

OFFICER DONIELLE WATSON



Donielle Watson is a 17 year member of the Wichita Police Department (WPD). He has served as a patrol officer, special community action team member (SCAT), community policing specialist, gang intelligence officer, Violent Crimes Response Team and is currently assigned to the Juvenile Intervention Unit which he helped create.

Watson has received numerous awards for his gang prevention and community engagement initiatives in 2019, where he assisted with developing a gang prevention video and website providing necessary resources to at risk youth and parents. Awards include recognition from the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations (NAGIA), the Kansas Gang Investigators Association

(KGIA), the Crime Prevention Officer of the Year from the Wichita Crime Commission in 2019 and a finalist for Officer of the Year from the Wichita Police Department in 2020.

Officer Watson's passion is working with youth and the community. It is his mission to give back to the community that gave so much to him!

MICHAEL FINLEY



Michael Finley is a member of the Executive Leadership Team with the W. Haywood Burns Institute. As such, his work involves strategic planning, organizational development, financial oversight, project development and managing relationships with community leaders and system decision makers, funders and other partners across the nation. Michael has nearly two decades of experience working to reduce racial and ethnic disparities on a national policy level and in local jurisdictions across the country.

Michael joined the Burns Institute in 2001 as a site manager working collaboratively with stakeholders to implement the BI process and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in local youth justice systems. He helped develop the BI's site-based strategies and tools such as the Readiness Assessment Consultation. Most recently, Michael served as the Director of Site Management where he supervised BI's site-based work, trained new site managers and conducted hundreds of disparities related trainings around the country. Prior to joining the BI, Michael was the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Coordinator in the State of Maryland where he worked with local and state leaders to develop plans to reduce racial disparities throughout the state.

Michael began his legal career as a Soros Justice Postgraduate Fellow with the Youth Law Center in Washington, D.C, a non-profit public interest law firm. At the Youth Law Center, he was involved in reform litigation and policy work focused on improving the conditions of confinement for children in state custody and racial and ethnic disparities in the youth justice system.

Michael is the recipient of the National Juvenile Detention Association's Service Award, the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division Child Advocacy Award and the Frederick Abramson Memorial Foundation Fellowship for his advocacy on behalf of children. Prior to joining the Youth Law Center in 1999, Mr. Finley served as the judicial clerk for the Honorable David B. Mitchell in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and George Washington University School of Law.

DASHA SHAMROVA, PH.D.



Dr. Dasha Shamrova is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Wichita State University. Dr. Shamrova holds a Ph.D. in Social Work from Michigan State University. Her community-based research focuses on children and youth participation in decision-making, children's rights implementation, and children and youth agency and voice. In addition, Dr. Shamrova's research explores the relationship of child poverty, mental health, and well-being in diverse cultural contexts. Dr. Shamrova practices organizational social work with the emphasis on nonprofit capacity to evaluate their programs, especially in the child welfare system. She provides training for community and nonprofit organizations in the areas of evidence-based practice, children's participation in organizational decision-making, program design, evaluation, and data analysis, as well as participatory evaluation methodologies with children and youth.

BREANNA BOPPRE, PH.D.

Dr. Breanna Boppre is an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in the School of Criminal Justice at Wichita State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2018. She was honored as an Outstanding Graduate from her university. Dr. Boppre also earned her M.S. in Criminal Justice from Portland State University and her B.A. (hon) in Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Dr. Boppre's research assesses how victimization, adversity, and trauma lead to system-involvement. She critically examines legal and carceral responses, and the impacts of such responses on system-

involved individuals and their families. Much of her work uses a gendered and intersectional lens. Dr. Boppre seeks to amplify the voices of system-impacted people through her scholarship. Her research appears in numerous peer-reviewed outlets including, JUSTICE QUARTERLY, the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF OFFENDER THERAPY AND COMPARATIVE CRIMINOLOGY, CORRECTIONS: POLICY, PRACTICE, AND RESEARCH, FEMINIST CRIMINOLOGY, and VICTIMS & OFFENDERS.



RHONDA LEWIS, PH.D.



Rhonda K. Lewis, Ph.D., MPH. is professor and chair of the psychology department at Wichita State University. She is a member of the Society for Community Research and Action and the Association of Black Psychology. She is a Service-Learning Faculty Fellow at WSU. She serves as an Action Editor for the Journal of Community Psychology and as an Editorial consultant for the Journal of Black Psychology. She is part of the leadership team for the NSF ADVANCE grant to increase Women and Underrepresented Minorities in STEM. She is Co-PI for the President's Convergence Science Initiative to reduce health disparities in vulnerable populations and she along with Dr. Delores Craig, Dr. Boppre and Dr. Shamrova are leading the Community Activation Summit Project for Team Justice. She uses behavioral and community research methodologies to

promote health among adolescents and reduce health disparities. Dr. Lewis has over 20 years of experience in community organizing, program development, and evaluation. She has over 60+ publications and 100 presentations at regional, national, and international conferences. Currently, Dr. Lewis has four doctoral students. Her research interests are reducing disparities in health and mental health, educational inequities, substance abuse, and youth violence. She also has expertise in community coalitions, evaluation, preventive interventions, ecological perspective, and public health. In 2020, she received the Legacy Award from Sistahs Can We Talk, in 2019 she received the Mental Health Professional of the Year award from the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and in 2017 she received the Wichita Business Journal's Diversity Leader's Award and the President's Distinguished Service Award at Wichita State.

