

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Britt Shawver, J.D., has been the Executive Director of HOW for twelve years. During her tenure with the organization, programming has expanded to include: permanent supportive housing, recovery support, job search support, and harm reduction, and a Housing First Philosophy. She is a founder and former board member of the Partnership to End Homelessness (now the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness) and served for six years in an elected capacity on the Chicago Department of Human Services' Citywide Governing Council on Homelessness where she served two terms on the Executive Committee. She also served for six years on the Board of Directors of The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, and was Vice President of the Board. Her current memberships include The National Alliance to End Homelessness's Family Homelessness Advisory Committee, The Supportive Housing Providers Association and The Governing Board of the Chicago for Health and Housing Partnership (CHHP). In 1998, she was the recipient of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Leadership Award for her commitment to improving the homeless services system. She also is the recipient of the 2001 Southwest Women Working Together Unsung Hero of the Year Award, and the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Award. A graduate of the Chicago Kent College of Law, and a member of the Illinois Bar, Britt has presented at City, State and National conferences on Housing First at both a systems and program level and, and on change management for an organization undergoing a transition to a Housing First Model.

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Airetta Ramey has been working in and for the social service arena for more than 30 years and currently provides oversight and coordination of HOW's administrative offices. She is an active member of two community boards in Chicago; the Young Men's Educational Network serving the educational needs of elementary and high school students in the Lawndale Community and Near North Health Services Corporation; serving the medically underserved populations of the Near North side of Chicago.

RECEPTIONIST/CLERICAL SUPPORT

Jacqueline Straight, Jacqueline is one of HOW's program participants gaining skills as a receptionist and in clerical support in HOW's transitional employment program to prepare for full-time employment.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Jaela Neal, M.A., received her BA in English from Spelman College with a concentration in women writers of the Diaspora. She also received dual master degrees in Public Policy and Urban Planning from the University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. Her interests lie in affordable housing for at-risk populations as well as social domestic policies that effect underserved communities. Recent experiences include strategic planning consultant and economic development based project management.

RESEARCH AND POLICY

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND POLICY

Elita Wolsk, L.C.S.W., M.A., received her advanced degree from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration. She joined the staff in 1984 as HOW's first Case Manager. Elita later served on HOW's Board of Directors, and then as a consultant for 10 years before returning as a full-time staff member in 2004. She is a practicing Clinical Social Worker.

FINANCE

CONTROLLER

Natalia Pergamentseva, B.S., has a degree in Chemistry and Business from the Kazan University of Chemical Technologies and Tatar University of Business and Law in Russia. She has received certificates in Computerized Accounting and Professional Accounting: CPA Preparation. She is currently taking classes at H&R Block.

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Izabella Drubinskaya, has over 25 years of experience in bookkeeping both in the United States and abroad. She holds a Certificate of Computerized Accounting from Ort Technical Institute in Chicago.

OPERATIONS

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Tom Wetzel, M.U.P.P., received his Masters degree in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He received his B.A. in Political Science and Sociology from UIC as well. Tom's career has included positions in industrial retention and workforce development, with a particular focus on economic development for low-income workers. His work at

HOW is focused on administration and program development—including both HOW's permanent supportive housing and community-based programs.

Housing Department:

HOUSING COORDINATOR

Tami Martin joined HOW's staff in January of 1999 and served as Manager of the Transitional Housing Program for families. She has over 20 years' experience working with mental illness and substance abuse (MISA) populations. Ms Martin is a Nationally Certified Instructor to conduct HIV/AIDS training for the Red Cross and as a Domestic Violence trainer. She also serves as a Case Manager for 13 clients. Tami is enrolled at National-Louis University majoring in Applied Behavior Services.

HOUSING SPECIALISTS

Kyle Miller, B.A., graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 2000 with a B.A. in Media Communication with a Minor in Advertising. Kyle's dedication to homelessness and housing issues is demonstrated through his past employment experiences. Past jobs include development work with a homeless shelter for battered women and children called Concerned Citizens INC./Mother's House, and various positions (including an Intake Clerk, an Inspections Clerk, and an Inspection Department Dispatcher/Clerk) held with the Chicago Housing Choice Voucher Program (CHAC).

Brandi Smith, B.A., obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She began her career after college, working for The Chicago Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as Section-8, as a Lead Scheduler in the Inspections Department. She also has experience in New York for CHAC's subsidiary, New York Quadel Consulting. There she was the Resident Relations Specialist, assisting participants of the project-based section-8 program with resident concerns.

