

**Occasional Series on Reentry Research**  
**Sponsored by the Prisoner Reentry Institute**  
**at John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

**Incarceration and Sexually Transmitted Infections: A Neighborhood Perspective**  
**Panelist Biographies**  
**February 27, 2009**

**James Thomas** is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Program in Public Health Ethics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His epidemiology research interests are in the social forces that shape the distribution of disease in communities. He has a particular interest in the community health effects of high rates of incarceration and interagency coordination to address HIV-related issues. Through his study of social forces, Dr. Thomas was confronted with ethical issues such as racism and income disparities.

He was one of the principal authors of the Public Health Code of Ethics, and recently served on a committee to advise the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on ethical issues in public health. He is particularly interested in the influence of culture on ethics and the challenges of cross-cultural collaborations.

**Kathy Boudin** is a Project Director at the Center for Comprehensive Care, a HIV/AIDS clinic at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, and has been committed to people and communities affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic since 1986. During her 22 years of incarceration, she worked with other women in prison to develop, the AIDS Counseling and Education Program (ACE) a community program inside the prison to cope with the epidemic among women and their families. After being paroled in 2003, Ms. Boudin continued her commitments to help people in prison and their families.

Ms. Boudin works with adolescents whose parents are incarcerated developing the program, Teen College Dreams, to support youth's positive development and encourage their future aspirations. She remains committed to issues faced by long-termers while they are in prison and after they return home on parole. Ms. Boudin received her doctoral degree from Columbia University Teachers College in May 2007 and is currently an adjunct professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work.

**Tracie M. Gardner** currently serves as the Director of New York State Policy at the Legal Action Center (LAC) where she coordinates the Center's lobbying, advocacy, grass roots organizing and policy work on issues relating to HIV/AIDS, criminal justice and substance abuse in New York State. Ms. Gardner is also the coordinator of an advocacy project at the Center, the Women's Initiative to Stop HIV/AIDS, NY (WISH-NY). Prior to joining the Legal Action Center, Ms. Gardner has worked in various capacities of AIDS policy and advocacy since 1987 at organizations such as the Harlem Director's Group, the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the Minority Task Force on AIDS (aka FACES) and the National Minority AIDS Council.

**Farah Parvez** is the Director of the Office of Correctional Public Health at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). This unit designs, implements,

coordinates, and evaluates public health activities in New York City jails and facilitates collaboration between the New York City Department of Correction, Prison Health Services, DOHMH, and community-based partners. Dr. Parvez also works as an epidemiologist at the National Center for Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Parvez has a strong background in applied epidemiology, public health, and preventive and clinical medicine. Dr. Parvez is a board-certified pediatrician. In addition, since 1998, she has worked at CDC where she trained in the Epidemic Intelligence Service, became board-certified in Preventive Medicine, and obtained a Masters of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Parvez has extensive research and program implementation experience, including implementation of a male Chlamydia and Gonorrhea screening program, rapid HIV testing program, and domestic violence screening program in New York City jails.