The President’s Corner: Exponents Welcomes Four New Board Members

At our February 13, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting, we were pleased to welcome Frank Haendel-Gonzalez, Bharath Moran, Vijaya Krishnan and Patricia Wooldridge as members of our Board of Directors. Each brings a rich contribution of talent and dedication to the mission of Exponents, and they have rolled up their sleeves and are ready to get to work. Our Board is now comprised of 15 members that reflect a diversity of the American mosaic. They have tackled the governance challenges that are reflective of the changing landscape of the behavioral health care universe for community-based non-profit agencies. But Exponents is unique in that we have an impact on the recovery community that is far beyond our size. In representing Exponents, I have recently testified before the NYS Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse on the availability of Medication Assisted Treatment in NYS correctional facilities. Exponents has been invited to become a founding member of the newly formed Harm Reduction Association of New York State. Our 30-year history of advocacy and community building has given us a seat at the table where decisions are made.

It is into this environment that we welcome our four new Board members to the Exponents family. Let us continue to do the good work of transforming the lives of the most vulnerable among us.

Joseph Turner, JD
President/CEO

The National Women’s History
Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence

Women’s History Month in March is an ideal time to celebrate the brave, bold, and fearless women who have influenced history. The important role women have played in shaping our nation and the world can often be overlooked, whether in the fields of science, politics, environment, legal, the arts, and more. Honoring women is something we ought to be doing in one form or another every day of the year, but we actually have an official 31-day period in which to do so loudly and proudly. It's the perfect time to read up on both famous and unsung heroines throughout the ages so you can acknowledge the role women have played in the making of history both here and worldwide.

The theme for 2019 is “Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence.” This year honors women who have led efforts to end war, violence, and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society. These Honorees embraced the fact that the means determine the ends and so developed nonviolent methods to ensure just and peaceful results.

For generations, women have resolved conflicts in their homes, schools, and communities. They have rejected violence as counterproductive and stressed the need to restore respect, establish justice, and reduce the causes of conflict as the surest way to peace. From legal defense and public education to direct action and civil disobedience, women have expanded the American tradition of using inclusive, democratic and active means to reduce violence, achieve peace, and promote the common good. From women's rights and racial justice to disarmament and gun control, the drive for nonviolent change has been championed by visionary women. These women consciously built supportive, nonviolent alternatives and loving communities as well as advocating change. They have given voice to the unrepresented and hope to victims of violence and those who dream of a peaceful world.

By Shana Aborn
OUR MISSION

We are a nonprofit organization located in the heart of New York City compassionately dedicated to serving those impacted by HIV/AIDS, substance use, incarceration and behavioral health challenges. We deliver these services through a client-centered, strength-based approach which greatly improves health outcomes and promotes overall wellness in our communities.

Getting Your Feedback!

On January 11, 2019, Exponents officially re-launched our Judith Loeb Chiara Recovery & Wellness Center. The program, which provides peer-led recovery support services to individuals seeking or new to the recovery process, has been a popular program of Exponents since 2009. In addition to peer mentoring circles, trauma support and recovery coaching sessions, participants also engage in fun activities like art therapy shown below. Exponents would like to thank the Judith Loeb Chiara Charitable Foundation, the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the NYS Office of Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services for their support! Expanded days and hours coming soon!

Viola Varner
Assistant Director, Drug Treatment Outpatient Program

Talent is Among Us!

Sheldon is an Exponents community member that created a beautiful feedback box for our outpatient program. The box was created using cardboard, ribbon and other raw materials. Sheldon is an aspiring artist working on his portfolio to present for internships and art opportunities. He is working on improving his life as an ARRIVE & Third Way graduate and is also igniting hope through the arts.
Celebration of Life

World AIDS Day Commemorated

On World AIDS day, Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal congratulates Donald Powell, Senior Director of Policy and Development at Exponents, Inc., who was honored for his work in HIV prevention, advocacy and research. This World AIDS Day commemorated the lives lost to the AIDS epidemic and celebrated the remarkable progress we have made in reducing new HIV infections. Despite our progress, we can and must do so much more to stop the spread of this virus and end AIDS.

Tree of Life

Every year we commemorate World AIDS Day (WAD) to remember those we have lost to HIV/AIDS and celebrate the lives of those living and thriving!!

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

On Thursday, February 7th, Exponents hosted its annual commemoration of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. This year’s theme was Together for Love: Stop HIV Stigma. A dinner and panel discussion were followed by attendees offering personal commitment to stopping stigma in their families and communities.

Funders & Supporters

US Health Resources Services Administration, HIV Care Services

US Center for Disease Control (CDC)

NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)

Department of Health and Human Services

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Inc.

NYS Department of Health, AIDS Institute

The Council of the City of New York

Judith L. Chiara Charitable Fund

Various Individual Donors

To Our Generous Supporters

Thank you for helping us bring hope to those in need. Because of you our work will continue.
Great News @ Exponents!

Between November and February, Exponents received five new grants to address the reentry, substance use treatment/recovery support and prevention needs of some of New York City’s most underserved communities.

- Judith Loeb Chiara Recovery & Wellness Center was provided three-year support from both SAMHSA and OASAS for the rededication of our structured drop-in center for NYC residents in recovery from addiction. The Recovery & Wellness Center will be open six days (a minimum of six hours/daily) and on major holidays to ensure opportunities to break the feelings of isolation and depression.

- A five year grant from SAMHSA will allow Exponents to develop HIV, Hepatitis C and substance abuse prevention services for gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men and transgender women. Activities include peer specialist-led mentoring circles, health workshops, trauma support and socialization activities.

- An additional OASAS grant from the State Opioid Response initiative will allow Certified Recovery Peer Advocates to conduct needs assessments and supportive services for individuals re-entering New York City communities from NYC jails and drug courts.

- SAMHSA also provided a three-year grant to Exponents to intervene with individuals experiencing problematic opioid use. The program, housed in our OASAS-licensed, medically supervised outpatient program, will provide online interventions, individual and group counseling and opioid overdose prevention training for participants and their family members/caregivers.

None of this would be possible without the continued support of our Board of Directors, strategic oversight of our Executive Management team and the tireless dedication of our staff and peers. We look forward to expanding our services to continue assisting New Yorkers in improving the quality of their lives.

Donald Powell,
Sr. Director of Policy & Development