On Tuesday, March 19, 2019, the Exponents Family boarded a bus at 6:00AM and traveled to our state’s capital in Albany to bring the message of increased funding for substance use disorder treatment services. Fifty three Exponents participants from several of our programs and guests boarded a bus hosted by FOR-NY with Joe Turner, President & CEO at the helm. “This was our opportunity to get a seat at the legislative table where decisions are made. Our motto throughout the day was “Nothing About Us, Without Us”!

In addition to Joe, the Exponents staff included Victor Velasquez, Kyla Williams, Yvonne Soto and Rafael Acosta.

After an initial rally at the State Convention Center, the Exponents Delegation made legislative informational appointments at the offices of NYS Assemblyman Marcos Crespo and Assemblyman Pichardo, both of the Bronx. During the meetings, our Exponents participants articulated the need for increased access to treatment, funding for housing services and the need to provide Medicated Assisted Treatment in both jails and prison.

“My name is Jose H, I live in your Assembly District, and I am urging you to provide for funding for substance use services to save lives, like mine” - Jose H - Exponents GED participant, addressing staff of Assemblyman Pichardo.

“I find hope, recovery and love at Exponents when I am there every day. But then I have to go to sleep in a shelter at night, where it is unsafe and filled with drug use...All because we don’t have adequate funding for housing vouchers. Those shelters are in your District, Assemblyman Crespo, and we need you to increase housing subsidies”. - Patricia K – Exponents CASAC student.

Exponents continues to advance advocacy for compassionate treatment services and racial justice in the provision of health care services as the key ingredients to recovery and life transformation.
**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.
Thank you for helping us bring hope to those in need. Because of you our work will continue.

To Our Generous Supporters

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
- Various Corporate Partners
- 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

What’s Going On!

Womyn’s Her-story Event

On March 29th, Exponents culminated a month-long celebration of Womyn’s Herstory month. A networking and panel discussion took place. We were honored to have our very own LGBT Coordinator, Nicole S. Bowles, International HIV Activist, Michelle Lopez, and the Assistant Commissioner-Bureau of HIV Prevention and Control/NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene participate and share their insights and perspectives on womyn finding, building and sharing power. The discussion was moderated by our Executive Vice-President/COO, Samantha Lopez-Fernandez, a powerful woman of color herself. Other events during the course of the month included targeted, gender-specific HIV/HCV testing, raffles, and a viewing and powerful discussion of the film, For Colored Girls.

The Third Way!

Third Way is a 90 day pre treatment track following a harm reduction model. Participants engage in classroom style groups covering topics including but not limited to communication, family, mental health & addiction. Throughout this time participants engage in a journey of self discovery while developing bonds within their peers. Upon successful completion participants are honored in a graduation ceremony where they present their recovery stories in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. Third Way continues with post graduate groups and Outpatient Drug Treatment programming. Cycle 9 is now underway set to graduate August 2019. We are extremely proud of Cycle 8 & all previous graduates who are now and forever Exponents’ Family!

Expanding to Bring Change!

The response to address the opioid epidemic in the US thus far has been inadequate. Effective treatments are underutilized and access to services limited, resulting in the ongoing cycle of drug use, overdose and in some cases even death. Chipping away to break this cycle requires integrative efforts.

As a fortunate grantee of SAMHSA, Exponents has been able to expand our efforts to bring about change by providing integrated and comprehensive services. The use of medication-assisted treatments (MAIs) is an extremely effective intervention used in treating opioid abuse. Exponents makes MAT options available to individuals struggling with opioid use disorder. Medications available to treat opioid abuse include buprenorphine and extended-release naltrexone. These meds work to block euphoria created by opiates; reducing opioid cravings and withdrawal symptoms giving the individual’s brain the opportunity to recover from their addiction.

We recognize the additional challenges experienced by individuals being released from jails and prisons. Formerly incarcerated individuals are at greater risk for relapse after being detained in a controlled environment, with drug overdose being the leading cause of death in this population.

Research suggests that the risk of death from drug overdose is 129 times higher in the 2 weeks after release compared to the general public. Exponents have been providing evidence-based services to formerly incarcerated individuals since its inception and will continue to target this vulnerable population through its work with MAT and SAMHSA.

Exponents is dedicated to helping our participants address the residue left by active addiction including poor social support systems, inadequate resources, criminal justice history, family and parenting dysfunction, mental illness, gender related discrimination stigmatization, marginalization, and restrictive drug and healthcare policies.

What's Going On!

Viola Varner
Assistant Director, Drug Treatment Outpatient Program

Donald Powell
Sr. Director of Policy & Development

Melissa Rios
Sr. Clinical Director of Drug Treatment

Thank you for helping us bring hope to those in need. Because of you our work will continue.
Donor Appreciation Party
Let’s Dance!

On April 11th, Exponents hosted our 2nd Donor Appreciation Party at Pier A Harbor House in honor of our donors and business partners. This was an opportunity for them to meet staff and board members, and to network with other Exponents supporters.

With the help of our volunteers, we were able to promote an atmosphere of heart-felt thankfulness from Exponents’ staff and clients throughout the evening. Our President and CEO Joseph R. Turner, J.D. shared the stage with Executive Vice President and CFO, Regina Edwards to express their gratitude as well as highlighting the agency’s 2018 accomplishments.

To those that attended, we thank you for spending a memorable night that will move us forward in continuing our mission in this upcoming year. To the rest of our generous donors, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you this Fall, for Exponents 2nd Annual Benefit to be held on November 21st. Our goal is to make it twice as successful as the first and we look to you to help us accomplish it.

Patrice Bocci
Fundraising and Events Manager