The President’s Corner:
Annual NYS Black, Puerto Rican and Asian Legislative Caucus

February 14th – 17th Samantha Lopez, Executive Vice President / Chief Operating Officer and I were invited to present at the annual Legislative Caucus Weekend on prevalent issues in behavioral health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment.

Senator Kevin Parker invited us to join a panel of experts in developing strategies to combat the overdose epidemic.

Throughout the weekend we participated in various advocacy activities. We also met with NYC Mayor, Bill DeBlasio and his staff. Exponents continues to be recognized as an expert in the field of harm reduction strategies to engage the most vulnerable of our citizens in programs of wellness and resilience.

Black Agency Executives Annual MLK Luncheon

Black Agency Executives is a membership organization dedicated to the support and professional development of Black nonprofit senior executives who positively and purposefully impact the well being of the Black community. Since 1977, Black Agency Executives organizes an annual luncheon in January that honors the life and achievements of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and pays tribute to individuals and organizations with an outstanding track record for serving the community. The MLK Luncheon is BAE’s signature event and a major fundraiser for the organization.

It is a great networking opportunity attracting more than 250 guests and investors each year.

This year Exponents’ Executive Team, Joseph Turner, Regina Edwards and Samantha Lopez attended the MLK Luncheon, held on January 30th at Chelsea Piers at the invitation of BAE member, Ingrid Floyd, Executive Director of Iris House. Also in attendance and a member of BAE was Exponents’ Board of Directors Vice Chairmen, Roy Kearse, Vice President for Residential Treatment at Samaritan Village.
Each year during the month of February, Americans set aside a few weeks to focus their historical hindsight on the contributions that people of African descent have made to this country. In honor of Black History Month, Exponents celebrated with our first annual Black History Gallery. Theme: “Celebrating Our Legacy: The Unknown History.” In addition to featuring the creative works of various clients, peers and staff throughout the agency, some also participated in our showcase segment, sharing their talents such as reciting poetry and playing musical instruments.
Celebrating Black History Month!

Congratulations to the ARRIVE team!

In the spirit of Black History, Exponents’ hosted a Door Decorating Contest. Each department created and decorated a door display that honored Black History in a personal way. The ARRIVE Training Dept. won the challenge. The department highlighted various sports figures of our time who were or are living with the HIV/AIDS virus.

To Our Generous Supporters

Thank you for helping us bring hope to those in need. Because of you our work will continue.
Recognizing our Staff

Accomplished!

Recently, our own Melissa Rios-Malave, Sr. Director of Behavioral Health, achieved an important career milestone. Melissa runs our Outpatient Drug Treatment program and recently was designated a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. This licensure allows her to provide psychotherapy and diagnoses to our clients. Please join me in congratulating Melissa on this accomplishment!

Samantha Lopez
Executive Vice President/COO
President/CEO

Appreciated!

On January 29th during our monthly full staff meeting we presented Yvonne Soto, Director of Transitional & Vocational Services, with our Staff Appreciation Award. As the person who recommended her, I am overjoyed. Yvonne came to us almost seven years ago and brought with her 20+ years of experience working with substance using, justice-involved and/or individuals in need of safe, supportive housing. During the last half of 2019, the agency went through some transition due to prolonged absences within the management structure. Yvonne was among the first to step forward, volunteering to assume responsibility for additional programs and staff while continuing to maintain our Adult Learning Center and jail/reentry-based services. She embodies the energy, values and vision that have become the Exponents’ brand. Congratulations to my amazing colleague!

Donald Powell
Sr. Director of Programs & Development

Advocate!

Congratulations to Danielle Williams our Certified Peer Recovery Advocate for receiving her Navigator Certificate In Human Services and Community Justice. Funded by the Mayor’s Office at John Jay College, the 16-week course called Prison Reentry Institute (PRI) is free. The course includes introduction to the human service profession, ethics in the profession, leadership skills and meeting human needs through the promotion of justice. The course was taught by John Jay College professors and other experts in the field.

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US Center for Disease Control (CDC)
Office of Addiction Services and Supports (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

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.

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