



# UMBRELLA OF HOPE REENTRY SUMMIT

Event Program

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University of Miami  
May, 13, 2023

# WELCOME LETTER

May 13, 2023

Greetings,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to “**An Umbrella of Hope Reentry Summit.**” Today, organizations, community stakeholders, and individuals impacted by the justice system have joined forces to discuss and find solutions to the challenges facing those reintegrating into society after incarceration. Our An Umbrella of Hope Reentry Coalition mission is clear: To **uplift** and **unite** our reentry community! To date, we have over 60 organizations represented in the body of our membership. Each group plays a significant role in positively engaging and impacting the lives of justice-impacted persons and their families. In a short period of time, our coalition has made tremendous strides in strengthening our collaborative efforts and placing the concerns of those we serve upfront and center. Our event today is the next step towards empowering our reentry community!

The overall goal of our summit is to engage in a dialogue that identifies problems, develops real solutions, and provides action items to subject matter affecting our reentry community. Furthermore, because of this summit, we will publish a community action report that will assist us in being stronger advocates in Miami-Dade County! Advocacy remains the cornerstone of our coalition – we must join justice-impacted persons in elevating the inadequacies within our current system and offering answers. We have an exciting day ahead and we thank you for joining us!

Now, let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work!

In Solidarity,

An Umbrella of Hope Reentry Coalition

# AGENDA

8:30 am **Registration and badge pick-up**  
Auditorium

**Breakfast provided by Empowered Youth, USA**  
Pavilion

*Snacks and drinks provided throughout the day in the Pavilion.*

9:00 am **Opening Remarks**  
Auditorium

*Kathryn Nowotny, PhD*, Associate Professor, Miami Health & Justice Lab,  
University of Miami

*Ira Thomas, EdD, MSW*, Coordinator for External Reentry Services, Miami  
-Dade County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

*Alex Piquero, PhD*, Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department  
of Justice

## **Morning Panels**

Morning panels will be moderated by *Kaysia M. Earley, Esq.*, Owner/  
Founding Attorney, Earley Law Firm

9:15 am **Accessibility. Availability. Affordability: Driving the Point Home**  
Auditorium

*Manny Sarria, MSW*, Assistant Executive Director, Miami-Dade County  
Homeless Trust

*Johnny Stevenson*

*Maite Phillips*, Drive Legal Program Manager, Eleventh Judicial Circuit  
*James E. Fisher, Esq.*, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation and  
Public Works

10:15 am **Connection. Hope. Purpose: Developing Workforce through Advocacy**  
Auditorium

*Nancy DeNike*, Reentry Hub Director, LEAP for Ladies

*Dr. Topeka K. Sam*, Founder of The Ladies of Hope Ministries, Inc., Co-  
founder and Chief Visionary Officer of MyFRSH.com, President of TKS  
Ventures LLC and Partner of ToRiAn Detroit

*Sonia Jacobson*, Executive Director, Suited for Success

*Thomas James*, Circle of Brotherhood

11:15 am **Love. Joy. Well-being: Improving Health and Access to Care for Re-  
turning Citizens**  
Auditorium

*Judge Steve Leifman*, Administrative Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

*Dr. Barry M. Gregory Ed.D. M.Ed. BA*, CEO and Founder, Beacon Online  
Training and Coaching Academy

*Paula Herrera, MSW*, Founder, Empowerment Zone Reentry Initiative

# AGENDA

12:15 pm **Legally Speaking: Reentry and Restoration**  
Auditorium

*Judge Tanya Brinkley*, Circuit Court-Criminal Division, Eleventh Circuit Court

*Darren Tinker*, Exonerated Person

*Alex Saiz, Esq.*, Director of Legal Services, Florida Justice Center

1:15 pm **Networking lunch provided by Empowered Youth, USA**  
Pavilion

2:15 pm **Collaborative Working Groups**  
Housing and Transportation Issues  
*Tania Gonzalez & Cassie Osborn*  
Training Room

Employment and Education Issues  
*Judith Negron & Nancy DeNike*  
Auditorium

Medical, Mental, and Substance Use Issues  
*Angelena Jackson & Martiza Solorzano*  
Pavilion

Legal Issues  
*Eddie Fordham & Laura Pierre*  
Classroom

4:30 pm **Coffee Break**  
Pavilion

Pastelitos provided by **Law Offices of Paul D. Petruzzi**  
Baked sweets provided by **Empowered Youth, USA**

4:45 pm **Presentation of Solutions and Action Plans from Collaborative Working Groups**  
Auditorium

Housing and Transportation Issues  
Employment and Education Issues  
Medical, Mental, and Substance Use Issues  
Legal Issues

5:45 pm **Closing Remarks**  
Auditorium

*Daniel Feaster, PhD*, Professor, University of Miami  
*Steven Gilmore*, Executive Director, Transition, Inc.

6:00 pm **Summit Adjourned**

# SOCIAL MEDIA

We will be posting quotes, photos, and videos from the Summit on social media throughout the day. Attendees consent to their filming and sound recording as members of the audience. By entering this event site you agree to being filmed or photographed which may be used for marketing or promotional purposes in perpetuity.

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If you would like to join us on social media, use the hashtag **#MiamiReentrySummit** and follow us at the accounts below!



**@UmbrellaOfHopeReentry**

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Keep a look out for our Public Relations and Communications Committee members if you want to record a testimonial video about your experience at the Summit. We hope that you will!

# SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the Umbrella of Hope Coalition membership and everyone who attended Summit Planning Committee meetings, including Stephen Gilmore, Transition, Cherry Smart, EZRI, Tiffnie Bratcher, Aetna, Duane Thwaites, FFRC, Jenifer Acosta-Perez, Transition, Jonathan Bleiweiss, Florida Justice Center, Paula Herrera, EZRI, Nancy DeNike, LEAP, Janice Gibson, Miami-Dade County, Ieshia Haynie, Overtown Optimist Club, Chad Sinckler, Beyond the Bars, Ira Thomas, MDCR, and Kathryn Nowotny, UM. We want to highlight the enormous amount of work provided by Coalition members Belen Enriquez and Judith Negron from Reentry Innovations, who not only helped to plan the Summit, but also designed and implemented the Collaborative Working Groups. Finally, thank you to Alex Williams for designing the amazing graphics for the Summit.

# IN-KIND DONATIONS

Miami-Dade County Office of Neighborhood Safety  
Law Offices of Paul D. Petruzzi  
UM College of Arts & Sciences  
Transition

Miami-Dade County Office of Community Advocacy Commission for Women  
CHARM  
Empowerment Zone Reentry Initiative  
Shozanio's Place Inc.

# VENDORS

Check out our vendors Empowered Youth and Miami Multimedia Solutions!



[www.empoweredyouthusa.org](http://www.empoweredyouthusa.org)



[www.miamimultimediasolutions.com](http://www.miamimultimediasolutions.com)

# Welcome to the University of Miami!



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**We would like to thank our host and funders for their generosity.**

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
DEPARTMENT of  
PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

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**CHARM**  
Center for HIV and Research in Mental Health

**COLLEGE of**  
**MIAMI ARTS & SCIENCES**

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**We look forward to seeing you at the next An  
Umbrella of Hope Reentry Coalition Meeting!**



**Join us Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 10:00am  
Overtown Optimist Club  
360 NW 12th Street, Miami, FL 33136  
All are welcome.**