JEANNETTE BOCANEGRA



Jeannette Bocanegra recently transitioned as the Executive Director with Justice for Families. In 2010, Jeannette Bocanegra joined Community Connections for Youth as the lead New York City researcher for Justice for Families Participatory Action Research project that mobilized the family members of incarcerated youth to collect data on parent experience with the juvenile justice system. Since joining CCFY, she developed the organization's Family Strengthening portfolio, and also initiated the groundbreaking Parent Support Program (PSP) in partnership with the NYC Department of Probation. She served as an advisory board member for several juvenile justice initiatives in New York City as a voice for families.

Jeannette has served as speaker and consultant for several high profile juvenile justice initiatives, including the Annie E. Casey Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). In 2015, Jeannette Bocanegra was awarded the Child Welfare Organizing Project's Courageous Activist Award, and later that year received the "Lo Mejor de Nuestro Comunidad" award from Comité Noviembre. Prior to joining CCFY, Jeannette was an active educational activist and parent organizer who worked to mobilize parents for more than twenty years.

Jeannette noticed early on the deterioration of schools in the community as well as the lack of parental involvement in shaping policy and practice. Jeannette was involved in parent advocacy and educational reform through her roles as a public school volunteer, PTA President, and Vice President and Secretary to Community School District 10 Presidents Council. She worked as a full-time Parent Involvement Coordinator at ASPIRA of NY, providing professional development for parents across the city of New York.

Jeannette took on the role in advocating for families with youth in the juvenile justice system based on her own difficult experiences as the parent of an incarcerated youth. She thrives to ensure that young people, who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system, are given a second chance to become productive members of their communities, and to provide families with the tools and resources to help their children succeed.

OFFICER EDDIE HAWKINS



Officer Hawkins has been with the Cincinnati Police Department for 22 years, 19 of those years he has been assigned to the Youth Services Unit as a School Resource Officer which has allowed him the opportunity to take full advantage of his passion for working with young people.

In his current role as Youth Programs Coordinator, he has overseen several programs that have given youth a platform to have courageous conversations with law enforcement officers around a wide range of topics. Some of those

programs include (Captain Kimberly Williams C.I.T.I Camp) which stands for Children In Trauma Intervention Camp, the 10 week long camp works with young people from ages 10-21 that have experienced trauma in their lives. The camp was renamed in honor of Captain Kimberly Williams who lost her battle with breast cancer and was the First African American Female Captain and was very instrumental in CITI camp Program. (The Young Not Silent Youth Conference) is a daylong conference that host over 500 youth every year, from the tristate area, giving them a platform to discuss a wide range of topics. The Police Cadet Program which employees over 100 youth ever year from ages 16-18 allowing them the opportunity to work side by side with law enforcement officers in an academy like setting allowing them to walk away with a true understanding of police work. And finally the DIVERIGHT Program, which is a youth flag football program in partnership with the Cincinnati Bengals, Juvenile Court, Cincinnati Recreation & the Cincinnati Police Department. It allows young people to interact with Cincinnati Bengals Players and law enforcement officials in flag foot games held at Paul Brown stadium after having discussions surrounding diversity & social justice. DIVERIGHT stands for “Diversity Done the Right Way’ The program, which was created by Officer Hawkins, has received over \$150,000 from the Bengals organization. Officer Hawkins belief is, “Invest in the Youth and your return will be Substantial.”

YUSEF PRESLEY



Born and raised in Wichita, Ks. Yusef is a Youth Leader in the Kansas based juvenile justice organization, Progeny, who understands well how the Kansas system impacts youth from the lens of being in the foster care system since he was 5 years old, placed over 100xs until he was adopted in 2009, then placed back in the system on the JJA side in 2012. He has a strong voice and insight on foster care to prison pipelines and wants to work to insure future young people do not experience the hardships and lack of governance he has endured in this system. Along with Progeny, Yusef sits on a national level as a youth representative on the CLASP (Center for Law and Social Policy) Team, as well as is a youth leader for the national organization, Youth First. Yusef has goals of becoming a mentor and role model for how youth can overcome tough situations and dreams of being a little league coach and opening his own foster care home.

JAZMINE ROGERS

Jazmine is a sophomore at Wichita State University studying Social Work, and a Youth Leader with Kansas based Juvenile Justice Organization, Progeny. While not directly impacted by the system, Jazmine knows firsthand the impact that the juvenile justice system has on family, as well as the impact it has on youth through friends being incarcerated and dealing with the system. Watching her friends and family struggle within the system inspired Jazmine to want to do more to impact marginalized communities and lean into restorative justice practices instead of the incarceration of youth. Jazmine also works with the National Crittenton Foundation to find solutions to aid with the de-incarceration of girls. Jazmine is passionate about elevating the voices of young people and shedding a light on how they can come up with proactive solutions to keep youth out of prison and her work with Progeny has inspired her passion to run for public office in the future, to have power in creating laws that put communities over prison.



TYLER WILLIAMS



Tyler is a Youth Leader and Community organizer with the Kansas based Juvenile Justice Organization, Progeny. Born and raised in Cashion, Ok, Tyler is a formerly adjudicated youth in the state of Kansas who understands firsthand how and why the Juvenile Justice system needs to be changed to not only help youth grow, but also to assist healing the community as a whole. He knows how important it is to be proactive in investing in communities to build a more safe and prosperous Kansas. Tyler works on national level as a former youth leader and now alumni with Youth First, and has interned on a state level as a Community organizer with

Kansas AppleSeed. Tyler has been featured in numerous panels across the country and featured on various new stories and articles. Tyler recently received a governor's appointment to the Kansas Advisory group for Juvenile Justice & Delinquency, and plans to utilize his platform to elevate the voices of impacted youth.