



SAFETY+JUSTICE
CHALLENGE

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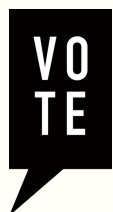
Women's Justice Pathways Mapping Session ©

September 27, 2025
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

 University Medical Center



WOMEN WITH A VISION



Operation
RESTORATION



Daughters
Beyond
Incarceration



Women's Justice Pathways Mapping Session©

PROGRAM

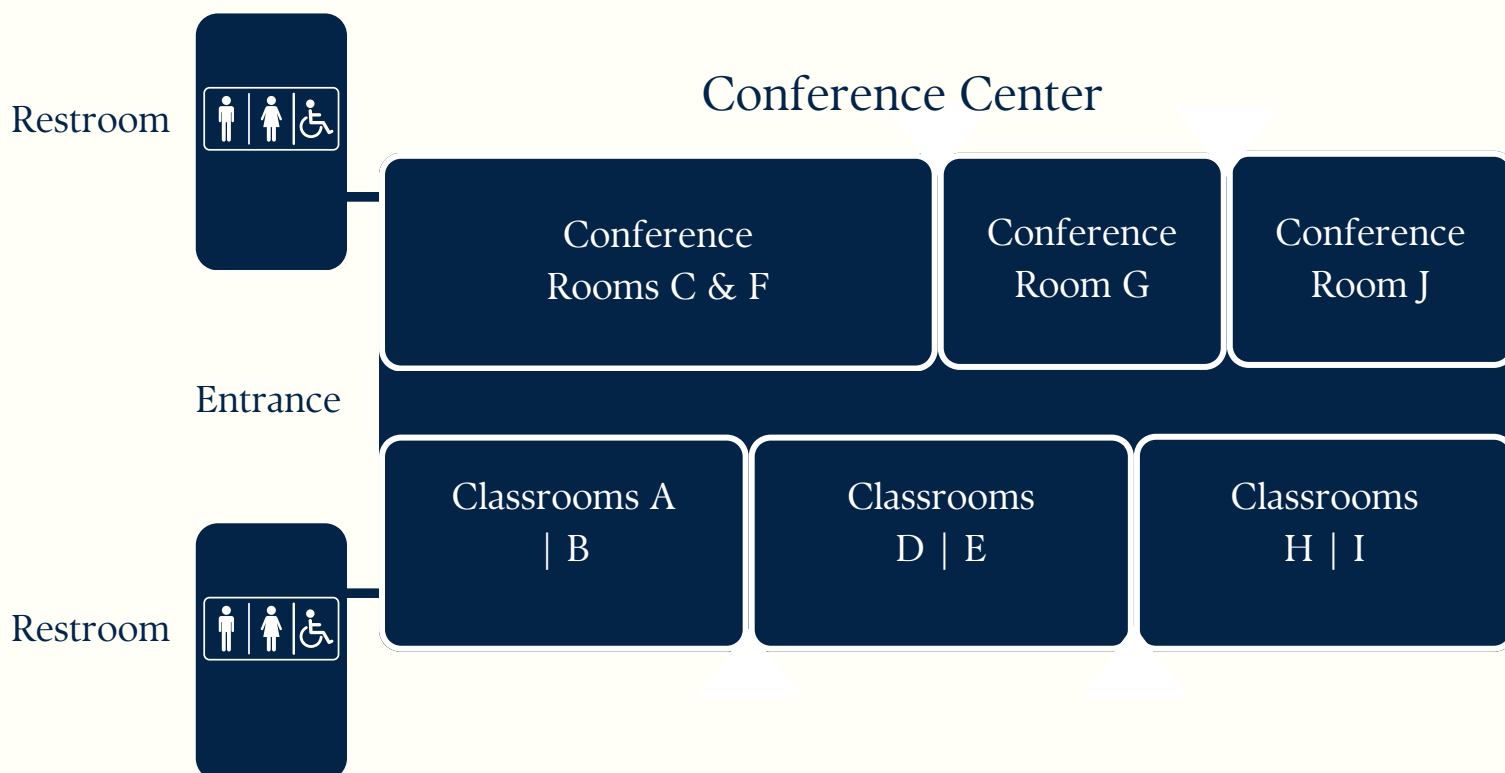
- 9:30 AM — Registration & Breakfast
- 10:00 AM — Welcome & Agenda Overview
- 10:45 AM — Statement of Opportunity, Data, & Current Efforts
- 11:00 AM — Power Panel
- 11:30 AM — Mapping Women's Justice Impact Points
- 12:30 PM — Lunch & Special Guests
- 12:55 PM — Candidates for Sheriff Panel
- 1:15 PM — Mapping Women's Justice Impact Points Continued
- 3:35 PM — Summary of Opportunities & Establishing Priorities
- 4:00 PM — Conclusion & Next Steps
- 4:10 PM — Closing

