

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

**“Someone Who’s Been There But Isn’t Far Away”: Findings from a Study of the
Mentoring Component of a Young Adult Reentry Program**

**Panelist Biographies
October 3, 2008**

Emily NaPier has been a Research Associate with the Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) since 2006. As part of CCA’s Justice Strategies division, she is engaged in evaluations of CCA’s Syracuse-based programs, public policy development, and advocacy work.

Ms. NaPier holds an M.A. in Sociology from Syracuse University and is preparing her dissertation proposal in the same program. As an adjunct instructor at Syracuse University and Ithaca College, Ms. Napier teaches courses including Racial and Ethnic Inequalities, Criminal Justice, Radical Criminology, Street Gangs, Reentry and Reintegration, and Research Methods.

Ms. NaPier is actively engaged in a variety of community-based initiatives including the Justice Taskforce of the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse, which she chairs, and the Criminal Justice Taskforce of the National Action Network.

Robert Ellis is the Downstate Area Manager within the Office of Community Partnerships at the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS); he has been employed by the OCFS for over 31 years. Mr. Ellis has an MSW from New York University and worked with The Children's Village prior to his employment with the State.

Mr. Ellis has administrative responsibility over the OCFS Community Service Teams and Day Placement programs in New York City and Long Island which provide case management services and supervise adjudicated juveniles. Mr. Ellis has extensive experience working with community partners and mentoring programs.

Kiana Walbrook is the Borough Network Manager within the Center for Training and Professional Development at Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City.

Ms. Walbrook is a knowledgeable and passionate trainer with nearly four years of training experience, and over eight years of experience working in youth services for profit and non-profit sectors. Her responsibilities include coordinating network meetings that link youth service agencies throughout the five boroughs of NYC, introducing agencies to the benefits of mentoring, facilitating professional development workshops, teaching courses for the Mentoring Supervisor Certificate Program, and facilitating the organization’s volunteer trainings.

Ms. Walbrook has developed a unique, creative, and high energy approach to training. Training topics she facilitates include Matching Youth with Adult Volunteers, Supervision of the Match Relationship, Youth and Volunteer Recruitment, Dimensions of Diversity, and

College Access. Ms. Walbrook also has previous experience in program development and group work.

Ms. Walbrook received her B.A in English and Sociology from Binghamton University, and her Masters of Public Administrations and Policy from Metropolitan College of New York. Ms. Walbrook is also member of the Pi Alpha Alpha Honors Society for Public Administration.

Reverend Alfonso Wyatt is the Vice President at the Fund for the City of New York. Rev. Wyatt joined the Fund for the City of New York to continue over three decades of service to youth, youth serving agencies, families and the broader community. The Fund for the City of New York, established by the Ford Foundation in 1968, is an independent private operating foundation providing strategic organizational support to government and nonprofit agencies through its core programs.

Rev. Wyatt has developed innovative initiatives that respond to the needs of young people in foster care, institutional settings, public schools, employment/training programs and faith-based projects. He has trained, and mentored, three generations of dynamic youth workers and leaders on techniques to effectively teach, reach and nurture young people. Rev. Wyatt is widely recognized by both public and private sectors for his work as a youth developer, community-builder, national leader, role model and mentor to youth, young adults and professionals.

Rev. Wyatt attended Howard University, Columbia's Teacher's College, The Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy, Columbia Institute for Non Profit Management, and New York Theological Seminary. He is an advisor to government, foundations, religious institutions, universities, youth-serving organizations and non-profits in New York and around the nation. Rev Wyatt serves as a Board member and advisor to organizations that address progressive social policy issues. He is The New York Chair of The Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Chair of the Administration for Children Services Faith Based Advisory Council and Chair of The 21st Century Foundation created to advance philanthropy in the African-American community. Rev. Wyatt is an ordained minister on the staff of The Greater Allen AME Cathedral of New York.