for injecting drug users, service providers, and police. We will discuss how we can support participants to successfully advocate for themselves when approached by police officers and how we can build collaborative relationships with law enforcement.

Reaching In/Reaching Out: Working at the Intersection of HIV & Imprisonment

Tuesday, December 8 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Laura McTighe, *HRC Consultant*; Course Fee: \$70

HIV and imprisonment are connected—both in the lives of the one-in-four people with HIV who will pass through correctional facilities this year, and in the very fabric of our communities. This day-long training is designed for service providers and advocates who have found themselves at the complex intersection of HIV and imprisonment, and want to deepen their skills for working towards community healing in a time of mass imprisonment. Through an interactive presentation of the history of imprisonment and the AIDS epidemic in the U.S., we will explore 1) the spectrum of HIV prevention, treatment and care behind the walls; 2) the specific policies that restrict individuals' abilities to get the support they need upon release from prison; and 3) practical steps for nurturing individuals' resilience and resistance as they recover from imprisonment and build towards long-term stability.

Coming Home: Supporting Former Prisoners Who Are Re-entering Our Communities

Wednesday, December 9 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Sam Rivera, *HRC Consultant*; Course Fee: \$70

This training will outline issues surrounding the process of re-entry by providing information and tools on how to support men and women who are transitioning from prison to local communities. The training will focus on many areas of concern for direct service providers such as health, employment, substance use, programs and services. Part of the training will also discuss criminal justice issues as they pertain to former prisoners' criminal justice involvement and parole. In addition, participants will examine concerns associated with family life, attitudes, and expectations of individuals and communities in former prisoners' lives.

OPEN INVITATION TO TRAINERS

The Institute at HRC invites training proposals in the areas of women's health, gender issues & justice; youth issues; and mental health. Trainings should implement harm reduction philosophy and strategies in relation to substance use. Please e-mail training proposals and your current CV to harris@harmreduction.org or call 212.213.2334

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"Harm Reduction Coalition"

**8TH NATIONAL
HARM REDUCTION
CONFERENCE:**

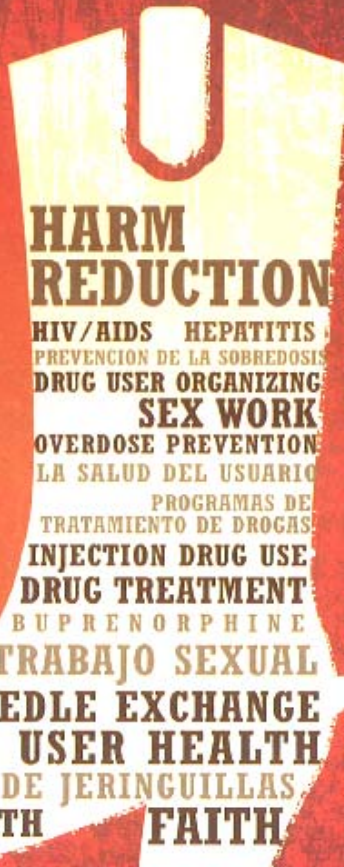
HARM REDUCTION BEYOND BORDERS

NOVEMBER, 18-21, 2010

RENAISSANCE HOTEL

9721 ARBORETUM BOULEVARD

AUSTIN, TEXAS



For more information, contact Paula Santiago, National Community Organizer, santiago@harmreduction.org



*If making payment for multiple people, please list names below:

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CC Proc On:		Check #:	
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		Chk Rec'd Date:	



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Focus on Criminal Justice

FALL 2009 TRAINING CALENDAR

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