Welcome to the Women's Justice Pathways Mapping Session©

The City of New Orleans was selected as one of two sites in the nation to work with the national Women's Justice Institute (WJI) to implement a Women's Justice Pathways Mapping Session© and technical assistance project. This event is an extension of a 10-year targeted investment by the MacArthur Foundation Safety & Justice Challenge to reimagine and rebuild local criminal legal systems — reducing jail incarceration and increasing equity for all. It represents a unique, nationally significant opportunity to address rising women's jail incarceration rates in New Orleans and across the country.

This dynamic, groundbreaking event is being supported by the MacArthur Foundation, co-hosted by the City of New Orleans and Operation Restoration, and supported by Voice of the Experienced (VOTE) and Women With A Vision. It will provide an essential space to identify opportunities to improve well-being and outcomes among women, children, families, and communities before, during, and after incarceration.

Wifi Network: UMCGuest



SESSIONS

10:00 AM | WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcome, Thank You, & Goals

Montrell Carmouche, Senior Advisor & Quality Care Coordinator, Operation Restoration

Kate Hoadley, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination

Lead Partner Organizations

Deon Haywood, Executive Director, Women with a Vision

Overview: Partnership with the Women's Justice Institute (WJI)

Colette Payne, Director, Reclamation Project, Women's Justice Institute

Spoken Word

Schyne Galman

Agenda Overview & Logistics

Sandra Brown, Director of Training & Education, Women's Justice Institute (WJI)

Statement of Opportunity, Data, & Current Efforts

Alyssa Benedict, Executive Director, CORE Associates; Co-Founder, Women's Justice Institute

Theresa McKinney, Senior Researcher, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination

Anne Jayes, Senior Manager of Public Policy, Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI)

Overview of Women's Justice Pathways (WJP) & Mapping

Deanne Benos, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Women's Justice Institute

11:00 AM | POWER PANEL

Moderator

Sandra Brown, Director, Training & Education, Women's Justice Institute

Panelists

Deon Haywood, Executive Director, Women with a Vision

Dominque Jones-Johnson, Founder & Executive Director, Daughters Beyond Incarceration

Syrita Steib, President & CEO, Operation Restoration

Dolfinette Martin, Senior Advisor, Housing and Grant Compliance, Operation Restoration

Jaaz Thomas, Integrative Wellness Coach, Source of Your Own Healing

SESSIONS

11:30 AM | MAPPING WOMEN'S JUSTICE IMPACT POINTS

Facilitators

Alyssa Benedict, Executive Director, CORE Associates; Co-Founder, Women's Justice Institute
Deanne Benos, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Women's Justice Institute
Sandra Brown, Director, Training & Education, Women's Justice Institute
Colette Payne, Director, Reclamation Project, Women's Justice Institute

12:30 PM | LUNCH & SPECIAL GUESTS

12:55PM | Panel Discussion with Candidates for Sheriff

Moderator

Syrta Steib, President & CEO, Operation Restoration

Panelists

Sheriff Susan Hutson
Michelle Woodfork
Constable Edwin M. Shorty, Jr.

1:15 PM | MAPPING WOMEN'S JUSTICE IMPACT POINTS CONTINUED

3:35 PM | SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES & ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

Alyssa Benedict, Executive Director, CORE Associates; Co-Founder, Women's Justice Institute
Deanne Benos, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Women's Justice Institute
Sandra Brown, Director, Training & Education, Women's Justice Institute
Colette Payne, Director, Reclamation Project, Women's Justice Institute

4:00 PM | CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Montrell Carmouche, Senior Advisor & Quality Care Coordinator, Operation Restoration
Kate Hoadley, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination

MEET THE PLANNING TEAM

MONTRELL CARMOUCHE



Montrell Carmouche is a New Orleans native with a demonstrated passion and commitment for social justice. At just 21 years old, Montrell was sentenced to 262 months in federal prison—a transformative experience that, upon their release, fueled a lifelong commitment to dismantling systems of oppression and creating pathways of freedom for marginalized communities.

