

SEPTEMBER 21-25, 2020

**CaraConference 2020**  
**HIV: Now + Next**

**matec**  
MIDWEST AIDS TRAINING + EDUCATION CENTER

**Presenting Partner**

 **caracole**  
positively changing lives  
in the fight against HIV/AIDS

## THANK YOU!

Caracole is grateful to the sponsors and supporters of Caraconference 2020.

### Presenting Partner



### Sponsors



### Supporter



## HELP SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Donations are welcome to support our mission and our ability to offer FREE educational events like this one. Visit [caracole.org/donate](http://caracole.org/donate) to learn more.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

12:00 PM

### Welcome and Introduction



**Linda Seiter** serves as the Executive Director of Caracole, the Greater Cincinnati region's AIDS service organization. Linda also served as president and trustee on the Board of Directors in Caracole's early days and was the first executive director of AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati. For more than 15 years, Linda has provided strategic direction and vision for Caracole by actively building partnerships, supporting community efforts and advocating for those at-risk for or living with HIV/AIDS, as well as the Southwestern Ohio community and beyond. Prior to Caracole, Linda worked in the fields of domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse, experiences which inspired her deep passion for nonprofit work, human rights and social justice.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

12:00 PM

### Building an Effective Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan

Sara Semelka

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

12:00 PM

### The Changing Landscape of Harm Reduction Outreach

Tasha Turner-Bicknell, DNP

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

12:00 PM

### Panel Discussion: HIV Continuum of Care Best Practices

Adam Reilly leads a panel discussion with Rob Goeller, Jenna Leisure and Matt Parker

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

12:00 PM

### Correctional HIV Prevention and Innovative Programming

John P. Cocco, MSW, LCSW  
and Abby Abram, MPH

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6:00 PM

### Practical Guide to Managing PrEP in Primary Care

Ann K. Avery, MD

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

12:00 PM

### Panel Discussion: Racism as a Public Health Crisis

Ta'von Hall leads a panel discussion with Darnell Pierre Benjamin, Jayvon Howard, Marcel Hughes, Mona Jenkins and Victoria Parks

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

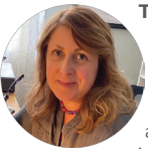
### Building an Effective Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan



**Sara Semelka** is a Senior Project Manager in the Policy and Advocacy Department at AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC). Her primary focus is leading the Getting to Zero Illinois initiative, which aims to end the HIV epidemic in the state by 2030. In her seven years at AFC, Sara has trained and educated community members and providers about new prevention technologies, including PrEP and internal condoms, by developing content, campaigns and trainings for the Chicago Female Condom Campaign, the National Female Condom Coalition, the Midwest HIV Prevention and Pregnancy Planning Initiative and Project Ready, Set PrEP! In 2014, Sara was a recipient of the *Windy City Times*' "30 Under 30" award. She received her master's degree in public affairs from the University of Missouri's Truman School of Public Affairs in 2011. Before earning this degree, Sara was a news reporter for the city of Columbia, Missouri, writing for the county, city and special project beats of the *Columbia Daily Tribune* from 2006–2009.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

### The Changing Landscape of Harm Reduction Outreach



**Tasha Turner-Bicknell, DNP** is an assistant professor of clinical nursing at the UC College of Nursing. Her background in cultural anthropology has provided her with an appreciation for the diversity of lived experience. She is committed to equality, social justice and healthcare reform. Her doctoral work included the research, review and implementation of best-practice recommendations for a local syringe service program. Tasha understands the importance of developing culturally competent public health interventions that provide low-threshold services to meet vulnerable populations on their own terms. Her areas of interest are harm reduction, drug user health, public health, global health and health disparities.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

### Panel Discussion: HIV Continuum of Care Best Practices



**Adam Reilly** has worked with the HIV+ community and in HIV prevention for 13 years. During this time he has provided testing and counseling services along with one-on-one and group work with those living with HIV/AIDS. He also spearheaded local syringe exchange efforts to better serve the community of those who inject drugs and was a driving force behind the 2014 Ohio law that allowed for syringe exchange/access throughout the state. He was voted "Advocate of the Year" in *Citybeat*'s 2011 Best of the City issue, received the Oscar Armstrong award from Public Allies in 2013, and The Cincinnati Exchange Project was awarded the 2015 Health Care Heroes award from the *Cincinnati Business Courier*. He is a fellow for Caring Ambassadors and also sits on the Ohio Health Modernization Movement steering committee.