Molly Dula-Weber, A Licensed Leasing Agent, Molly has focused her career on the real estate industry, where she has served as both an Administrator and Leasing Agent for property management firms. For the past four years, she has also been involved with Tenants Groups in the Rogers Park community. In addition to her work as a Housing Specialist, Molly leads HOW's Tenant Advisory Council.

HOUSING LOCATOR

Denis Miron, Brings with him nearly seven years of experience in program and direct services rendered to various divisions of low-income families and children in Illinois. He has five years at Action for Children of Illinois, providing family resources and services, program improvement, provider services, community outreach and educating the community about resources. He is a member of the Chicago Association of Realtors and is a licensed Realtor. His experience as a Housing Locator started in March 2006 at St. Leonard's Ministries, and San Jose Obrero Mission. He also has four year experience in banking at LaSalle Bank, First American Bank, and TCF Bank.

EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST

Colleen Vitt, B.A., received her Bachelors in Social Work from Western Michigan University. She has over five years experience in non-profit Employment Services, her most recent position being a Job Readiness Trainer and Job Placement Specialist at Jewish Vocational Services. She has focused her efforts upon working with displaced workers and homeless, low-income, and ex-offender job seekers.

BUSINESS SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Sandi Brown, Ms. Brown brings with her a wealth of experience in the arena of employment and training. She has dedicated years to the career advancement of residents of economically isolated communities. She has most recently worked with residents in substance abuse programs and those recently released back into society from prison in order to position them in the mainstream labor market.

Supportive Services Department:

SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTOR

Mary Ann Stott, M.S.W., M.A., received her advanced degree in Social Work from the Jane Addams College of Social Work in Chicago. She comes to HOW with more than 18 years of expertise in the field of clinical social work. She has extensive experience supervising the delivery of comprehensive case management services to persons diagnosed with both mental illness and substance use issues. She has also developed and supervised a variety of community housing programs for persons with mental illness and adults with developmental disabilities in the greater Chicago area.

CASE MANAGERS

Rosalyn Durruthy, B.A., received her degree in Administration of Justice with a minor in Children and Family Services from Southern Illinois University. Before she came to HOW, Rosalyn worked as a child care worker at a mental health and deafness resource center. Rosalyn is currently pursuing her M.S.W. on a part-time basis at Dominican University.

Lois George, B.A., is the Chicago Housing for Health Partnership (CHHP) case manager. She received her degree from

Nebraska Wesleyan University and has spent the past five years working in the HIV/AIDS field as both a case manager and housing specialist for the homeless. She is trained as a Ryan White case manager through the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and an Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) case manager. Lois currently works with chronically medically ill clients.

Kimberly Gleeson, B.A., received her degree in Criminology from Northern Illinois University. Kimberly has worked in foster care as both a case aid and case manager. She is planning to pursue an M.A. in counseling in the near future.

Christin Skolnik, M.S.W., received her Masters in Social Work from Loyola University with a concentration in mental health. Christin has spent the past six years as a community organizer and case manager with the homeless and mentally ill population of Chicago; and spent the past year providing clinical therapy for sexually assaulted women and children through the Cook County State Attorney's office.

Nedra Summerrise, M.A., holds a Masters of Arts in Clinical Professional Psychology from Roosevelt University and a BA. in Psychology from Roosevelt. Ms Summerrise also holds a certificate in Domestic Violence Prevention and Training, and is dual certified in African American Education and as a HIV/AIDS Prevention Instructor. Nedra has over fifteen years as a Senior Buyer and Supervisor at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Elilta Tewelde, B.A., holds a degree in Liberal Studies with emphasis in Social Work. She has a background in working with young adults who came from low-income households. Elilta has also worked in after school programs as an academic mentor. Prior to coming to HOW, she was a youth outreach counselor at Youth Outreach Services.

Tiffany Kadiri, B.S. received her bachelor's in Healthcare Management from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and will be completing her Masters in Nonprofit Management from Spertus College in June of 2008.. She has 10+ years of social service experience including healthcare, primarily working with underserved individuals on Chicago's south side.

COMMUNITY CASE MANAGER/TRANSITION PREVENTION COORDINATOR

Keely Jones, B.A. holds a Bachelors Degree in Women's Studies from the University of California at Santa Cruz. She brings with her a passion for social justice and experience in organizing and project management. She has been involved in various initiatives over the past years including urban economic development, media research and production about women and prison, and the development of fair trade, women-owned businesses in Ghana. Keely works with clients in the homelessness prevention program and serves as a community case manager.