In 2019, Montrell became the Director of the Safety and Freedom Fund – a community bail system that posts full cash bail for individuals who cannot afford to do so themselves. Since its inception, the revolving bail fund has reunited more than 3,000 families. Montrell is also one of only three formerly incarcerated registered lobbyists in the State of Louisiana. In 2024, they were appointed to the Historic New Orleans Collection’s advisory board, helping co-curate the *Captive State: Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration* exhibition.

Montrell’s leadership has earned them numerous awards and accolades, including becoming the inaugural Justice Policy Fellow with the Education Trust; an Epic Ambassador with Ladies of Hope Ministries; appointment to the first Formerly Incarcerated Women’s Task Force; and honors from the Orleans Parish Public Defender’s Office. Montrell received the Earl J. Amedee Award from the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, as well as the Black Voices for Black Justice Award.

A steadfast advocate for the liberation of women, girls, and the LGBTQ+ community, Montrell works tirelessly to ensure all marginalized communities are respected and represented to the fullest extent.

KATE HOADLEY



Kate Hoadley is a public servant and racial justice advocate with experience in criminal legal system reform, community engagement, and data-driven policymaking. As Chief of Staff for the City of New Orleans’ Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice Coordination, she manages the office’s daily operations, administers multi-million-dollar budgets and grants, and supports initiatives ranging from diversion to violence prevention to advance public safety while reducing mass incarceration.

Prior to serving with the Office of Criminal Justice Coordination, Kate worked on various advocacy initiatives, including the ACLU-NH Rights for All Campaign. Kate is a proud alumna of Bowdoin College and received a degree in Africana Studies.

MEET THE PLANNING TEAM

ALYSSA BENEDICT



Benedict is a psychologist and public health practitioner with a subspecialty in the neurophysiology and ecology of trauma and resilience. The executive director of CORE Associates, she has spent over two decades supporting system and agency level healing, growth, and transformation by promoting evidence-based and innovative approaches with women and girls, amplifying lived experience, and ensuring inclusivity and intersectionality. Benedict has worked across the U.S. to promote gender responsive, culturally attuned and trauma-informed care and has served as an architect and core faculty for various national initiatives.

She is co-founder, with Deanne Benos, of The Women's Justice Institute (WJI), a Chicago-based, national "think and do tank" building transformational justice across sectors with and for system-impacted women with the goal of ending women's mass incarceration. She and Benos are co-authors of WJI's groundbreaking report on ending women's mass incarceration, "Redefining the Narrative," and together created the Women's Justice Pathways Model (WJP), the Gender Responsive Justice Continuum (GRJC) and the Women's Justice Assessment (WJA).

Benedict has also authored and co-authored other publications, models, and impactful staff training curricula, including the nation's first guide on discipline in women's correctional facilities, the Gender Informed Practices Assessment (GIPA), the Gender Responsive Policy and Practice Assessment-Community Version (GRPPA-CV), and the widely implemented trauma-informed staff communication model Creating Regulation and Resilience (CR/2™). Her work with CORE and the WJI informs state, national, and international efforts to improve justice and behavioral health for and with women and communities, and her collaborative scholarship and cutting-edge models have been featured at various conferences, including those convened by the American Correctional Association, American Jails Association, American Probation and Parole Association, Association of Justice Involved Females and Organizations, International Community Justice Association, and International Corrections and Prisons Association.

MEET THE PLANNING TEAM

DEANNE BENOS



Deanne Benos is Executive Director & Co-Founder of the Women's Justice Institute (WJI), a national "think and do tank" that collaborates and consults with stakeholders to build transformational justice across sectors with/for system-impacted women with the goal of ending women's mass incarceration, reducing harm and improving health, well-being and outcomes. Benos collaborated with Alyssa Benedict to both co-found the WJI, as well as to co-author the WJI's groundbreaking report on ending women's mass incarceration, "Redefining the Narrative" and to co-create the Women's Justice Pathways Model (WJP), the Gender Responsive Justice Continuum (GRJC) and the Women's Justice Assessment (WJA).

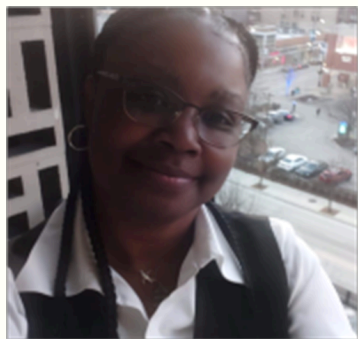
Bringing three decades of government, policy, communications and human-centered design experience to her role at the WJI, Benos is the designed the WJI's "Women's Cut 50%+ and Beyond Opportunities Matrix Model," the nation's first cross-sector tool designed to guide dramatic reductions in women's incarceration, and spearheaded passage of the Illinois Women's Correctional Services Act (WCA), one of the nation's most comprehensive state laws requiring gender responsive, trauma-informed and family-centered practices across a state women's prison and parole system. Benos is also the director and executive producer of the WII's powerful "Redefining the Narrative" campaign video that challenges the false narratives fueling women's mass incarceration.