**Rob Goeller** is a licensed social worker in the state of Ohio, and has worked as a Family Services Caseworker in rural Athens Co., Ohio, where he first began working with people who inject drugs. He is one of Caracole's many recidivists, having first worked as a Medical Case Manager with clients in Caracole's housing programs. After a brief foray into the for-profit sector, he returned to Caracole in early 2019 to join the Prevention team as one of three Harm Reduction Service Coordinators, focusing his efforts on curbing the exponential increase of new HIV infections in the region's community of people who inject drugs. Defying his allergy to textbooks, he began a Master of Social Work in the Fall of 2019.



**Jenna Leisure, LSW** works as a medical case manager at Caracole on the VLS4HIV (Viral Load Suppression for HIV) program, connecting high-risk HIV+ individuals hesitant to engage in care to vital health services. The primary goal of her work is to partner with clients to achieve stabilization and viral suppression. She practices motivational interviewing to engage clients in care related to HIV, mental health and substance use, and also employs the Harm Reduction and Housing First models in her role. Before starting at Caracole, Jenna worked at a community mental health agency as a case manager, team lead, counselor and intake social worker. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work and is working towards her master's in social work at Northern Kentucky University.



**Matt Parker** is the site-based housing manager for Caracole's permanent supportive housing initiative. He has been involved in HIV-related work for the past eight years, first as a community HIV educator and tester then transitioning to his current role. Matt currently oversees 19 high-needs clients and supervises a staff of eight residential assistants.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

### Correctional HIV Prevention and Innovative Programming

**John P. Cocco, MSW, LCSW** is the Director of Re-Entry Services at Step Up Indiana. He has worked in mental health and substance use disorders since 2007. He is an active member of the Marion County Reentry Coalition, is a CSWE fellow, and sits on the Board of Directors for the National Organization of Forensic Social Work.

**Abby Abram, MPH** is the Indiana Peer Education Program Project Coordinator with Step-Up. After completing her undergrad at the University of Dayton in 2015, she began her career in public health while serving a year with AIDS United AmeriCorps. She further pursued this passion by completing her MPH at the University of Indianapolis and beginning her career at Step-Up.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

### Practical Guide to Managing PrEP in Primary Care



**Dr. Ann Avery** is an associate professor of medicine at Case Western Reserve University and practicing Infectious Disease physician at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. She focuses on improving the lives of patients with or at risk for HIV utilizing a holistic approach of biomedical, social and structural interventions. Patients living with HIV (PLWH) or at risk for HIV are diverse and those with the greatest needs are often marginalized from the general population because of youthfulness, co-morbid mental health, substance use and/or incarceration. She has implemented novel multi-level ways to engage marginalized populations in the HIV care and prevention continuum including integration of HIV testing in a variety of settings, transforming mental health care for PLWH and developing a social media application to improve engagement among young persons living with HIV. She has been the principal investigator for three HRSA HAB funded SPNS initiatives and one HRSA funded dissemination of evidence-based interventions project.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

### Panel Discussion: Racism as a Public Health Crisis



**Ta'von Hall** is an experienced social services professional who thrives as an advocate, educator and facilitator of comprehensive HIV care and prevention services. Currently, Ta'von works as the PrEP Health Educator and Prevention Navigator for Caracole. He is also a board member with Harm Reduction Ohio, a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati and a member of Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio Community Planning Team. Ta'von holds a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Cincinnati.



**Darnell Pierre Benjamin** has been a professional performing artist, director, choreographer, educator and activist for more than 15 years. He earned a BFA in Performing Arts from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and an MFA in Classical Theatre Performance from the University of Houston. Currently, Darnell is an Associate Artist and Resident Ensemble Member with Cincinnati Shakespeare Company and regularly works in Cincinnati's arts scene as a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. When not performing, Darnell works as a teaching artist and adjunct professor with schools and organizations, including Seven Hills Middle School, UC College-Conservatory of Music, Xavier and Northern Kentucky universities. He has led countless workshops and discussions on how the arts and activism work hand in hand. His affiliations include Pones, Queen City Pride Cabaret, HIVAINTTHEBOSSOFME and In5 among others. He serves on the board of Stop the Stigma Productions and Pones.



**Jayvon Howard** works as the Engaging Men Coordinator with the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. He has a background working with special populations doing advocacy, outreach and programming. Jayvon has served on many teams to engage men in gender-based violence intervention and prevention, and he serves as the Southwest Regional Director for the Ohio Men's Action Network and is the founder and chair of the newly launched Men of Color Caucus. He is a passionate activist and organizer for racial, gender and environmental justices serving as co-founder of BRACE (Black Revolutionaries for Actionable Change and Equity) and is a member of Leaders of the Free World partnered with Cincinnati Black United Front. Jayvon holds a Bachelor's Degree in Family Science from Miami University.