INTAKE COORDINATOR

Anne Burnett, B.S., holds dual degree in Women's Studies and Psychology from Loyola University Chicago. She spent two years working with mentally ill adults in a community based clinic. She is currently pursuing her MSW from the Jane Addams College of Social Work.

YOUTH SPECIALIST

Aquantis Williams, B.A., received her bachelor's degree from California State University in Pan African Studies: Arts and Literature and comes to HOW with of wealth of experience in mentoring youth. She recently served as an Assistant Director for SCORE! in Encino, California where she worked with and tutored youth in a multicultural and motivational environment. Aquantis also recently served as a teacher for Kaplan, Inc. - K12 Learning Services. Here, she focused on preparing students for the California High School Exit Exam.

WELLNESS TEAM

PATIENT NAVIGATOR

Lakethia Conner, B.B.A., C.M.A., received Health Care Management from Robert Morris College. She has worked a total of 10 years in the health care field, including working as a medical service connector, a referral coordinator, and a Patient Health Educator.

WELLNESS ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

Robert Wysocki, A life-long Chicagoan, Bob began teaching yoga for the HOW staff in 2006 and transitioned into the Wellness Coordinator position, which allows him to plan wellness programming for HOW clients and staff. Bob's fitness-related certifications include: Yoga Instructor, Spinning Instructor, Personal Trainer and Triathlon Coach. He received a B.A. in Communications from DePaul University, and is presently working toward a Master's in Education at DePaul, with the intention of teaching high school English.

RECOVERY SPECIALISTS

Ruby Pinkney-Konopka, C.A.D.C., B.A., comes to HOW after having worked at both Lutheran Social Services and Haymarket Center. She has experience working with both individuals and groups as a case manager and a counselor. She received her education at Harold Washington College and Roosevelt University.

Anthony Oltean, M.S.W., L.S.W., C.A.D.C., comes to HOW after working for both Chestnut Health Systems and ComPsych Corp as a substance abuse therapist. He has experience working with individuals and groups as a substance abuse counselor and relapse prevention specialist. He is currently a candidate for a PhD in Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Simonia Staton, C.A.D.C; AAS, comes to HOW after working for both Support Advocates for Women and Haymarket Center as a house manager and lead counselor. She has experience working with various milieus: UMIIAS, criminal justice tract, 28 day rapid stabilization program, and maternal addictions. She received her education at Harold Washington College and is currently pursuing a bachelor degree in Human Services at National-Louis University in Chicago.

Development Team

DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Jen Patterson, B.S, received her degree in Communications and Sociology from Manchester College and has spent the last ten years working in the non-profit sector with a focus on issues of homelessness and housing. Her work has included program development and management as well as communications, public relations and resource development. She is currently working to complete a Masters in Nonprofit Management.

CONTRACTS & GRANTS MANAGER

Andrea Dakin, M.A., has a Master's Degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Women's Studies from Kalamazoo College. She has a variety of experience in social service, program evaluation, and women's issues. She currently sits on the Evaluation Tool sub-committee of the Continuum of Care and is a candidate for a PhD in Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

FOUNDATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER

Geri Palmer, M.S., Geri received her graduate degree from Spertus College, Chicago in Human Services Administration, and undergraduate degree in Business Studies with a concentration in Marketing from Kendall College, Chicago. She has fourteen years in the non-profit industry in grant writing/development, senior and middle management, and has served as a consultant to nonprofit community and faith-based organizations in organizational, resource, and program development. She also holds Certificates of Completion in Creating Web Pages and Macromedia Flash 8 from Oakton Community College Alliance of Lifelong Learning and Online Classroom Facilitation from the University of Phoenix (UOP). She will pursue an Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership at Argosy University, Chicago Campus starting in the fall of 2008.

CORPORATE AND DONOR RELATIONS MANAGER

Carey Smith, B.A., received her degree in Marketing and Communications from Columbia College Chicago with a focus in Advertising. Her professional experience includes working in the promotions department at WXRT-FM, soliciting sponsorships for the McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade for the Chicago Festival Association, and holding a supervisory role as a Development Coordinator for a parenting education and support services nonprofit agency. Carey will pursue her master's degree in Integrated Marketing Communications from Roosevelt University starting in the fall of 2008.

DONOR RELATIONS AND EVENTS MANAGER

Kim Christensen

Kim Christensen, B.A., received her degree in Economics and Global Studies from Pacific Lutheran University and has spent the last nine years working in resource development. She has enjoyed advocating for missions as diverse as the environment to human services with a specialty in individual giving and events. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Services Management from DePaul University.