Previously, Benos was the first woman appointed and Senate-confirmed as the Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections, where she played a leading role in shaping and directing the agency's \$1.2 billion budget, and championed nationally recognized prison and parole reform initiatives that promoted decarceration and justice reinvestment through reduced recidivism and improved outcomes for system-impacted individuals. These included the design and launch of one of the nation's first prison nurseries (for mothers who were otherwise ineligible for release prior to childbirth), a statewide community reentry center network, and the national model Sheridan Drug Treatment Prison & Reentry Program, a therapeutic community model which reinvested millions into innovative pre-release services, culture change strategies, and community-based programming.

Earlier in her career, Benos served as the Associate Director for Crime and Gun Safety on the White House Domestic Policy Council under President Bill Clinton. She is co-chair of the American Probation & Parole Association, Justice-Involved Women & Girls Committee, and has consulted with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) on work related to justice-involved women and veterans. She has been engaged in global efforts as a member of the New York Vance Center for International Justice Women's Prison Project, as an advocate for the successful passage of the United Nation's Bangkok Rules for Women Prisoners, and as a member of the International Corrections & Prisons Association (ICPA).

MEET THE PLANNING TEAM

SANDRA BROWN



Sandra Brown is the Director of Training & Education for the Women's Justice Institute (WJI) and a national training on gender responsive practices for CORE Associates. She holds an MA in Humanities and is a doctoral student at California Coast University. She served 22 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections as an incarcerated survivor. Brown became the first incarcerated woman in Illinois to earn an academic master's degree and gain acceptance into an academic doctoral program. Barriers to accessing higher education spearheaded Brown's work as an educator, activist, and writer.

Brown earned the Davis-Putter Scholarship and Marilyn Buck Awards twice. Her poetry collection, *Odyssey in Progress*, depicts portions of her lived and learned experiences. Past publications include her writings in *Critical Storytelling from Behind Invisible Bars: Undergraduates and Inmates Write Their Way Out*, and *Labor Pains*, included in Tupit Magazine's Spring 2022 volume called *reSentencing*.

While still incarcerated and as the first-ever WJI Visiting Scholar, Brown prepared a policy research paper recommending strategies to support college degree programs in Illinois women's prisons. That work has culminated in the launch of the WJI WISE (Women Incarcerated Seeking Education), a program that connects women at the state's largest prison, Logan Correctional Center, facing barriers to higher education to accredited correspondence degree programs.

COLETTE PAYNE



Colette Payne is a dynamic organizer, leader, student, mother, and grandmother. Her passion is to educate families to build healthier communities.

In 2020, she was appointed to serve as the first Director of the Women's Justice Institute (WJI) Reclamation Project, one of the first initiatives of its kind to be led by-and-for system-impacted women. In this role, she led the launch of the national model WJI Reclamation Center in Chicago, which serves as an arts, advocacy, mutual support, healing and leadership development space and national training center on gender responsive, trauma-informed practices.

In her role, Colette engages women directly impacted by the criminal legal system to become agents of change and create solutions to end the incarceration of women and girls. She is frequently featured as a speaker and moderator of community events on topics ranging from the reunification of children and mothers, reproductive justice, mental health care, the need for increased programming in prisons, and barriers to employment for people with criminal records.

In 2015 Colette became the first formerly incarcerated woman in the nation to participate in a Gender Informed Practice Assessment (GIPA) when she joined the WJI's historic delegation to assess Logan Correctional Center, the largest and most complex prison in Illinois. Colette has appeared on television and spoken at conferences, churches, and universities, and provides expert testimony before legislative committees. She has received several awards for her leadership, including Claim's JoAnn Archibald award (2013), the Jane Adams Center for Social Policy and Research Community Leadership Award (2015), Safer Foundation's Carre Visionary Award (2018) and the Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW) 2020 Impact award for her dedication to improving the lives of women and girls in the Chicago area. Previously, Colette served as the coordinator of the Visible Voices program for CLAIM (Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers), a program of Cabrini Green Legal Aid.

Thank you to our partners!



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