**Marcel Hughes, LSW** is a Cincinnati native and 2017 graduate from the social work program at Northern Kentucky University. Since college, Marcel has shown a commitment to program and community development for people across difference and experience. Currently, Marcel is part of a team of Caracole case managers who focus on reducing barriers for young people of color and people experiencing addiction in the Greater Cincinnati region who have an HIV diagnosis.



**Mona Jenkins** is one of the leaders of Mass Action for Black Liberation (formerly Black Lives Matter Cincinnati) and the Director of Development & Operations for the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition. As an educator and researcher who graduated from UC, she actively works with community members to address neighborhood specific issues related to health, gender, housing, and education. In collaborating with leaders and individuals who reside in the neighborhoods, Mona seeks to build engagement, empowerment, and community sustainable solutions. Mona is on the board of the Erica J. Holloman Foundation, Inc., an organization for the awareness of Triple Negative Breast Cancer, the Cincinnati Health Network (CHN), and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO).



**Commissioner Victoria Parks** serves as Hamilton County Commissioner in Ohio and most recently lead the effort to have racism declared a public health crisis in the county. The resolution was unanimously approved by the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners in July 2020. Prior to her work with the County Commission, Victoria served in development roles at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and the Women's Crisis Center. She started her non-profit and government career as Community Outreach Representative for Congressman Steve Driehaus from 2010-2011. Prior to that, she worked in the corporate world for 30 years in customer service and marketing at United Parcel Service, Mitsubishi Electric Manufacturing and Cognis Corporation. An avid community volunteer, Victoria currently serves as Board President, AMOS Project, past Parish Council at St. Joseph Catholic Church, The Women's Fund Advocacy Committee, past board member of The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Communication Commission, former Association of Fundraising Professionals Scholarship Director, and Airport Greeter Committee, World Choir Games. She is an enlisted United States Air Force Veteran having served honorably from 1976-1980, and was awarded the Air Force Longevity Service Award and Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

**Building an Effective Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan**

Introduction: Linda Seiter | Moderator: Adam Reilly

Presenter: Sara Semelka

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

**The Changing Landscape of Harm Reduction Outreach**

Introduction: Billy Golden | Moderator: Zoey Peach

Presenter: Tasha Turner-Bicknell, DNP

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

**Panel Discussion: HIV Continuum of Care Best Practices**

Introduction: Midge Hines | Moderator: Adam Reilly

Panelists: Rob Goeller, Jenna Leisure and Matt Parker



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

**Correctional HIV Prevention and Innovative Programming**

Introduction: Ashley Clonchmore | Moderator: Megan Green

Presenters: John P. Cocco, MSW, LCSW and Abby Abram, MPH

# HIV: Now + Next

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

**Practical Guide to Managing PrEP in Primary Care**

Introduction: Linda Seiter | Moderator: Adam Reilly

Presenter: Ann K. Avery, MD

NOTES

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

**Panel Discussion: Racism as a Public Health Crisis**

Introduction: Adam Reilly | Moderator: Ta'von Hall

Panelists: Darnell Pierre Benjamin, Jayvon Howard, Marcel Hughes, Mona Jenkins and Victoria Parks

## ABOUT CARACOLE

Caracole is Greater Cincinnati's AIDS service organization, devoted to positively changing lives in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Founded in 1987, we started as a small, non-medical hospice for people dying of AIDS. Over the years as the disease and diagnosis have changed, we've evolved to meet the changing needs of the people we serve. Today, we fight HIV/AIDS by providing comprehensive services in prevention, housing and care.

- **Prevention:** preventing the spread of HIV through community outreach, education, HIV/HCV testing, PrEP assistance, safer sex, safer injection and overdose prevention supplies, syringe services and treatment referrals
- **Housing:** offering a variety of permanent housing support to prevent homelessness and to stabilize individuals and families living with HIV
- **Care:** helping individuals living with HIV access the health care they need through medical case management and pharmacy services

### OUR VISION

To be a relentless force for health equity.

### OUR MISSION

We positively change lives in the fight against HIV/AIDS through prevention, housing and care.

### OUR VALUES

#### Unconditional Inclusivity

We believe that being open-minded, non-judgmental and empathetic creates an environment of safety essential to preserving dignity.

#### Relentless Advocacy

We champion causes to eliminate negative impact and stigma from our local communities and beyond.

#### Practical Innovation

We are problem solvers that find new solutions to improve the lives of those we serve.

#### Absolute Accountability

We uphold the highest standards to not only be the best we can be but also the most effective.

#### Radical Optimism

We allow humanity and hope to have a visible presence and be a driving force in all we do.

Visit us at  
[caracole.org](http://caracole.org)  
or find us on



@wearecaracole